

October 1, 2010

Dear Prospective Advisory Board Member;

In 2009, Children's Advocacy Centers around the country served nearly 260,000 child victims of abuse, providing victim advocacy and support to these children and their families.

- In 2008, 772,000 children were victims of maltreatment.
- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 5 boys are sexually abused before the age of 18
- The median age for reported abuse is 9 years old
- Nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults are on children ages 17 and under
- 80% of child abuse victims have been maltreated by one or both parents
- There are 40 million survivors of child sexual abuse in America today

Sadly, the statistics are just as staggering right here in our own backyard. You have a special opportunity to make a real difference in our community. I am hoping you will agree to participate on the newly formed _____ Child Advocacy Advisory Board. The CAC belongs to all of us, and we should all have a voice.

The Advisory Board will be made up of members of local law enforcement, child protective services, therapeutic professionals, victim support professionals, and prosecutors. The Advisory Board's role is to ensure that the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) is offering a well-coordinated, effective approach to child abuse investigation, prosecution, and treatment in _____. I have enclosed some information that will tell you about the roles and responsibilities of being a member of our Advisory Board.

Some background information for you... The CAC provides a safe, child-friendly site for the investigation and treatment of child abuse. It offers a wide range of services to children who have been physically, sexually, or emotionally abused.. As of this August, we have already seen as many, and will likely open more than 300 new cases by the end of the year. Thanks to the CAC, and your continued support, hundreds of area children have received the treatment and counseling they need. But more turn to us every day.

I hope you will become a member of our CAC Advisory Board. If you would like more information, or have any questions, please call me at

I would like to schedule our first meeting for _____ at the _____ Child Advocacy Center .

In the event a majority of potential members are unable to attend, this meeting may be rescheduled to accommodate as many people as possible.

Please indicate on the letter of commitment your availability to attend.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Coordinator

The _____ Child Advocacy Center Advisory Board

You are being considered for appointment to the _____ Advocacy Center Advisory Board because of your personal and professional skills and community leadership. As you consider this, here is some information that may be helpful:

Mission:

Support the CAC by facilitating relationships, providing counsel, updating protocols, and work toward improved service delivery in the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse victims in _____.

Composition of the Advisory Board – a high-ranking individual, with decision-making abilities from the following agencies:

List of examples

Responsibilities of Advisory Board Members:

1. To ensure that the CAC is providing a well coordinated, effective approach to child abuse investigation and prosecution in _____.
2. Terms – One 2 year term with the option to be appointed to a second term.
***Appointment is contingent on position within partner agency**
3. Meetings – attend and participate in two (2) board meetings annually.
4. Advocacy – Be a community advocate for the CAC. Provide leadership, wisdom, and creativity for the formulation of policy, progress and practices that contribute to the elimination of child abuse and neglect in _____.

_____ Child Advocacy Center Advisory Board Pledge of
Commitment

Mission of Advisory Board:

Support the CAC by facilitating relationships, providing counsel, updating protocols, and work toward improved service delivery in the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse victims in _____.

Responsibilities:

- Convene semi-annually to be briefed on the opportunities, challenges and needs facing the Child Advocacy Center.
- Provide counsel to the Coordinator within your area of professional expertise.
- Facilitate relationships with individuals, corporations, and public and community agencies that will support the Center's mission.
- Participate in the development and other activities of the Center.

I, _____, agree to serve on the Advisory Board of the _____ Child Advocacy Center and will perform the aforementioned responsibilities to the best of my abilities.

I am **able** to attend the Advisory Board meeting scheduled for November 9, 2010 at 2:00 pm.

I am **unable** to attend the Advisory Board meeting scheduled for November 9, 2010 at 2:00 pm.

Unfortunately, I will not be able to serve on the Advisory Board of the _____ Child Advocacy Center, but will continue to advocate on behalf of the Center's children in need.

Signature

Title

_____/_____/_____
Date

Please fax to _____

Or mail to:
