Forensic Health Services

Michelle Shores, RN, MSN, MBA-HC, CEN, SANE-A, SANE-P
Director of Forensic Health Services

June 6, 2022
Program Overview

- Trauma is an injury – Trauma can be physical, emotional, physiological, or spiritual – It causes damage – It needs to be treated in order to heal.

- The Multidisciplinary Team Approach (MDT) is an important first step on the pathway to healing.

- Child Abuse Program (CAP)
  - 1984
  - Nationally Accredited Child Advocacy Center (CAC)
  - Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

- Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE) programs
  - 1991

- North County Child Assessment Center
  - New Alternatives – Vista

https://vimeo.com/126501517

Stock internet photo
Overview of Services

• Forensic Medical Evidentiary Exams 24/7/365
  – Sexual Assault
  – Domestic Violence
  – Elder Abuse
  – Human Trafficking
  – Gang Violence

• Child Advocacy Center (CAC)
  – Forensic Interviews
  – Case Coordination/Advocacy (CAP)
  – Onsite Child Trauma Therapy (CAP)
  – Only North County Human Trafficking “Soft Room” Option
  – Community Education/Expert Witness Testimony

• Trauma Recovery Center (TRC)
  – No Cost Clinical Therapy and Case Coordination for trauma victims

https://vimeo.com/263000974

https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/media-room/nca-digital-media-kit/fact-sheet/#:~:text=Types%20of%20NCA%20Members%20in%20on%20cases%20of%20child%20abuse
# Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDT Partners</th>
<th>MDT Benefits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Law Enforcement</td>
<td>• Clear communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Child Welfare</td>
<td>• Sharing of information for informed decisions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Prosecution</td>
<td>• Fewer cases falling through the cracks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Victim Advocates</td>
<td>• Preventing duplication of effort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Mental Health</td>
<td>• Reducing number of child interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Forensic Interviewers</td>
<td>• More kids get medical exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Medical Providers</td>
<td>• More kids get referrals to therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Administrative and Program Staff</td>
<td>• More cases get prosecuted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Community Partners</td>
<td>• Greater caregiver satisfaction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Locations

- These services will be provided at
  - Palomar Health
  - Vista (Temporary Location)
  - San Diego Downtown Family Justice Center
  - Santee Sheriff Station
  - After hours/weekends/holidays Acute pediatric exams at Rady Children’s Hospital
  - UCSD Student Health

In an emergency situation, authorized by law enforcement, exams may be performed at offsite facilities such as hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, police and sheriff departments, jails, morgues, or alternate offsite exams.

https://vimeo.com/527610123/8808410d83
Department Updates

• 2017
  – Expanded Forensic Medical Exam Capacity
    • Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse, Human Trafficking, Strangulation
    • Reinstated pediatric acute medical evidentiary exams
    • Began serving all of San Diego County as Centralized program
• 2018
  – Added specialty child/family case coordination
  – Added Soft Room Services for Human Trafficking
• 2019
  – New Medical Director
  – Added non-acute medical evidentiary exams
  – Added Forensic NP to support Medical Director
  – CARES award
Department Updates

• 2020
  – Palomar Health Response to Sexual Assault Published in Journal of Emergency Medicine
  – Published Nationally Recognized Workbook on Strangulation
  – Added on-site trauma therapy for children and families
• 2021
  – Added New Child Trauma Therapy Program (AT)
  – Added Specialty Case Coordination
    • CSEC/Human Trafficking
    • Military
  – Specialty Human Trafficking Forensic Interviews
  – Updated Child Victim Witness Protocol
  – Received National Re-Accreditation for Child Advocacy Center
  – Moved out of Fig
  – Victim Resource Navigation
  – Emergency Expense Fund
Palomar Health Child Advocacy Center

- National Accreditation
- Forensic Interviews
- Specialty Forensic Medical Exams
- Case Coordination
- Specialty Case Coordinator for Military and Human Trafficking
- Trauma Therapy
Needs Assessment

• 43 questions designed to learn about respondents’ knowledge and experience with the PH CAC, CSEC victims, and barriers to serving this community
• Distributed to a variety of agencies such as law enforcement, Child Welfare Services, Palomar Health, Camp Pendleton, and other relevant community providers
• The survey was launched on March 5, 2021 and was available until April 2, 2021. A total of 86 surveys were completed.
Barriers for CSEC Victims

