CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY SERVICES of GREATER ST. LOUIS

Annual Report 2006 - 2007

ABOUT US

Our Mission

The Mission of Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis is to reduce the effects of trauma experienced by children and adolescents through: trauma informed assessment and counseling, child-sensitive forensic interviews and medical exams, consistent victim advocacy, utilization based research, quality undergraduate and graduate training, responsive community outreach, and relevant advocacy to influence public policy.

Our Vision

The Vision of Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis is that communities will respond to families impacted by childhood trauma in a prompt, coordinated manner that ensures physical and psychological safety, promotes justice and supports recovery.

Our Values

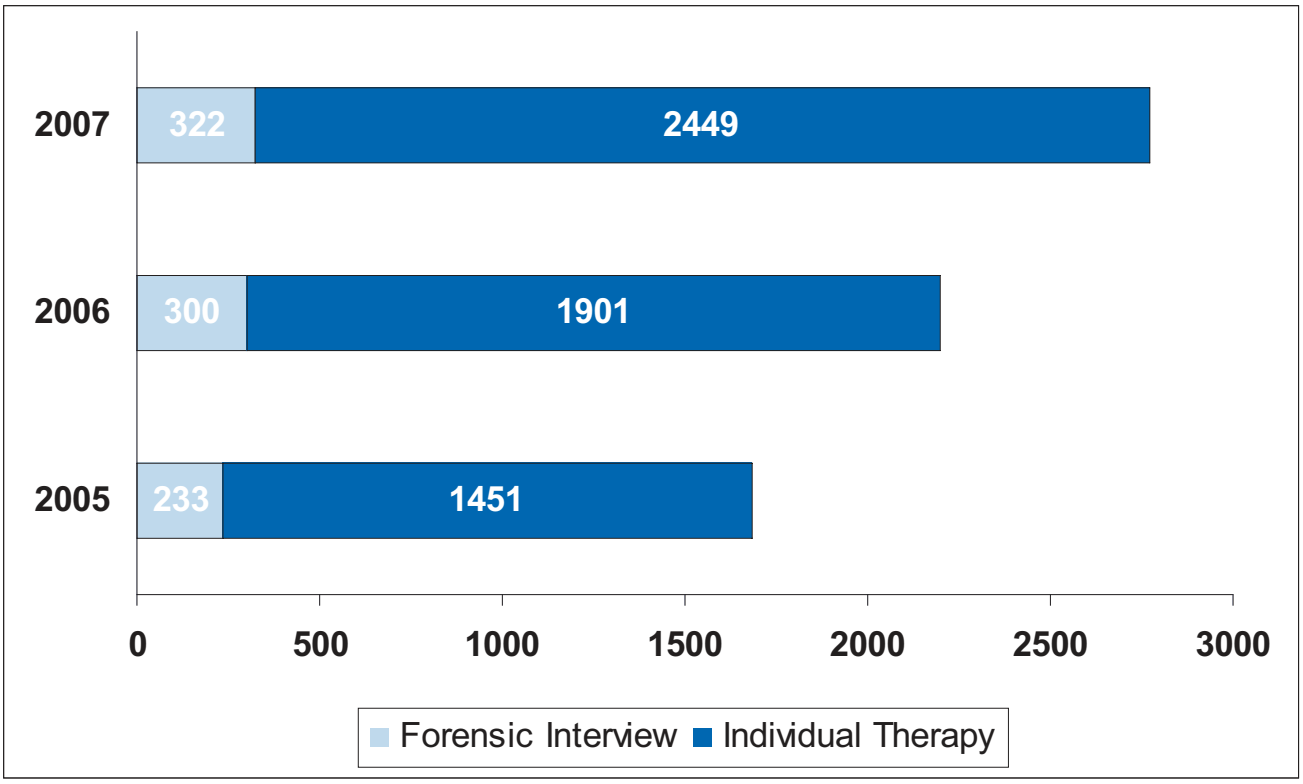
Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis is committed to Core Values which emphasize promotion of the Child First doctrine that places the best interest of the child above all else; professional and scientific integrity that ensures the high quality clinical and forensic services; and synergy that promotes interdisciplinary collaboration which empowers children and families. The Center's instructional; research and service activities advance the region's awareness, knowledge, understanding and applications of Best Practices in the field of Child Maltreatment and Child Trauma.

