



DCFS Director Sheldon, Senator Morrison, Senator Bennett and Representative Mussman to Speak on Behalf of Child Advocacy Centers

April 6 2017 11:59 AM

(Springfield, IL) In 1983, April was proclaimed the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month. As a result, child abuse and neglect awareness activities are promoted across the country during April of each year. On April 6, Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI) will host a Legislative Day at the Illinois State Capitol. An information session for press will be held in Room 010 at 12:30pm. DCFS Director George Sheldon; Senator Julie Morrison, Senator Scott Bennett, Representative Michelle Mussman, CACI Executive Director Billie Larkin will be speaking on behalf of Illinois CACs.

"1 in 10 children will experience sexual abuse before their 18 birthday," said Billie Larkin, CACI Executive Director. "Children's Advocacy Centers give children in Illinois a voice and the help they need to heal."

"April is recognized across the country as Child Abuse Prevention Month to encourage communities to play an active role in preventing child abuse and neglect by getting involved to stop it and to report it," says DCFS Director George Sheldon. "I would like to encourage people to get involved in a child's life in a positive way by becoming a mentor or helping out a family member who may need a break from their children for an hour or two. Together, as a community, we can help prevent child abuse, but more importantly we can work to stop it. If you see something, say something."

CACs are child focused, community based organizations in which rely heavily on collaboration from many disciplines including law enforcement, child protection, mental health, medical and victim advocacy in order to help children who have been abused. These team members work together to conduct interviews and make team decisions

about investigation, treatment, management and prosecution of child abuse cases and services for victims. CACs provide ongoing, long-term advocacy and education to adults and children about how to heal the wounds inflicted by abuse. In FY2016, CACs in Illinois helped just under 11,000 children and their families.

CACI is the state chapter organization that provides support for the entire network of CACs and MDTs in Illinois through education, training, technical support services and organizational capacity building. By properly training the MDT members in Illinois, CACI can ensure children across the state receive quality services at their local CAC.

CONTACT INFO:

Billie Larkin, Executive Director

Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois

400 S. 9th Street, Suite 203, Springfield, IL 62701

Billie@cacionline.org

217-622-5020

www.cacionline.org

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CACofIllinois.