



**Abilene/Taylor County Child Advocacy Center Advisory Board Minutes  
11/20/12**

Board Members Present: Stan Standridge – Chief, Abilene Police Department  
Craig Shaw – CBS Insurance  
Ernest Slatinsky – Commander, United States Air Force OSI  
Laura Lee Hines - Concerned Citizen  
Dee Moore - Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Texas  
Nikki Favors - Concerned Citizen  
Downing Bolls – Judge, Taylor County Commissioners Court  
Diane Dotson - Executive Director, Regional Victims Crisis Center  
Connie Davis – Program Director, Child Protective Services  
Debra McCracken - Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner  
Karon Bingaman - Pediatric Nurse  
Leigh Ann Fry – Executive Director, Noah Project  
Karen Munoz - Abilene Independent School District  
Casey Wasson – Pediatric Nurse

Board Members Absent: James Eidson - Taylor County District Attorney  
Les Bruce – Sheriff, Taylor County Sheriff's Office  
Anthony Williams – Abilene Christian University  
Justin Smith - Pediatrician  
Bobby Easterling - Jim Ned Independent School District  
Randy Holden – Chief, Tye Police Department  
Bill Wheat - Chief, Merkel Police Department  
Becky Poindexter - Concerned Citizen

EX-Officio Members Present: Melinda Beard - Director, ATCCAC  
Mike Perry - Deputy Chief, Abilene Police Department  
Sharon Miller – ATCCAC Family Advocate/Board Secretary

Others Present: Ada McCloud – CAC of Texas, Inc.  
Brenda Tharp – CAC of Texas, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 A.M. by ATCCAC Advisory Board Chair Dee Moore. Board minutes from the previous meeting of 07/13/12 were reviewed. Chief Standridge motioned that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved as written.

## **New Business**

Incoming ATCCAC Advisory Board Members Ernest Slatinsky (Commander, United States Air Force OSI) and Connie Davis (Program Director, Child Protective Services) were administered the Oath of Office and Statement of Officer by Board Secretary Sharon Miller.

CAC of Texas, Inc.'s Ada McCloud and Brenda Tharp were in attendance at the board meeting as part of their site visit to the ATCCAC. The CAC of Texas site visits take place once every three years, although Ada later advised that CAC site visits would now be conducted once every five years (unless extenuating circumstances exist).

Ada presented a general overview of the current state of CAC's in Texas to board members. She stated CAC of Texas, Inc. is requesting an additional \$5,000,000 in funding for next year from the Texas Legislature. Ada advised that the Texas Legislature is in the process of writing next year's budget at this time and the possibility of funding cuts to CAC's has been mentioned. Ada encouraged board members to contact any Texas law makers they might know to advocate for additional funding for CAC's. Ada also urged board members to attend Capitol Day in Austin (February 2013) in order to meet with State Representatives regarding CAC funding.

Ada stated that the ATCCAC needs to revise the Records Retention portion of its protocol, as there is no current criteria for the retention of electronic files. She also advised that some adjustments need to be made as far as the documentation regarding perpetrators and Rainbow Room statistics.

Brenda Tharp reported that she met yesterday with Alice Jackson from the City of Abilene's Accounting Division. Brenda stated she saw no concerns with the ATCCAC's accounting procedures, as the City of Abilene's Accounting Division appears to be very organized and all appeared to be in compliance with CAC of Texas, Inc.

## **Director's Report**

Melinda Beard advised that yesterday, 11/19/12, was the first official day of operation for the Abilene Police Department's Special Victims Unit (SVU). Due to the opening of the SVU, Melinda stated that there will now be four APD detectives working child abuse cases: Stacey Cisneros, Frank Shoemaker, Justin Gates and Eric Vickers. Melinda explained how the CAC plans to maintain confidentiality for families who visit the Center due to increased foot traffic from the SVU.

Melinda stated that the ATCCAC did receive confirmation of FY 2013 grant funding from CAC of Texas, Inc. She also advised that a Policy Revision Committee has been put together for the Center, as new Texas standards go into effect September 2014. She stated the committee will most likely begin meeting in January 2013.

Melinda said that the ATCCAC is in the process of bringing one more volunteer on board to assist volunteer Laura Lee Hines with follow up surveys and other varied duties. She stated that the background check on this potential volunteer was still in progress.

Melinda advised that ATCCAC Forensic Interviewer Dianna Benavides will be putting together a "team development day" training for Multi-Disciplinary Team members. She stated this training will possibly take place in Spring 2013.

Dee Moore advised that the next meeting of the ATCCAC Advisory Board will be **Friday, January 11, 2013 at 7:15 A.M.**, Taylor County Law Enforcement Center, 450 Pecan St., Abilene, TX 79602, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 A.M. by Chair Dee Moore.