Our History

Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis is a non-profit agency which serves the St. Louis community as the nationally accredited Child Advocacy Center for the metropolitan area. Established in 1995 as the Children's Advocacy Center of St. Louis for the purpose of conducting forensic interviews in St. Louis City and County, the Center merged with the Kathy J. Weinman Child Advocacy Center on the campus of University of Missouri - St. Louis in 1997 to become Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis (CASGSL). Following the merger, CASGSL began offering affordable trauma informed counseling to victims of childhood sexual abuse. In October 2005, the agency expanded its forensic interviewing and counseling operations and began providing services to child victims of physical abuse, severe neglect, traumatic bereavement, domestic violence, community violence and other forms of trauma such as natural disasters and accidents.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OVERVIEW

For the second year in a row, CASGSL has increased its overall capacity of individual client service units by over 25%. The graph below illustrates recent growth in forensic interviews and sessions of individual and family counseling. Group therapy sessions are not included in this graph.



Who do we serve?

Demographic data indicate that that the vast majority of children served by CASGSL have been exposed to multiple, chronic or sequential episodes of trauma.

African American children are overrepresented in the CASGSL client population with over two thirds of child clients falling in that category.

Although recent years have seen an increase in the number of male victims seeking services, the majority of the child victims seen at CASGSL are girls.

The average age of child clients has become younger during the last year with more children in the preschool age group seeking both forensic and clinical services.

Socio-economic indicators show that over 60% of the families seeking services at CASGSL fall well below the federal poverty line and have annual household incomes of less than $20,000. Income at this level means that most uninsured families fall at the lower end of CASGSL's sliding fee scale which goes down to $5.00/ hour.

FORENSIC SERVICES

During FY 2006-2007, CASGSL staff completed 322 forensic interviews to assist local law enforcement and child protection services investigations of child abuse and neglect. Approximately 90% of the forensic interviews conducted involved allegations of sexual abuse with the remaining 10% focusing on allegations of physical abuse or witnessing violent crimes. As in years past, the vast majority of alleged perpetrators are known to the child with large percentages falling in the categories of step parent or paramour.

A number of investigations from FY 07 continue to work their way through the legal system but preliminary data (with 14% of cases pending) indicate that approximately 33% of the cases we interview result in formal charges being filed. In FY 2007, resolved investigations assisted by CASGSL forensic interviews have already resulted in 399 charges being filed against adult and juvenile suspects with 48 cases still pending.

The CASGSL Victim Advocate program continues to thrive. In FY 2007, over 300 families received our services which assisted them in navigating the unfamilar legal process involved in child abuse investigations.

COUNSELING SERVICES

During FY 2006-2007, **over 200 children, adolescents and their caregivers** received individual and/or family counseling services at CASGSL. A total of 2,449 client sessions were provided which represents a 28.8% increase in capacity from the previous year. CASGSL has responded to additional demand for services by increasing operational hours in the evenings and Saturdays, offering services at the West Pine location and hiring additional therapists. Despite these efforts, the number of children on the waiting list for individual counseling services hovers between 25-40.

Individual client's needs are assessed by their CASGSL clinician and addressed through a variety of evidence based trauma informed treatment modalities including Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Integrated Treatment for Complex Trauma (ITCT), Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) and Trauma Informed Play Therapy.

