ABOUT US

OUR VISION

The Vision of Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis is that communities will respond to families impacted by childhood trauma in a prompt, coordinated manner that ensures physical and psychological safety, promotes justice and supports recovery.

OUR MISSION

The Mission of Children's Advocacy Services of Greater St. Louis is to reduce the effects of trauma experienced by children and adolescents through: trauma informed assessment and counseling, facilitation of multi-disciplinary investigative teams, child-sensitive forensic interviews, consistent victim advocacy, quality undergraduate and graduate training, utilization based research, responsive community outreach, and relevant advocacy to influence public policy.

OUR YEAR END REVIEW

- CASGSL clinicians provided trauma informed counseling to 456 children and their families through 4,847 sessions of individual and group counseling in FY 09
- CASGSL forensic staff interviewed 435 children who were alleged victims of child abuse and neglect in FY 09
- CASGSL trained over 35 undergraduate and graduate students in forensic and clinical practicum experiences and provided continuing education to over 1,000 community based professionals
- We learned that over 400 charges were filed against suspects as a result of our FY 09 forensic interviews
- We learned that, on average, each child has experienced 4 traumas before seeking services at CASGSL and that 62% of these families are below the poverty level.
- We learned that over 77% of the children we see in our forensic and counseling units are aged 12 or under
- CASGSL's 3rd Annual Keep Kids Safe 5k generated over $22,000 in donations for the center
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES OVERVIEW

For the fifth year in a row, CASGSL has increased its overall capacity of individual client service units; FY09 saw a 22.5% increase overall from FY08. The graph below illustrates recent growth in forensic interviews and sessions of individual and family counseling. Group therapy sessions are not included in this graph.

FORENSIC SERVICES

During FY 2009, CASGSL staff completed 441 forensic interviews to assist local law enforcement and child protection services investigations of child abuse and neglect. Approximately 92% of the forensic interviews conducted involved allegations of sexual abuse with 8% focusing on allegations of physical abuse and witnessing violent crimes. The multidisciplinary team (e.g. law enforcement, Children’s Division investigators, Prosecuting/Circuit attorney, Family Court personnel, Children’s Advocacy Center staff) meets monthly to discuss cases where the child has been seen at CASGSL for a forensic interview. During FY09, the team reported that 142 cases were moving forward within the criminal court system resulting in approximately 450 criminal charges.

Thank you to the staff and thanks to CAC. You made me feel like I can live my life again.

- Forensic client
WHO DO WE SERVE?

COUNSELING SERVICES

CASGSL clinicians offer the most comprehensive array of trauma informed evidence based practices to victims of child maltreatment in the St. Louis metropolitan area. During FY09, 456 children and adolescents received individual and/or family counseling services at CASGSL. A total of 4,847 counseling sessions were provided which represents a 24% increase in capacity from the year before. CASGSL has maintained its clinical presence in St. Louis City by continuing to offer services at the West Pine location. Both locations offered hours in the evenings and Saturdays.

In addition to the families served through individual counseling sessions, over 47 children and their caregivers received group counseling services through CASGSL’s three group treatment programs which address various trauma related issues.

Typically, CASGSL clients remain in treatment for approximately 6-9 months and show improvement across several domains at treatment conclusion. CASGSL recently completed a study that assessed CASGSL clients at six month intervals for up to two years post treatment. Preliminary data suggest that CASGSL clients maintained their treatment gains following counseling especially in the areas related to Post Traumatic Stress symptoms (e.g. intrusive thoughts, avoidance of trauma related stimuli, hyperarousal).
Total revenues for CASGSL in FY09 were $1,214,599.

Total revenues for CASGSL in FY08 were $1,214,599. Total expenses were $1,093,253. Significant funding sources include $815,478 in external funding secured through successful grant applications, $215,508 in Rate funding through the University, $59,592 in individual, foundation and corporate donations (which includes approximately $22,000.00 in proceeds from the 3rd Annual Keep Kids Safe 5K) and $124,021 in fees collected from clients and insurance claims.

**EXTERNAL FUNDING OVERVIEW**

- **St. Louis Mental Health Board** $191,461 Trauma informed counseling for caregivers and children in St. Louis City
- **St. Louis Mental Health Board** $205,674 Counseling for complex trauma victims with serious emotional disturbance for St. Louis City residents
- **Missouri Dept of Social Service** $291,269 Forensic interviewing services
- **Missouri Dept of Public Safety** $38,000 Group therapy for child victims of crime
- **Missouri Dept of Public Safety** $49,210 Victim advocacy services
- **Missouri Dept Health/Sr Service** $3,850 Sexual assault victims services
- **Missouri Dept Health/Sr Service** $21,014 Sexual assault prevention services
- **National Children’s Alliance** $10,000 Forensic program support
- **Boeing Community Fund** $5,000 Counseling scholarships
Total expenses were $1,093,253.

Total expenses for CASGSL in FY09 were $1,093,252. Salaries and benefits in the amount of $958,796 represent the bulk (88%) of CASGSL expenses. CASGSL supports the salaries and benefits of seventeen full time positions and eight part time and student employees.

Operating expenses of $126,026 (11%) include building maintenance, utility and computing expenses, supplies for programming and general office supplies, as well as Staff Development and travel expenses. Less than 1% of the CASGSL budget was used for fundraising efforts during FY 09.

BUDGET - FY 2009-2010

In 2009-2010, CASGSL will continue to build capacity, seek higher reimbursement rates for clinical services from insurance panels, actively seek donations from individuals and foundations, and implement systematic billing and collection procedures to increase revenues. Anticipated additional expenses include covering the salary and benefits of additional therapists to handle the case load generated by capacity building efforts. Anticipated operational expenses include costs associated with flooring replacement at both buildings (approximately $80,000 to $100,000), completing the installation of additional video equipment in therapy rooms (approximately $10,000) and replacing outdated computers at both sites (approximately $12,000).
SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW


Drewry, K. (2009, April 2). Introduction to Child Trauma. Presentation for the University of Missouri-St. Louis Honors College. St. Louis, MO.


Dunn, J. (2009, February 8). Childhood Trauma and Maltreatment: Damages, Dedication and Dilemmas. Presentation at Ethical Society of St. Louis. St. Louis, MO.


Kliethermes, M. (2009, March, April). Traumatized Youth. Invited presentation for staff psychologists at St. Louis Children’s Hospital, Department of Psychology. St. Louis, MO.
SCHOLARSHIP OVERVIEW

Kliethermes, M. (2009, June). *An Introduction to Chronic Trauma in Youth.* Invited presentation for staff of the Transitions to Work for Youth Program, a collaboration with Preferred Family Healthcare, Provident and St. Louis Mental Health Board. Grafton, IL.

McQuary, L. (2008, July 16). *Introduction to the Children’s Advocacy Center and Cursory Interviews.* Presentation to the Department of Social Services Children’s Division-South County. St. Louis, MO.

McQuary, L. (2008, December 9). *Cursory Interview Training.* Presentation to the Department of Social Services St. Louis City Children’s Division-Broadway. St. Louis, MO.

McQuary, L. (2009, March 19). *Introduction to the Children’s Advocacy Center.* Presentation to St. Louis City Children’s Division-Prince Hall. St. Louis, MO.


