

**CHILDRENS
JUSTICE
&
ADVOCACY
CENTER**



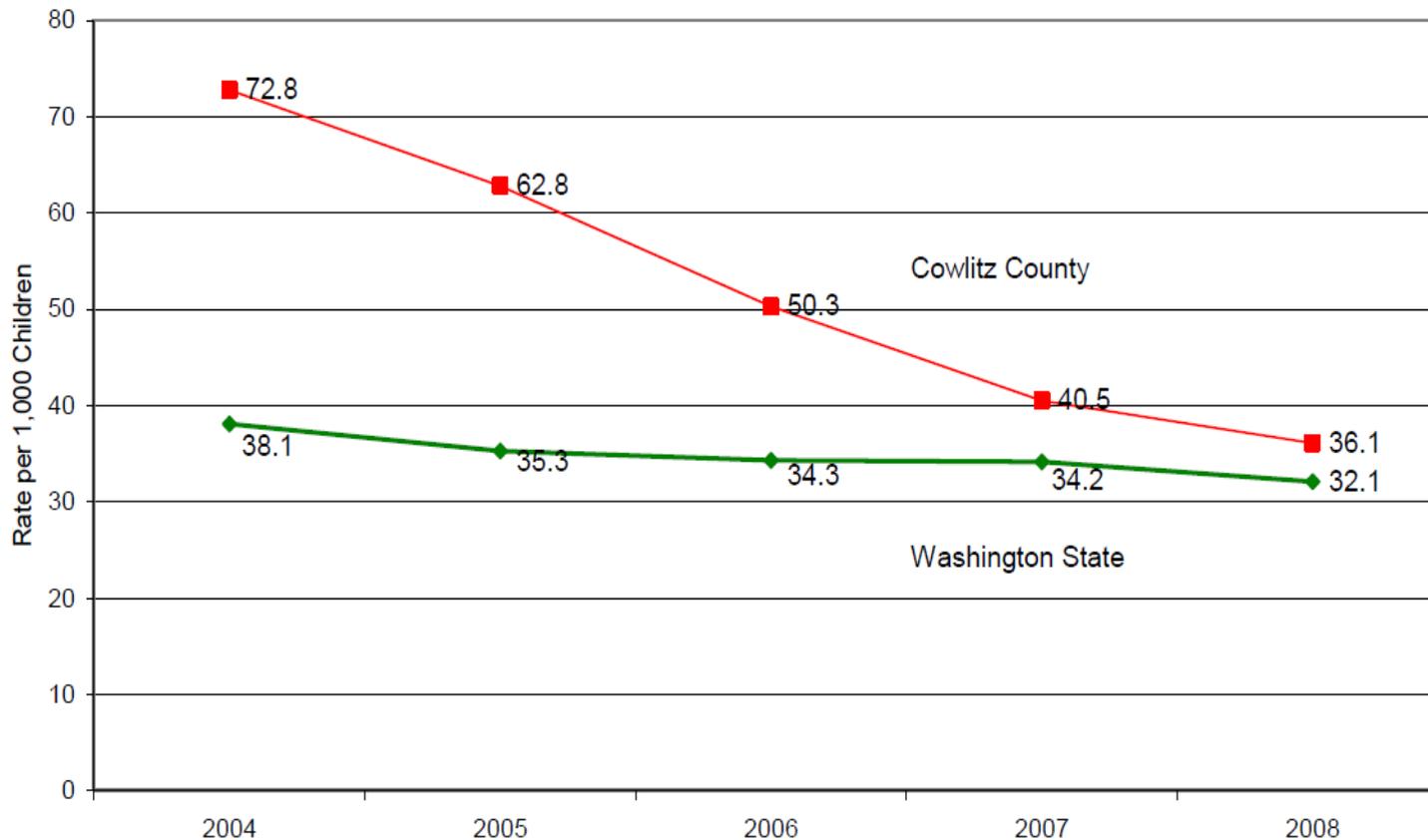
Child Abuse Reports

- National data provides details about the victims of child abuse that are not as easily located for the local and state areas. During the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2006 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico reported:
- An estimated 905,000 children were victims of maltreatment;
- The rate of victimization was 12.1 per 1,000 children in the population; and
- Nearly 3.6 million children received a CPS investigation or assessment.
- Nearly three-quarters of victims (74.7%) had no history of prior victimization.
- For FFY 2006, 48.2 % of child victims were boys, and 51.5 % of the victims were girls. The youngest children had the highest rate of victimization.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families. Child Maltreatment 2006 (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2008).