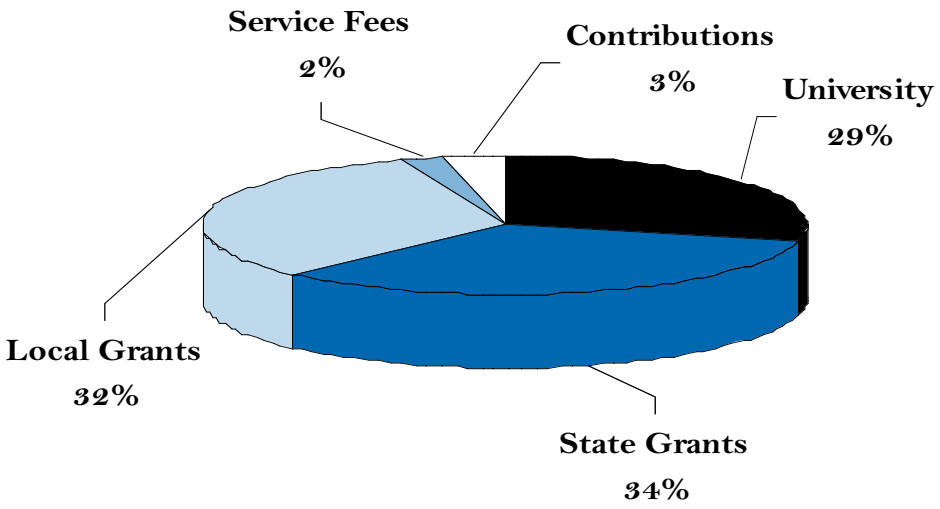
In addition to the families served through individual counseling sessions, **over 100 children and 90 caregivers** received group counseling services through CASGSL's three group treatment programs (e.g. FLARES-Families Learning About REcovery Strategies, SPARCS- Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents Responding to Chronic Stress, CSBP- Children with Sexual Behavior Problems) which address various trauma related issues.

> **I hope that the [Victim Advocate] program and the Center are available to children for a long time because unfortunately there are not enough of those who are out there brave enough to speak on behalf of those with no voices**
>
> *– Parent on CASGSL's Victim Advocate program*

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Total revenues for CASGSL in FY07 were $ 991,113

