



2023 Indiana Chapter Annual Report



The forensic interview room at Zoey's Place, Greenfield



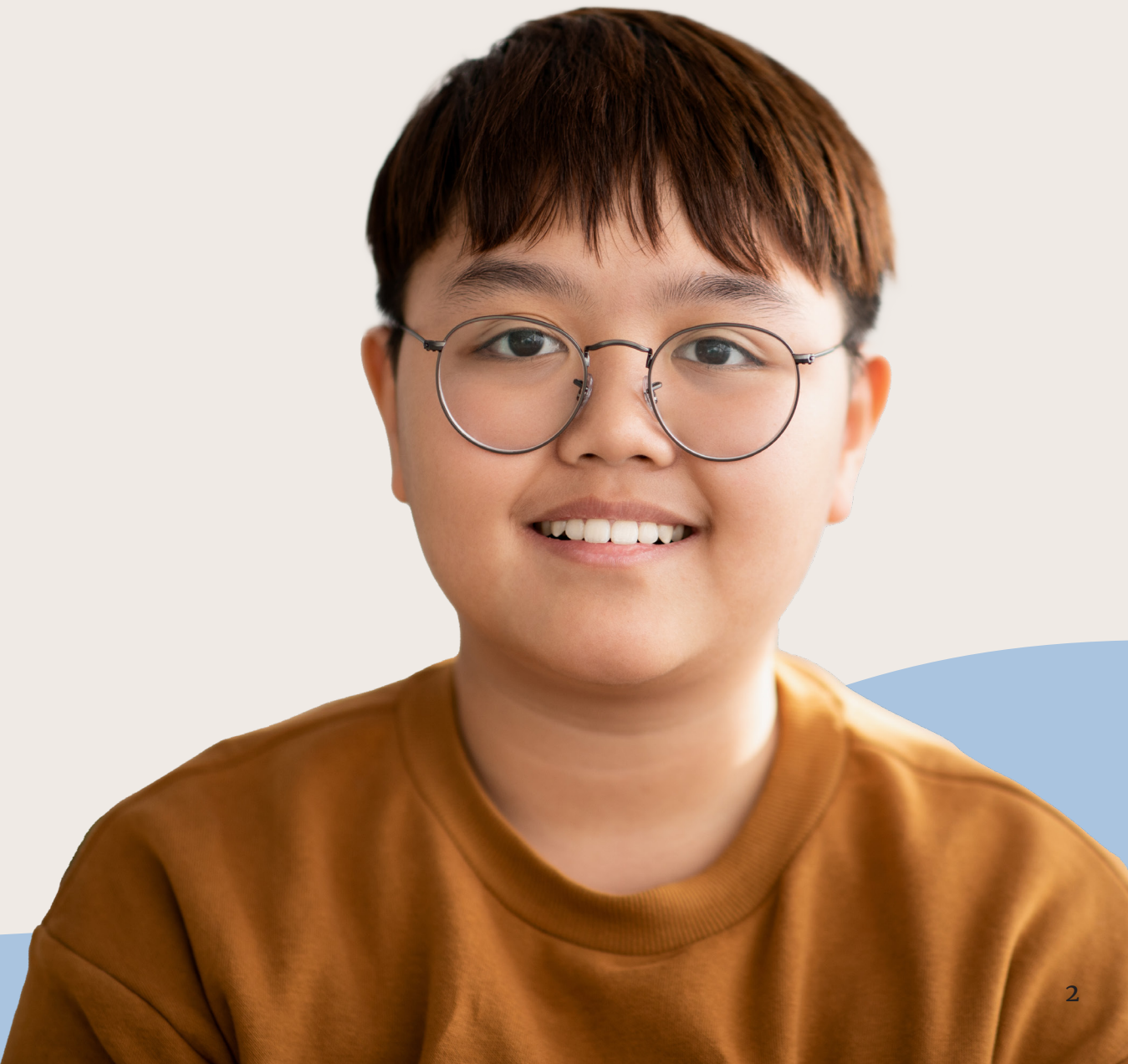
“I appreciate the hard work that is obvious in all interactions I have had with Chapter staff. The opportunities, mentorship, and guidance from the Chapter is invaluable.