**Table 6. Barriers for Families/Youth in Accessing Services at the PH CAC (N=83)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barrier</th>
<th>Percent Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stigma, Shame, Fear</td>
<td>87%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fear of having the child/youth removed by CWS</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family is unaware that the PH CAC is a service provider</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General mistrust of system/agencies trying to help family/child</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fear of deportation</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial (thinks it will cost money for the exam)</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation (does not have reliable transportation)</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of continuation of services (failed promises, previous encounters</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with system/agencies working to help family/child)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family/child does not consider that the service is necessary or helpful</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Top identified barriers to CAC services for CSEC youth and their families:
  - Stigma, shame, fear
  - Fear of having the child/youth removed by CWS
  - Unaware that the CAC is a service provider
  - General mistrust of system/agencies trying to help family/child
Specialized Protocol

Objectives

- To more accurately identify children experiencing or exposed to commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC), human trafficking (HT), and/or child sex abuse material (CSAM)
- To specialize and increase access to Palomar CAC services to better support victims of CSEC, HT, and/or CSAM
- To ensure continuity of services for CSEC/HT/CSAM victims through a coordinated multidisciplinary team response and inter-agency collaboration within San Diego County

CAC CSEC/HT/CSAM Guidelines

1. Objectives
   a) To more accurately identify children experiencing or exposed to commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC), human trafficking (HT), and/or child sex abuse material (CSAM)
   b) To specialize and increase access to Palomar CAC services to better support victims of CSEC, HT, and/or CSAM
   c) To ensure continuity of services for CSEC/HT/CSAM victims through a coordinated multidisciplinary team response and inter-agency collaboration within San Diego County

2. Definitions
   a) Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC): the non-consensual sexual abuse or exploitation of a child
   b) Human Trafficking (HT): the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion
   c) Child Sex Abuse Material (CSAM): any visual depiction of sexuality, conduct, or activity involving child pornography

3. Palomar Health Forensic Health Services

PALOMAR HEALTH
Forensic Health Services

PALOMAR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT, INC.
Barriers for San Diego Military Families

**Top identified barriers to Palomar Health CAC services for military families and clients:**

- **Stigma, shame, fear**
- **Fear of loss of financial/military support/military career**
- **Fear of censure from other military families/community**
- **Fear of reprimand from military leadership**
- **Other lessons:**
  - Need for outreach and education on PH CAC services and service eligibility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BARRIER</th>
<th>PERCENT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STIGMA, SHAME, FEAR</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEAR OF LOSS OF FINANCIAL/MILITARY SUPPORT/MILITARY CAREER</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEAR OF CENSURE FROM OTHER MILITARY FAMILIES/COMMUNITY</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEAR OF REPRIMAND FROM MILITARY LEADERSHIP</td>
<td>78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEAR OF HAVING THE CHILD/YOUTH REMOVED BY CWS</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMILY IS UNAWARE OF PH CAC SERVICES</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEAR OF LOSS OF HOUSING/LIABILITY WHEN IN FOREIGN COUNTRY AND/OR BEING TRANSFERRED</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEAR BY THE VICTIM THAT A MILITARY PROTECTION ORDER WOULD HARM FUTURE CHANCES AT RECONCILIATION</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL MISTRUST OF SYSTEM/AGENCIES TRYING TO HELP THE FAMILY/CHILD</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MILITARY REPRESENTATIVE(S) UNAWARE OF PH CAC SERVICES AND/OR FAMILY’S ELIGIBILITY FOR PH CAC SERVICES</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINANCIAL (FAMILY/CHILD THINKS IT WILL COST MONEY FOR THE EXAM)</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION (FAMILY/CHILD DOES NOT HAVE RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION)</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LACK OF CONTINUATION OF SERVICES (FAILED PROMISES, PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS WITH SYSTEM/AGENCIES WORKING TO HELP THE FAMILY/CHILD)</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEAR OF DEPORTATION</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Specialty Protocol and Case Management

- CAC-Military Case Coordinator Position
- Specialty guidelines for CAC-Military Program
  - Screening
  - Information sharing
  - Referral sources
  - Military terminology
  - And more