REVENUE

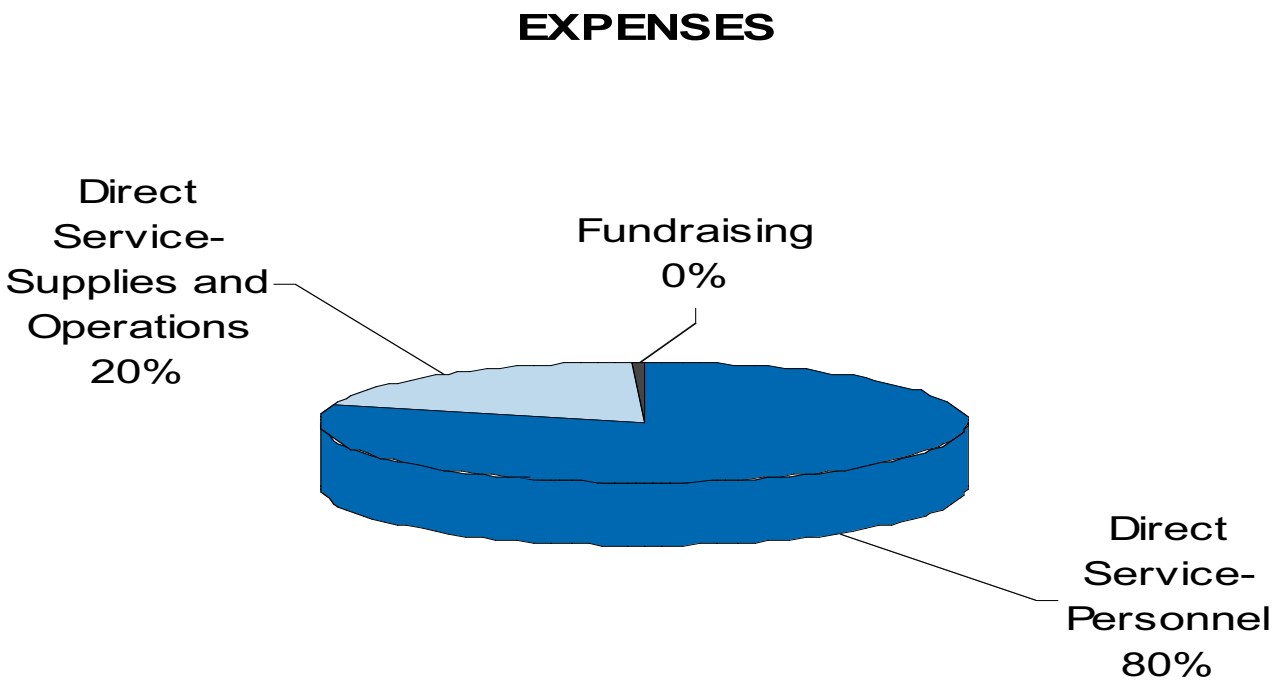


Significant funding sources include $ 651806.00 in external funding secured through successful State and Local grant applications, $283,559.00 in funding through the University, $33,682.00 in individual, foundation and corporate donations (which includes approximately $10,000.00 in proceeds from the Keep Kids Safe Walk) and $ 22,066.00 in fees collected from clients and insurance claims.

EXTERNAL FUNDING OVERVIEW

St. Louis Mental Health Board	$138,280	Trauma informed counseling for caregivers and children in St. Louis City
St. Louis Mental Health Board	$155,459	Counseling for complex trauma victims with serious emotional disturbance for St. Louis City residents
Missouri Dept of Social Service	$241,320	Forensic interviewing services
Missouri Dept of Public Safety	$ 53,093	Group therapy for child victims of crime
Missouri Dept of Public Safety	$ 40,666	Victim advocacy services
Missouri Dept Health/Sr Service	$ 6,615	Sexual assault victims services
Missouri Dept Health/Sr Service	$ 21,000	Sexual assault prevention services
National Children's Alliance	$ 10,000	Forensic program support
Norman J. Stupp Foundation	$ 7,500	Follow-up research project
Boeing Community Fund	$ 5,000	Counseling scholarships

Total expenses were $947,640.



Virtually 100% of CASGSL's expenses go toward Direct Service costs. Salaries and benefits in the amount of $755,510 represent the bulk (79%) of CASGSL expenses. Operating expenses of 20% include Building Maintenance, Utility and Computing Expenses, Professional services of the contracted medical staff, Supplies for programming and general office supplies, as well as Staff Development and travel expenses. Less than 1% of the CASGSL budget was used for fundraising efforts during FY 07.

BUDGET - FY 2007-2008

In 2007-2008, CASGSL will continue to build capacity, seek higher reimbursement rates for clinical services from insurance panels, actively seek donations from individuals and foundations and implement systematic billing and collection procedures to increase revenues. Anticipated additional expenses include covering the salary and benefits of the Manager of Forensic Services, Senior Accounting Clerk and additional Therapists to handle the caseload generated by capacity building efforts. Anticipated operational expenses include costs associated with carpet replacement at both buildings (approximately $80,000 to $100,000) and installing additional video equipment in therapy rooms (approximately $10,000). Anticipated staff development costs include travel and lodging costs associated with staff members participation in two Learning Collaboratives sponsored by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (approximately $25,000).

TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION OVERVIEW

CASGSL offers a number of graduate and undergraduate training experiences for students wishing to learn about child maltreatment and trauma. Undergraduate opportunities include research assistantships and administrative/ Intake assistance. In FY 2007, CASGSL funds supported one Graduate Research Assistantship and two Clinical Clerkship placements for advanced doctoral students in the Clinical Psychology program. These positions allowed these capable graduate students to supervise research operations, co-facilitate groups and learn a variety of evidence based trauma informed treatment modalities. In addition to paid positions, CASGSL staff supervised seven unpaid practicum experiences for undergraduate and graduate students including clinical and forensic internships, experiences for intake clinicians, group facilitators and research assistants.