I am more confident in my position as a director because of the resources and interactions of Chapter leadership and staff.”

— Katie Molinder
Executive Director, Zoey's Place CAC, Hancock County

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An exciting year for Indiana CACs

Perhaps not since the founding of our movement in Indiana nearly 25 years ago has there been so many new developments in our state. 2023 opened an opportunity to codify the definition of CACs in state law, and it's one we're actively pursuing. More on House Enrolled Act 1123, authored by Rep. Dale Devon (R-Granger) and sponsored in part by Sen. Luke Messmer (R-Jasper), on the next page.

Also in 2023, the Chapter conducted nearly two dozen trainings online and in-person, helped develop over 26 CAC and MDTs in Indiana, and even face uncertainties about AI and new technology.

We know that children are resilient and, with the support of CACs and hundreds of multidisciplinary professionals, they and their families can move forward from a dark part of their life to healing.

There are over 100 direct CAC staff members working every day in Indiana. From forensic interviewers to victim advocates and abuse prevention educators, everyone is working for a single mission to ensure kids have a safe and healthy childhood. Indiana CACs interviewed 9,645 children in 2023, and we know every one of them walked into a safe, comfortable, child-first place that respects and cares about them.



Jan M. Lutz, Chapter Director

House Enrolled Act 1123

Since the founding of the Child Advocacy Center movement in Indiana in the early 90s, teams have functioned without being codified in state law. This lack of recognition, while not malicious, has not kept pace with the expansion of CACs in Indiana.

What started with a single CAC in Elkhart and soon thereafter South Bend has grown into a comprehensive statewide network of 26 CACs, 5 satellite centers, and ChildFirst-trained MDTs across the whole state.

The lack of recognition in state law has started to show wear as more people than ever are involved in the work of child protection. More kids than ever are coming into CACs, too.

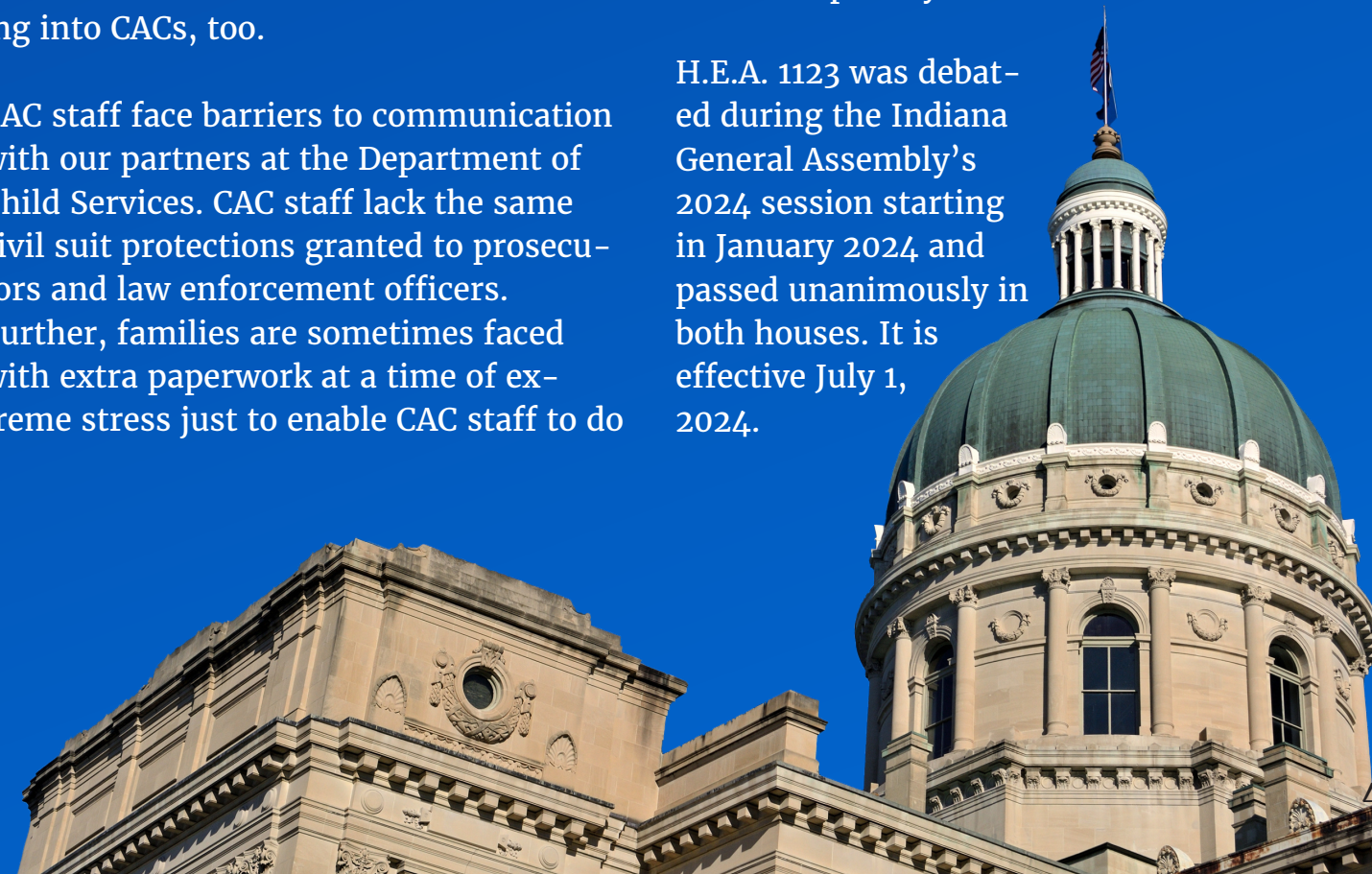
CAC staff face barriers to communication with our partners at the Department of Child Services. CAC staff lack the same civil suit protections granted to prosecutors and law enforcement officers. Further, families are sometimes faced with extra paperwork at a time of extreme stress just to enable CAC staff to do

