**Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Protocol for Maine’s Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs)**

**Purpose**: The purpose of this protocol is to guide CACs and their multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) in responding to cases of CSEC. CSEC cases are complicated and require responses from multiple systems to ensure a victim’s safety, access to medical and mental health services, youth and non-offending caregiver supports and their continued engagement in the process. This protocol outlines the responsibilities of the referent, the CAC and the MDT once a CSEC case referral is made.

* CSEC cases are referred to the CAC through law enforcement or child protective services.
* Referents will provide the CAC with the information outlined on the CSEC CAC Intake Form and any other relevant information that will assist the CAC in convening the MDT.
* The CAC will contact the members of the MDT to convene a meeting either in person or by conference call with-in 72 hours, unless extenuating circumstances exists.
* The MDT will convene to create a strategy and plan for the case based on the information available at that time. At a minimum, the following will be considered: safety of the youth, youth’s involvement in case planning, youth’s interpersonal supports, housing/shelter, access to mental health and medical evaluation/treatment and scheduling of a forensic interview.
* Recommendations, next steps and a time to reconvene the MDT will be documented on the CAC CSEC Case Planning Form.
* If a forensic interview is scheduled at the CAC, all efforts will be made to ensure MDT members present for the interview process have direct involvement in the case.
* CAC staff and MDT members will follow all other existing protocols while at the CAC for the team meeting and/or the forensic interview.
* Referrals will be made by the CAC based on the needs identified by the child, caregiver and/or the MDT.
* All CSEC cases will be reviewed at monthly CAC case review meetings.