In addition to formal training opportunities for students, CASGSL staff provided community based training for over 300 professionals through our Community Education programming that presents trauma related topics through CASGSL's monthly Child Trauma Colloquium series and workplace seminars arranged upon request.

> **I cannot adequately put into words how grateful I am to you for all of your help...thank you for changing our lives.**
>
> *– A CASGSL parent*

SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

CASGSL supports scholarly efforts of faculty, staff and students. Below are listed papers, posters, and presentations accepted in FY 2006-2007.

Faculty/Staff Papers, Posters and Presentations

Drewry, K. and **Schmitt, A.** PRIDE in Parenting: Parent- Child Interaction Therapy. March 13, 2007, Missouri Children's Trust Fund Be Aware Now conference, Jefferson City, MO.

Dunn, J. (2007). Adding insult to injury: The Plight of Mothers Coping with Domestic Violence. A review of Radford and Hester (2006) Mothering through Domestic Violence. Psych-Critiques

Dunn, J. (2007). First Do No More Harm: How Evidenced Based Interventions Reduce the Impact of Trauma. March 14, 2007, Missouri Children's Trust Fund Be Aware Now conference, Jefferson City, MO.

Kliethermes, M., Bruce, S., Haynes, S., Burr-Harris, A & the principal investigators and program directors of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (2006). The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN): *Baseline Demographic and Clinical Characteristics.* Poster presented at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) 22nd Annual Meeting, November,2006.

Wamser,R. & **Kliethermes, M.** *Factors in premature termination of child trauma-focused treatment.* Poster presented at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) 22nd Annual Meeting, November 2006.

Student Papers, Posters and Presentations

Kliethermes, M., Bruce, S., **Haynes, S.**, Burr-Harris,A & the principal investigators and program directors of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (2006). The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN): *Baseline Demographic and Clinical Characteristics.* Poster presented at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) 22nd Annual Meeting, November 2006.

Springman, R. & Wherry, J.(2006). The effects of interviewer race and child race on sexual abuse disclosures in forensic interviews. Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 15, (3), 99-116.

Wamser,R. & Kliethermes, M. Factors in premature termination of child trauma-focused treatment. Poster presented at the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) 22nd Annual Meeting, November 2006.

DONORS

Thank you to donors for their heartfelt contributions which help to provide CASGSL with the means to help heal and protect the children of our community. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by everyone at the center.

Gifts over $1,000

St. Louis Unitarian Foundation for Children
Mastercard Worldwide
Steven J. & Martha L. Harting
Missouri Athletic Club Sports Foundation
St. Lucas United Church of Christ
Zonta Club of St. Louis
John R. Goodall Charitable Trust
Susan & Sandy Rothschild

Gifts from $100 to $999

James & Susan Gamble
Thomas & Diane Eyssell
American Water
Richard & Laurie Waligurski
Geralyn Jacob
Charles Cunningham & Doris Drewry
The Harris Foundation, Inc.
Joan & Larry Schacht
Steven G. & Cara A. Schuermann
Christie Rogan
Deaconess Hospital Auxiliary
Jack & Beverly Dillon
Jim & Karen Hull
Keith Himstedt
Lisa Orden Zarin
Mary Tonkin
Matthew & Julie Kliethermes
Mike & Karen Reilly
St. Louis County Juvenile Justice
The BISYS Group, Inc.
William Seidhoff

Gifts from $50 to $99

Anthony & Brigid Rizzo
Cynthia Kibens
Kenneth & Judith Street
William & Patricia Owens
Alan & Leighanne Heisel
Sarah Abery
St. Margaret Mary Parish 8th Grade Confirmation Students
The Staff of Crestwood Elementary School
Bruce & Janice Carrell
Betty Conyers Patton
Bill & Mary Fitzgerald
Brigid Rizzo
Carole Kelly-Frank
Dale & Rhonda Rickard
Jaime Bergfeld
Jerri Scully
Jim & Emily Kerr
Joann Moritz
John & Joanne Barnes
John & Mary Jean Lorentz
Lawrence & Pamela Gilmore
Patricia Gray
Patricia Wolff
Patrick & Mary Ann O'Connor
Renee Hall
Robert & Cynthia Reeg
Robert & Karen Sczepanski
Ruth Diamond
Thomas & Ann Lieb Frawley
Wanda Davega