the work they are trained to do and families came for.

A window of opportunity arose in 2023 with the help of State Rep. Dale Devon (R-Granger) and State Sen. Mark Messmer (R-Jasper). Together with testimony of Chapter leadership, CAC staff, and more around the state, Indiana will no longer be one of 8 states without codified definitions of CACs.

This is a monumental step for the CAC model in Indiana, guaranteeing the privacy and services families deserve, protecting CAC staff, and ensuring there is no confusion or barrier to communicating about a case between all members of the multidisciplinary team.

H.E.A. 1123 was debated during the Indiana General Assembly's 2024 session starting in January 2024 and passed unanimously in both houses. It is effective July 1, 2024.



2023 Snapshot

The Chapter facilitated trainings, supported ChildFirst sessions, and hosted a mix of online and in-person events for various CAC staff.

Topics and training included:

- 2023 NCA accreditation standards
- Human trafficking
- Mandated reporting
- Prevention education
- Core and Advanced Victim advocacy
- Basic and advanced forensic interviewing
- Using dolls and diagrams
- New Executive Director Development
- AI for CACs
- And statewide peer review



“The trainer and the attendees were all wonderful and willing to share their experiences in providing the best practices for their communities.”

Training and education have become one of the biggest benefits to CAC and MDT staff across Indiana. Over 400 people participated in a Chapter-supported or Chapter-sponsored training event in 2023. Among survey participants, 59% rate their experiences across the year as “very good.”

Chapter mentorship accounted for a large portion of time with CAC leadership. These hour-long sessions help boards and directors with HR issues, financial planning, emotional health and wellbeing, and staff development.

All of this is in pursuit of our mission to ensure kids have high-quality CAC services within a reasonable distance to their home.

“I am a new director and the cyber security and HR discussions were extremely valuable for me in my new position. I immediately implemented multiple valuable processes as a result of those trainings.”

438 Attendees at a Chapter-supported training in 2023.

203 Hours of mentoring for CAC staff and leadership.

5,480.5 Credit hours earned through Chapter-supported training.

