



# YORK COUNTY CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

## January/February 2022 Newsletter

### Children's Advocacy Center Video Series



#### What is a CAC:

At its October quarterly Members Network Meeting, PennCAC debuted a set of short videos intended to introduce a public audience to the work of Children's Advocacy Centers. The series aims to answer the questions: what is a CAC? how does it work? why does it matter? The video series is available on YouTube and includes the following segments:

- Inspiring Hope, Ending Abuse
- Child-Focused Investigation
- Support for the Healing Journey
- A Survivor's Story
- Don't Wait, Don't Hesitate

The production involved on-site location filming at two CACs—including a mock team meeting and forensic interview—and features clips from interviews with nine professionals representing the many roles on a multidisciplinary team (MDT) responding to child abuse.

[Click here to view the entire series](#) (you may even recognize some of our local team members!)

### Thank you Chief Art Smith

Art Smith recently retired from his role as the Chief County Detective at the York County District Attorney's Office. Over the years Chief Smith has done so much for the CAC and the children of York County. We wish him the very best in his retirement and thank him for his many years of service.



DA Dave Sunday presenting the CAC Hero for Children Award to Chief Art Smith.

"Art Smith was instrumental in the development of the York County Children's Advocacy Center in the early 2000s. He served as an ex officio representative of law enforcement on both the CAC Board of Directors and the CAC Multidisciplinary Team Advisory Board from the time of the CAC's inception in 2006 to his retirement as West Manchester Township Police Chief in 2017. He was very instrumental in bringing all of the police jurisdictions in York County on board to working with the CAC, and helped to communicate to the Chiefs of Police association the importance of developing and utilizing the CAC whenever jurisdictions were dealing with a child abuse case. Art received the CAC Hero for Children Award at our Wine Dinner in recognition of his many contributions to the CAC and to the protection of children in York County."

-Deb Harrison, York County CAC Executive Director

### January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Human Trafficking is occurring worldwide, nationwide and in York County. Human trafficking includes both labor trafficking and sex trafficking, also referred to as commercial sexual exploitation of children. The CAC provides services to children who have been victims or are at a high risk of being exploited.

The recent, high-profile criminal cases of R. Kelly and Ghislaine Maxwell have brought some attention to this often misunderstood crime, but much more education needs to be done. If you are interested in learning more about human trafficking, visit [PolarisProject.org](http://PolarisProject.org) and take their free Human Trafficking 101 training.

This January the CAC is participating in a couple of community events to spread awareness of this issue.

#### Please join us:

**January 28th from 1:00pm-2:00pm** at Cherry Lane in downtown York. The YWCA will be hosting a Red Sand instillation to help bring awareness to those who often "fall through the cracks."



### MDT Training Access

The PA Chapter of CAC's has launched a new training portal that all MDT members can access. The portal allows you to access a myriad of trainings and resources specific to the work we do.

We invite you to create an account by following these steps:

Click on this link: <https://penncac.coalitionmanager.org/contactmanager/contact/publicregistration>

Enter your contact information, make sure to select MDIT in the dropdown menu, and click Send.

You will receive a confirmation email, an approval email, and an email with instructions to set up your account. (These emails might be in the Junk folder so check there too. The email header will display as "From: chriskirchner@penncac.org.")

Make sure to whitelist Coalition Manager emails to avoid missing any important information. A majority of our email communications will be sent through Coalition Manager's system.

Please disregard duplicate account setup emails if you have already created your account. We are trying to get as many of our partners, colleagues, and team members into this system.



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