Gifts up to $50

Elizabeth Rivers
Gerard & Sharon Kramer
Joe Laramie
John & Mary Blaskiewicz
Joseph Schweppe
Steve & Susan Bowen
William C. Finnie
Clara A. Shelly
Daniel & Bonnie Waligurski
Ramesh Raghavan & Sujatha Ramesh
Susan Shelly Ackermann
Timothy & Tami Berry
Karl & Suzanne Kottemann
Ray & Diana Waligurski
Sean Beste
Alissa Briggs
Amanda Schmitt
Anik Gevers
Barbara Bell
Bobby & Donna Garrett
Bonnie Brabec
Breanna Lane
Cheryl Cavins
Christine Keutzer
Connilee Boehne
Coray Grove
Courtney Kranz
Danny Wedding
Elizabeth Kinder
Gail Brock
Gail Joyner
Gen Obata & Rebecca S. Stith
Geri Blake
Harry Hamm
Heather Huffman
Ilene Knobler
James A. Sheets
James & Marcella Friedle
James Wilson
Jeff Burd
Jennifer Orgel Tompras
Jonathan & Claudia Ernst
Judith Cates
Judith Woolsey
Keith & Cheryl Dorris
Kent Young
Linda McQuary
Lisa Mancini
Lorie Lane
Lorraine M. Clark
Louis Brock
Magnificat Center, Inc.
Marci Fine
Marielle Falki
Megan Fitzgerald
Megan Schacht
Meghna Patel
Michael & Kathy George
Michelle Barton
Mickey Owens
Mike Neal
Natasha Sansone
Nick Matteucci
Patrick & Michelle O'Connor
Penny Kimes
Rob Barrale
Russell McAtee & Maria Chamberlain-McAtee
Sandy Winkler
Scott & Angela Chladek
Senator Jeff Smith
Sheryl Spencer
Susan Gamble
Suzanne Schrappen
Tena Thompson
Theresa Bertolino
Therese McKee
Tom Angus
Tonie Fitzgibbon
Victoria M. Moore
Vincent & Jeri Tappel
Whitney Purtha
Cynthia A. Rodriguez
Donald & Nancy Boehnker
Fran Johnson
Kit Auble
Sylvan Robinson
Carol Chickey
Christopher Sullivan & Francesca Ferrari
Jill & Charlie Bright
Dolores Cates
Elizabeth Alexander
Jeffrey L. Thomasson
Kathy Keller
Kenneth J. & Theresa Johnston
Lucy Klostermann
Marva Robinson-Steward
Mary Phillips
Robert & Mary Portell
Sarah Abery
West County Democrats
C.M. Dermott
Heather Potts
Joan Garrison

Gifts of Goods & Services

American Water
Andrea Hellman
Assistance League of St. Louis
Barnes Hospital
Build A Bear Retail Management, Inc.
Christine Buck, CW-11
Cindy Kibens
Cindy Rodriguez
County Executive Charlie Dooley
CW11
Day Treatment Staff at The Rehab Center
Dillard's
Geralyn Jacob
Jennifer Day Family & Neighbors
Jim Hartigan
Jim, Mary & Maddy Petty
Jimco / James A. Sheets Co.
Katie Walterscheid
Laurie Waligurski
Lori Rasmussen
Mark Petty & the UM-St. Louis Golden Key Honor Society
Martha Harting
Nancy Barnes
Normandy Fire Department
Papa John's Pizza
Pepsi-Cola
Safeco, Inc.
Save-A-Lot
Susan Bowen
Temple Israel Youth Group
UM-St. Louis Conference Services Dept.
William Seidhoff