102k Page views across 76,700 unique visitors to incacs.org in 2023.

“I appreciated some of the terms and language that was discussed in the resiliency portion. I already discuss this with caregivers but will now use some of the suggested phrases.”

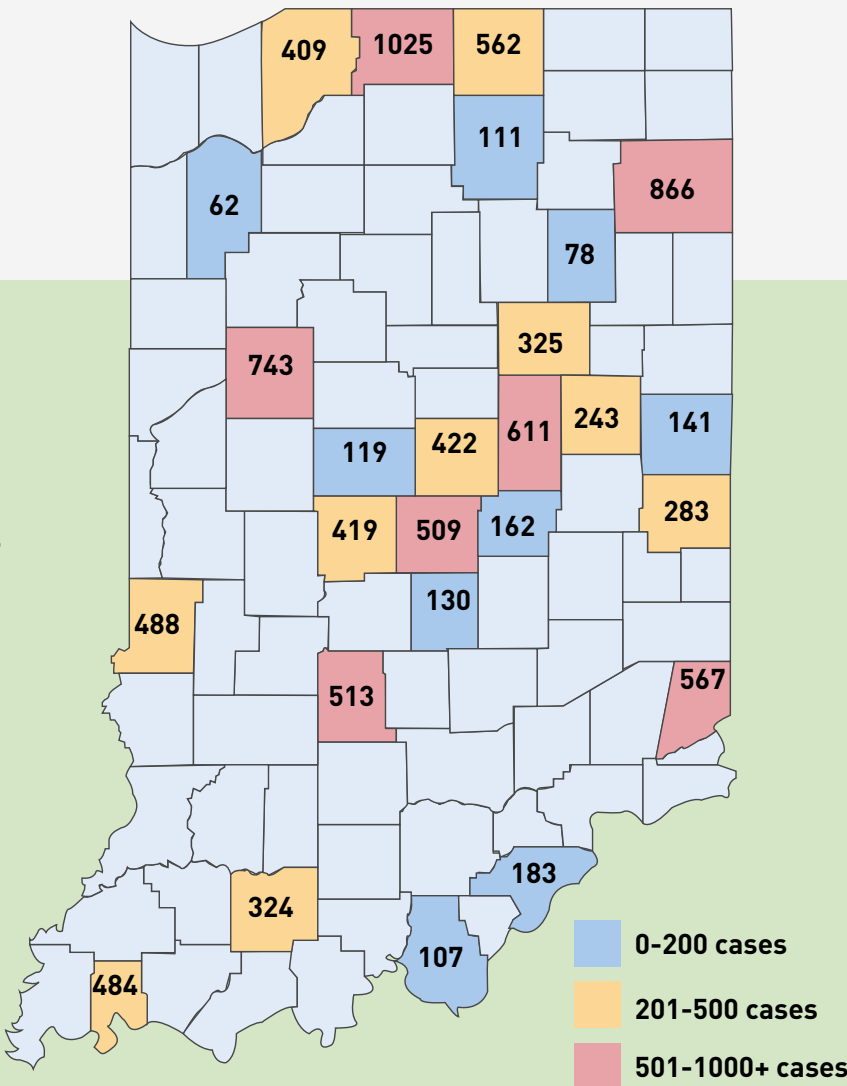
100% Participants who “agree” or “strongly agree” Chapter trainings improved their knowledge.

9,645 Children interviewed at a CAC or trained MDT in 2023.

\$12.4 Millions of tax dollars saved in Indiana by using CACs.

421 More cases YOY from 2022.

2023 Caseload by CAC



2023 Board of Directors

Jan Lutz, *Chapter Director*

Emily Perry, *President*

Angie Marsh Rodts, *Vice President*

Kassie Frazier, *Secretary*

Carolyn Hahn-Kremer, *Treasurer*

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Contact

www.incacs.org

*Indiana Chapter of National
Children's Alliance*

533 N. Niles Avenue
South Bend, IN 46617

Phone: 248.762.5520

Email: info@incacs.org