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm06/chapter3.htm#notesix>

Child Abuse and Neglect Accepted Referrals (Birth-17 years) Cowlitz County and Washington State Comparison 2004 - 2008



Source: DSHS, Children's Administration, Administrative Services, Case Management Information System (CAMIS)

WHEN A CRIME IS REPORTED WHAT HAPPENS?

- ▣ CRIME REPORTED – TYPICALLY CLOSE IN TIME
- ▣ LE RESPONDS- TYPICALLY UNIFORM
 - INTERVIEW VICTIM WITNESSES
 - PROCESS SCENE....TAKE EVIDENCE....TRACE EVIDENCE

- ▣ MAJOR CRIME- DETECTIVE INVOLVEMENT
 - INTERVIEW VICTIM
 - INTERVIEW WITNESSES
 - SEARCH WARRANTS
 - SUBPOENA RECORDS
 - COLLECT LAB RESULTS
 - CORROBORATE VICTIM/WITNESS STATEMENTS
 - MUCH MORE.....

DELAYED REPORTING

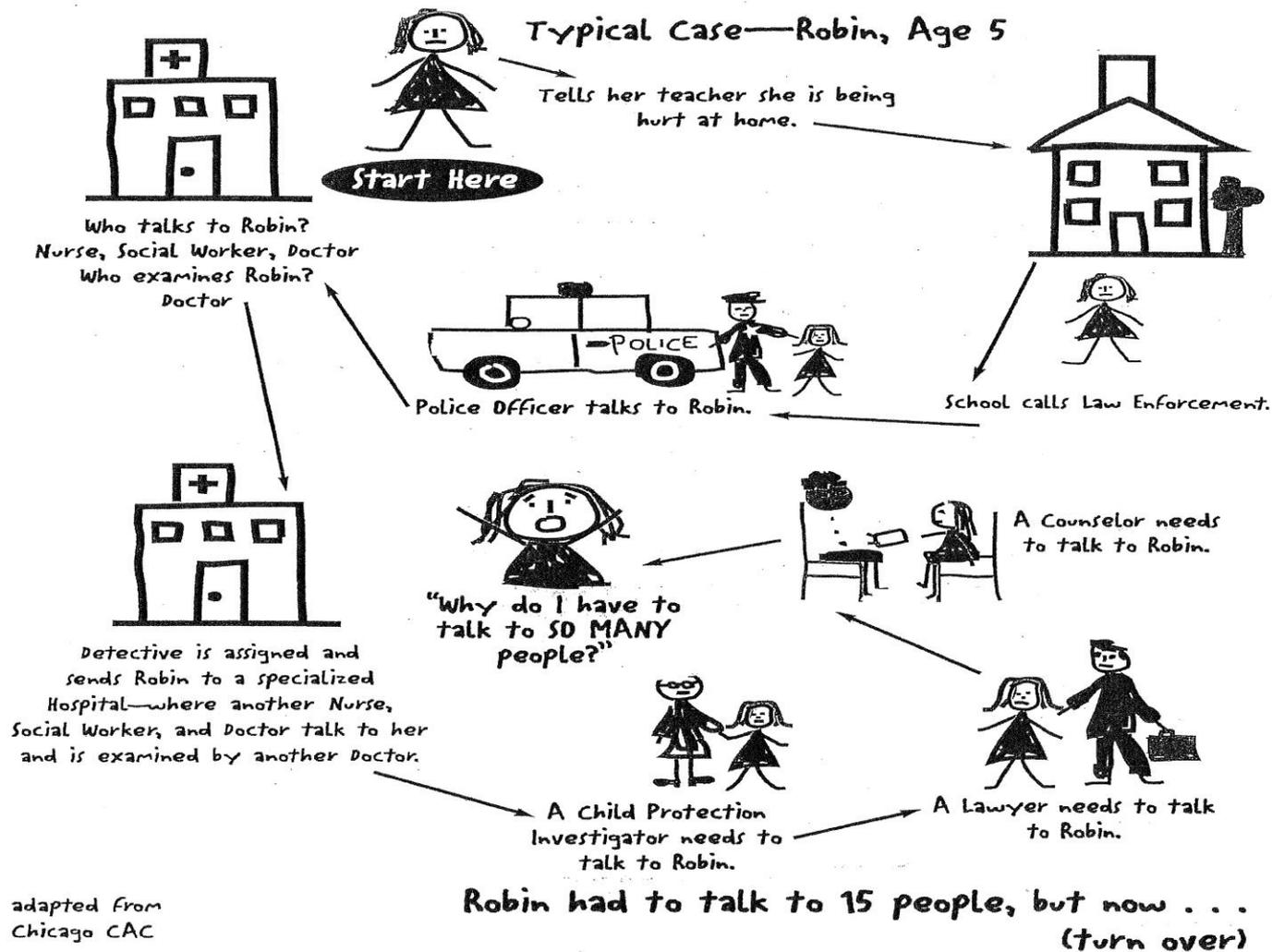
The sound a child often makes when physically or sexually assaulted is **silence.**





