**Strategic Plan**

***2016-2017***

**Mission Statement**: To serve all children, families and adults by strengthening our community’s response to child abuse through investigation, intervention, prevention and advocacy efforts.

**Vision**: The vision of The Children’s Advocacy Center of Cumberland County is to provide a safe, neutral and child-centered place for coordinated evaluation of children following a suspicion or allegation of sexual abuse. Using evidence –based best practices, the CAC multi-disciplinary team members are committed to the minimization of trauma through a streamlined, non-repetitious and timely evaluation process. Accessible, ongoing support for children and their non- offending family members/legal guardian will always be of paramount importance to the CAC team.

**Current Programming:** The Cumberland County Children’s Advocacy Center (CCCAC) has been open for one year. During that time the CAC has served approximately 220 children who were suspected of being sexually abused. The CCCAC has made great strides in achieving it’s agreed upon vision. However, the director and the advisory committee recognize that further growth is necessary to ensure the sustainability of that vision. As a young CAC the advisory committee agreed to focus on immediate needs and short term goals (12-15 months) with a plan to engage in further assessment and planning for longer term goals (3-5 years). Immediate needs were identified for staffing and program enhancement.

**GOAL: 1** To identify and train at least 3 back up forensic interviewers to allow more flexibility and consistent coverage for forensic interviews.

The CCCAC currently has one full time forensic interviewer/program coordinator who is employed by the umbrella agency Spurwink. There have been challenges to identifying and training additional back up forensic interviewers.

**Objective a:** Reach out to community partners about the benefits of having a community partner serve as a forensic interviewer.

**Objective b**: Explore funding options to support part time or contracted forensic interviewers.

**Objective c:** Identify and train at least two more forensic interviewers.

**GOAL #2**: To increase the number of accepted referrals for medical, mental health, and support services by 10-20 percent.

The CCCAC is co-located with the Spurwink Child Abuse Program and provides medical exams on site. After one year, 10 percent of children accessed the medical exams. The CCCAC has linkage agreements with two mental health providers in Cumberland County and after one year, only 10 percent of clients have accepted referrals to those services. The CCCAC also has a linkage agreement with Sexual Assault Services of Southern Maine for ongoing support services. At this point 15% have accepted those referrals.

**Objective a:** Provide further training for the Family Services Facilitator to increase his/her ability to assess the needs of children and families presenting at the CAC.

**Objective b:** Create a simple checklist for families to complete that will help identify unmet needs.

**Objective c**: Work with each partnered agency to assess potential barriers to referrals and strategies to remove those barriers.

GOAL #3: To create a strategic plan that addresses funding, staffing and program needs for future growth and sustainability.

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The CAC director and advisory board recognize the importance of creating a strategic plan that ensures the sustainability of the CCCAC mission and vision.

**Objective a**: Create a work group to work on the strategic plan with support from the state chapter and NRCAC.

**Objective b**: Share results of the work group with the larger advisory group for feedback

**Objective c**: Implement the strategic plan by the then end of year 2017.