

FY 11 ABRT Agency Questions and Responses
Foothills Child Advocacy Center
Jennifer Kline, Program Coordinator

Reviewer: Ryan Davidson – (davidson@charlottesville.org)

1. How does Foothills outreach and education efforts differ from the work of SARA?
The FCAC Program Coordinator has been trained as a “Stewards of Children” (SOC) Facilitator. SOC is a sexual abuse prevention training program developed by Darkness to Light (www.darknesstolight.org) that targets adults who work in youth serving organizations and parents. SOC educates adults to prevent, recognize and act responsibly to child abuse. SOC teaches that child safety is an adult’s job. SARA’s CAPS program goes into schools and teaches children about good touches/bad touches, not to keep secrets about touches and the importance of telling a trusted adult.
2. How does Foothills define a “successful conclusion” for prosecution?
FCAC defines a “successful prosecution” as a case where there is a conviction or the defendant pleads guilty. We do not include acquittals or dropped charges as successful.
3. Are there any comparison benchmarks for the Foothills ‘successful conclusion’ prosecution rate? *Comparisons are made between the FCAC prosecution rates and prosecution rates in the published literature, particularly in the prosecution rates of other CAC jurisdictions, when available.*
4. How will you fund the training needed for handling cases and investigations of internet crimes against children, in light of the anticipated loss of State funding?
FCAC has \$10,000 from Virginia HHS this fiscal year to fund trainings for MDT members. The City of Charlottesville paid for three Detectives and one Commonwealth Attorney to attend The Dallas Crimes Against Children Conference in the summer of 2009 which is one of the biggest and best conferences on internet crimes against children. We are not clear about how much the State will allocate for training in FY10, but anticipate the amount will be lower. However, the state chapter, Childrens Advocacy Centers of Virginia (CACVA) and the Southern Regional Branch of the National Children’s Alliance (NCA) expect a substantial increase in federal funding for training and both organizations will be sponsoring additional training on a variety of topics, including internet crimes against children.
5. If there were 109 forensic interviews and 138 clients, what services are provided to the 29 children who were not interviewed? Do people refuse services?
FCAC makes a distinction between children referred for a forensic interview and cases referred to the MDT, because children who do not receive a forensic interview may not actually visit FCAC. However, in both instances, cases are reviewed by the MDT in the same manner and services offered to those individuals. We had 29 children who were served by the MDT, but did not have a forensic interview at FCAC. There are several reasons why a child might not have a forensic interview. Some of the reasons were: they were too young and nonverbal; the child refused; the parent refused; evidence could be compromised by an announced interview. The services the MDT provided to those 29 children included collaborative investigations, victim services, referrals and on-going therapeutic services, the same services as children who had a forensic interview might receive.

6. Outcomes #1b, #1c, #2, #3, and #4 should be reflected as a percentage so as to be more meaningful. For example, in Outcome #3, what percentage of partner agencies are participating in the meetings? For Outcome #1c, perhaps the indicator should be changed to the percentage of successful prosecutions.
We have reconfigured our outcomes form to address this question. Please see attached.
7. The Team would like to know the average amount of time spent per case and/or the range of time spent with each client/each case. *The amount of time spent on a case varies. The entire appointment with the family at FCAC is one to four hours long and the forensic interview with the child only takes 30 minutes to one hour. However, there is a lot of preparation and follow up. These activities include scheduling the interview; reviewing the police and CPS reports; reviewing previous reports and data files; discussing the case with the investigators and other professionals involved with the family; meeting with the investigators prior to the scheduled interview; team members meetings with the non-offending caretaker before and after the interview; a post-interview meeting with investigators to discuss what information we got from the interview and a plan as to how we will proceed; entering information about the case in NCAttrak; and on-going MDT case reviews. We also often interview child siblings and witnesses at FCAC. Some cases are open for over a year, while others are closed after one MDT case review.*
8. A 25% increase in fund raising for FY10 is ambitious; provide an explanation of how Foothills will increase the dollars raised. How confident are you that you will make your goal? *The FCAC Board of Directors recently participated in a strategic planning session. Our strategic plan includes developing a diverse fundraising plan to be implemented over the next two years. Although all Board members are charged with fundraising, FCAC has two new board members who have taken on the task of leading the board in fundraising. They are enthusiastic and ambitious and we are confident that we will increase our dollars raised by 25%. We have also been approached by a private foundation that is poised to provide funding to expand the Stewards of Children program.*
9. Is Foothills on track to attain accreditation? Is there anything that Foothills needs to do and/or that is needed (other than time) to attain accreditation? *We have a board member who is leading the accreditation effort and is partnering with other board members and staff to work on the accreditation application. She has been compiling the requirements for accreditation and making comparisons with our current practices. Where gaps have already been identified, efforts are underway to make corrections. For example, we are in the process of meeting with each MDT member category (ie: victim/witness, medical, forensic interviewers, therapists) to discuss protocols in order to develop linkage agreements with our partner organizations. In addition to these efforts, the accreditation team is attending National Children's Alliance Accreditation Bootcamp in November 2009 to learn more about what FCAC needs to do to attain accreditation. Because some of the ground work already has been done, the team members can ask very specific questions as experts will be on-site to answer questions. When the team members return from Bootcamp, a detailed plan will be developed with timelines to ensure we meet our self-imposed deadlines. Fortunately, at this time we do not believe that we will have to change our practices in order to achieve accreditation.*