Changing the Child Abuse System

WHAT USED TO HAPPEN WHEN KIDS NEEDED HELP FOR ABUSE



adapted from
Chicago CAC

WHEN A CHILD REPORTS, WHO NEEDS TO BE INVOLVED?

- ▣ LAW ENFORCEMENT
- ▣ CPS
- ▣ PROSECUTOR - assess victim
- ▣ ADVOCATES - immediacy of needs
- ▣ MENTAL HEALTH - prompt referrals
- ▣ PHYSICIANS-MEDICAL - don't lose evidence

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- ❖ SAFETY FIRST
- ❖ INVESTIGATORS - CRIMINAL CASES
- ❖ ATTEND INTERVIEW, SEARCH WARRANTS, OTHER INTERVIEWS, ETC. NECESSITY OF MEDICAL EXAM
- ❖ COORDINATE WITH CPS, PROSECUTORS, ADVOCATES, MEDICAL
- ❖ REFER FOR CRIMINAL CHARGES AND TESTIFY AT TRIAL

PROSECUTOR

- ❖ OBSERVE INTERVIEW – WITNESS
- ❖ ASSESS STRENGTHS/WEAKNESSES OF VICTIM AND EVIDENCE
- ❖ ADVISE INVESTIGATORS – novel approaches
- ❖ CHARGING DECISIONS -
- ❖ TAKE CASE TO COURT
- ❖ PROSECUTION ADVOCATES---SYSTEM HELP

ADVOCATES

- ▣ FAMILY ADVOCATE
- ▣ VICTIM ADVOCATE
- ▣ SYSTEM-BASED ADVOCATE
- ▣ SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

CPS AND/OR DSHS

- ❖ IN HOME CASES
- ❖ INVESTIGATORS - CIVIL CASES - Dependency proceedings -- ALSO NEED STATEMENTS AND QUICKLY
- ❖ PROCEED THROUGH CIVIL SYSTEM
- ❖ MONITOR HOME AND FAMILY

Children's Advocacy Centers Make a Difference

In 2006, researchers at the Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire released findings from the five-year multi-site national evaluation of the CAC model. Data from over 1000 cases of sexual abuse handled by communities with and without a CAC were collected and subject to comparison analysis.

- ▣ CACs showed significantly more evidence of coordinated investigations.
- ▣ More children involved with a CAC received a specialized medical evaluation.
- ▣ More children involved in a CAC were referred to mental health services.
- ▣ Parents and caregivers of children served by CACs were more satisfied with the investigation (than those in comparison sample).

