

The Danbury Regional Child Advocacy Center is a non-profit agency dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect by supporting families. The Advocacy Center has been in operation since 1976, serving the communities of Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Sherman, Warren and Washington.

Prevention of child abuse and neglect can be realized through:

- ◇ *Intervention with families at risk for child abuse and neglect;*
- ◇ *Education of families, other agencies, and the community; and*
- ◇ *Coordination of, and collaboration with, the delivery of services for the protection of children*

"Intervention, Education, Coordination, and Collaboration"

. . . the key elements of our mission, and the key factors in describing our support structure strategy.

Services are available at no fee for children and families who:

- ◇ *are in crisis*
- ◇ *have special needs*
- ◇ *have a stressful environment*
- ◇ *are at risk of child abuse and neglect*
- ◇ *have a history of substance abuse*

Referral sources include the State Department of Children and Families, general social service agencies, local schools, medical sources, clergy, and private individuals as well as families requesting service.

**Being a parent
is one of the
toughest jobs in
the world...**

For more information contact:

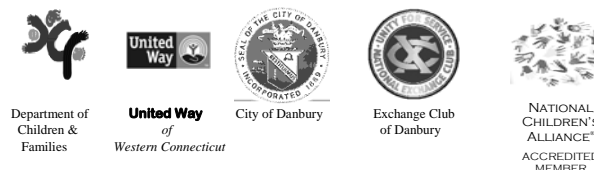
**Danbury Regional
Child Advocacy Center, Inc.**

call - 203-748-4542

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www.danburychildadvocacy.org

Support and funding provided by private donations, and



Danbury Regional



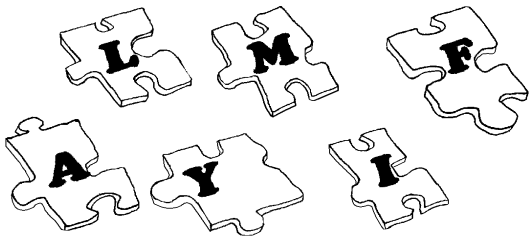
Child Advocacy Center

**Protecting
Children
&
Supporting
Families**

Family Enrichment Service

Family Enrichment Specialists (formerly *Parent Aides*) provide support and training to parents who are experiencing stress in their family environment. A Family Enrichment Specialist visits the parent regularly in the home and provides information and education regarding positive discipline, improving the parent-child relationship, and management and organization of the household.

The Family Enrichment Specialist focuses on raising the self-esteem of the parents so that they are better able to provide for the emotional, physical, and psychological needs of their children. Family Enrichment Specialists are trained, professionally supervised individuals who develop trusting relationships that are non-judgmental, nurturing and consistent.



ParentNet

ParentNet offers a curriculum providing parenting education, support and skill development in English, Spanish and Portuguese. Classes for all parents of children from birth-18 years. Weekly groups are facilitated by trained professionals. Child care is provided for children under 12 years.

COPES

The **COPES program** (Communication of Parent Effectiveness Skills) provides education, support and advocacy for families and the community at large.

The **Parent/Infant/Toddler Group** provides education and support for parents and children in the context of weekly groups, conducted in English and Spanish. The parent's group and children's group meet concurrently in an environment conducive to improving communication skills between parent and child.

The **Community Education Program** provides public awareness programs and in-service education and training for area professionals on issues of child abuse and neglect.

Volunteer Mentor

The **Volunteer Mentor Program** enhances prior services a parent may have received. Professional staff recruit, train and supervise volunteers from the community who are interested in volunteering 1-3 hours a week to mentor parents, providing support, advocacy and reinforcement of previous learning. Mentors are matched with parents at risk of abuse referred from various agency and community sources.

Grandparents as Parents (GAPS) psycho-education and support groups meet weekly with trained co-facilitators who are supervised by the program manager. Child care is provided for children under 12 years.

Teams

The **Child Protection Team** convenes on behalf of families at risk to coordinate services provided by professionals in the community and to ensure a unified effort and treatment approach without duplicating services.

Teams are composed of the family and professionals working with them, including teachers, social workers, doctors, lawyers, mental health professionals, child protection workers, day care providers.

The **Multi-disciplinary Investigation Team (MIT)** is a group of inter-disciplinary professionals working together to investigate reports and coordinate responses to cases of child sexual abuse and serious physical abuse and neglect.

The MIT Coordinator enlists in this process forensically trained specialists representing DCF, police, State's Attorney, medical and mental health disciplines. The team response to abuse is designed to minimize the trauma of multiple interviews and ensure the safety and well-being of the child.

The **MIT After-Care Clinic (ACC)** provides short term, focused therapy to reduce trauma symptoms and restore stability for families when child abuse is disclosed.

During 12-week treatment, the child engages in weekly therapy with a clinician. The non-offending parent meets with another clinician to review and implement treatment goals. Measurement instruments include the PEDS, TSCC and TSYCC. Post-treatment services include follow-up as well as post-treatment and assessment.