Children's Advocacy Centers Save Money

- ▣ A recent national cost-benefit analysis of the Children's Advocacy Center model shows that CACs save approximately \$1,000 per case in services to children and families during the course of a child abuse investigation.
- ▣ On a per-case basis, traditional investigations were 36% more expensive than a CAC investigation. The cost of a CAC investigation averaged \$2,902 compared to \$3,949 for a traditional abuse investigation.
- ▣ For more information, visit [Executive Summary: Findings from the NCAC Cost-Benefit Analysis of Community Responses to Child Maltreatment.](#)

CREATION OF THE CHILDREN'S JUSTICE & ADVOCACY CENTER

CHILD PSYCHIATRY COALITION – NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Family Health Center

Pediatricians

CPS

Prosecutors

LE

CASA

Progress Center

Schools

Cowlitz County Guidance Association

and many others.....

Strengths of our system

- ▣ Years of experience using a child abuse response protocol (1986) that included prosecuting attorney, law enforcement and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) at the interview stage to minimize the number of interviews conducted.
- ▣ Years of cooperative relationships between most agencies involved.
- ▣ Commitment by all agencies to lessen the trauma of investigations

- ▣ Many community partners are willing to give their expertise: examples Drs Tolby and Cavens, and the Family Health Center.
- ▣ History of Good relationships between prosecuting attorney, law enforcement and DCFS, and Advocacy (ESS).
- ▣ Strong community-based advocacy program available---Emergency Support Shelter
also a strong system-based advocacy program at the prosecutor's office.

Weaknesses of our system

- ❑ Inconsistent adherence to protocol that was established.
- ❑ Each agency differed as to age of the children who would receive a forensic interview
- ❑ No LE agency has advocates to help families.
- ❑ Multiple interview styles and inconsistent interview expertise among the interviewers.
- ❑ Budget restrictions did not allow hiring staff to permanently focus exclusively on these cases.

- ❑ No local child abuse expert to testify and inform juries.
- ❑ No forensic medical examiner available within a 50-mile radius of Longview.
- ❑ Children interviewed more than once
- ❑ Efforts duplicated

VISION

- ▣ *CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE PROPERLY CARED FOR AND PROTECTED FROM VIOLENCE, ABUSE, AND NEGLECT*

MISSION

- ▣ *TO PROVIDE CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSE A COORDINATED COMMUNITY APPROACH TO INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION AND TREATMENT, THAT PROMOTES THEIR SAFETY, HEALING AND WELL-BEING.*

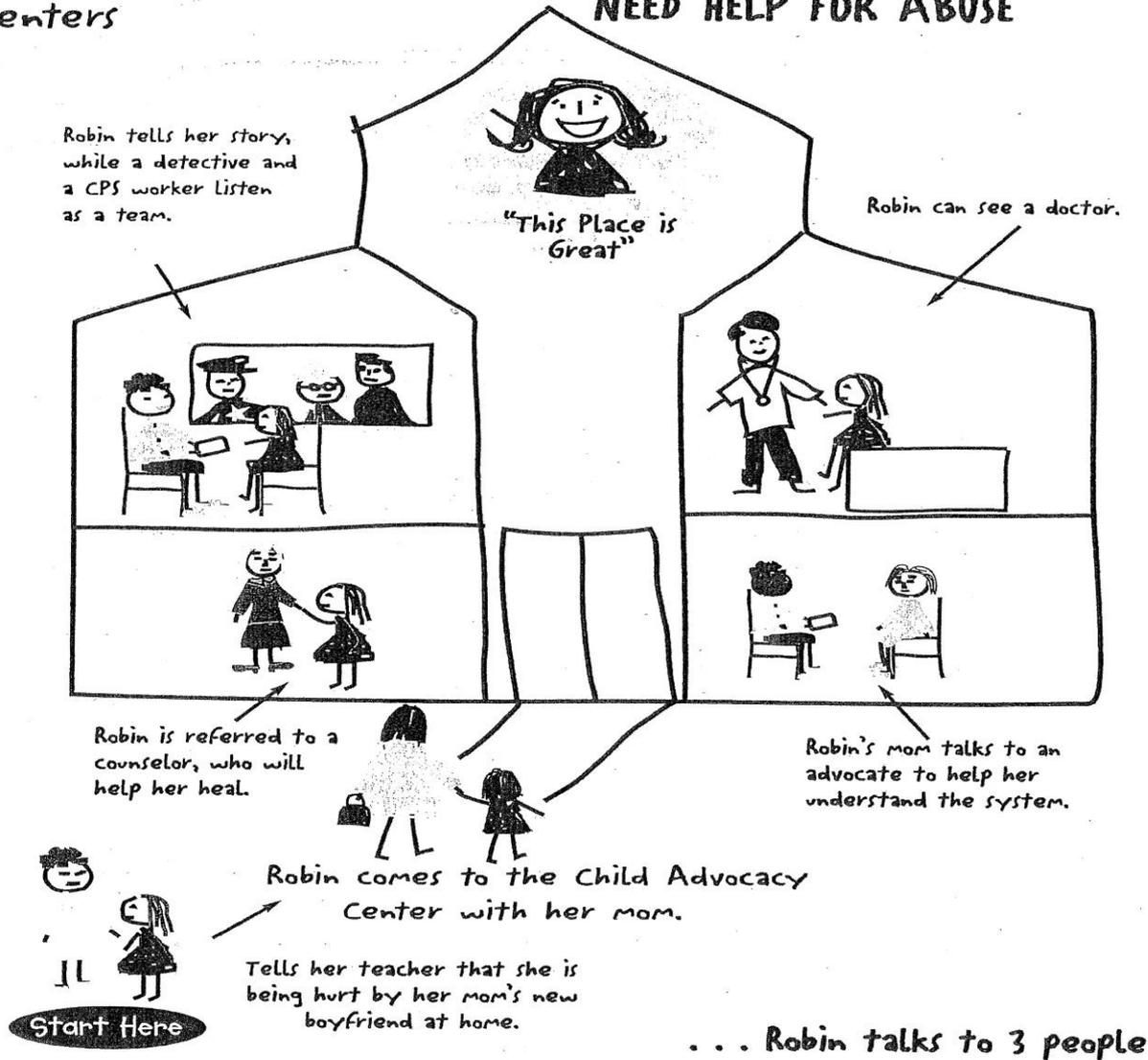
GOALS

- ▣ REDUCE TRAUMA TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES - System & Event Trauma
- ▣ INCREASE ACCESS TO SERVICES BY CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS
Happier & Healthier Families
- ▣ INCREASE RELIABILITY AND INTEGRITY OF INVESTIGATIONS - Best Practices, consistency, expertise, families are willing

Washington State
Association of
Children's Advocacy
Centers

Changing the Child Abuse System

WHAT HAPPENS TODAY WHEN KIDS NEED HELP FOR ABUSE



WHAT IS CJAC?

- ▣ CHILD-FRIENDLY, CHILD FOCUSED FACILITY
- ▣ USES A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH TO INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION AND TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE
- ▣ BRINGS AGENCIES TO THE CHILD

COMFORTABLE CHILD & FAMILY WAITING ROOM





CHILD FRIENDLY INTERVIEW ROOM



SYSTEM ADVOCATES

FAMILY ADVOCATES



SO....WHAT IS THE CHANGE?

- ❖ PLACE – we all go 214 N. PACIFIC, KELSO
OPERATING FOR 1 YEAR AND 2 MONTHS
- ❖ ONE INTERVIEWER  ... - ... \
- ❖ VIDEOTAPED INTERVIEWS  # -
- ❖ ADVOCATES ALWAYS AVAILABLE – SERVICES
FOR FAMILIES **KEEPS THEM INFORMED**
& WILLING  **SUPPORTS & HELPS**

GOING FORWARD

- ❖ THERAPISTS (CURRENTLY OFF-SITE)
- ❖ CASA
- ❖ MEDICAL
- ❖ OTHERS....WE ARE OPEN

CONTACTS

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EMERGENCY SUPPORT SHELTER

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PROSECUTOR and victim/wit advocates

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