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>MPO</td>
<td>Military Protective Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSC</td>
<td>Medical Service Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MTF</td>
<td>Military treatment facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCA</td>
<td>National Children’s Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCIS</td>
<td>Naval Criminal Investigative Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCO</td>
<td>Noncommissioned Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPR</td>
<td>Non-Participatory Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCONUS</td>
<td>Outside the continental United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDS</td>
<td>Acute and Non-Acute Forensic Medical Exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>PH CAC</td>
<td>Palomar Health Child Advocacy Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>PMO</td>
<td>Provost Marshal’s Office</td>
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</table>
Child Trauma Therapy Services

• Psychotherapy and/or culturally-centered therapy
• Short Term Trauma Therapy (TF-CBT, CFTSI)
  – Up to 16 Sessions
• Short Term Music and Art Therapy
  – Up to 16 Sessions
• Crisis intervention
• Group counseling
• Case management
• Treatment plan meetings with non-offending parents/caregivers
• Transportation
• Community Outreach
• Support for Non-Offending Caregivers and Siblings
• Assistance and advisement with California Victim Compensation Board Claims
**Palomar Health Trauma Recovery Center (TRC)**

- The first Adult Trauma Recovery Center in San Diego County
  - Short Term Trauma Based Psychotherapy
  - Case Coordination
  - Physiatrist
    - Referral for TBI/ABI to outpatient rehab
  - Neuropsychology
  - Trauma Advocate Peer Program
Palomar Health’s SART Protocol Published in the Journal of Emergency Medicine

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jemermed.2020.07.047

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT MANAGEMENT OF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM IN THE COVID ERA: A MODEL SAFET-I GUIDELINE FROM SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS,† Stephanie B. Benjamin, MD, MA,‡ Christian K. Bej, BS,§ Sue Dickinson, RN, MSN,* and Michelle Shores, RN, MSN, MBA–HC, CEN, SANE–A, SANE–P\

*County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, San Diego, California, †Department of Emergency Medicine, University of California Irvine, Orange, California, ‡University of California San Diego Health, San Diego, California, §University of California San Diego, La Jolla, California, and ||Palomar Health, Forensic Health Services, Escondido, California

Reprint Address: Kristi L. Koenig, MD, County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, 6255 Mission Gorge Road, San Diego, CA 92120

• https://www.jem-journal.com/article/S0736-4679(20)30788-5/fulltext
Driving Policy & Best Practice

- Identified gaps in law
  - Family code 6930 was changed as result
- Upcoming Legislation for improved state wide access
- National and local training
- California Health Alert Notification
- California law for DV exams

Strangulation: Intimate Partner Violence in San Diego County

This health advisory informs healthcare providers about the risks of intimate partner, non-fatal strangulation. It also contains resource links and recommendations for local healthcare providers.
Publications

Section III: Appendix

Section IV: Recommended Reading
HIGHER ISSUANCE RATE – DAFE v. NO DAFE

Issued DV Cases (Feb 2017-Dec 2019)

- WITH DAFE: 64%
- NO DAFE: 33%
SAN DIEGO COUNTY HEALTH CARES

C
Conduct screening for current and former intimate partner abuse

A
Assess for signs and symptoms of strangulation

R
Report suspicious injuries to law enforcement

E
Evaluate patient (evidence collection by a forensic examiner)

S
Safety plan and connect patient to resources

www.sdcountyhealthcares.org

https://www.kusi.com/county-to-help-healthcare-professionals-better-identify-and-address-domestic-violence/?fbclid=IwAR36qon8sKe5Q9qZqxMgnYB3yn9MoQ0oX_9d47CkQw-FceJeK89uYVCpoL8
Promoting Palomar FHS for CARES

https://www.nbcsandiego.com/on-air/as-seen-on/Campaign-to-Identify-Domestic-Violence-Victims-Data-Driven_San-Diego-563178242.html
Promoting Palomar FHS for CARES

Countywide campaign unveiled to help healthcare professionals better identify, address domestic violence

Effort builds on countywide protocol that helped trauma care providers better document strangulation cases, resulting in a spike in felony strangulation prosecutions

Training Event

County Public Health
- Administration
- Public Health Nursing

County EMS
San Ysidro Health Center
Neighborhood Healthcare
Imperial Beach Community Clinic Rady
Children’s
- Hospital
- Chadwick

Scripps:
- Scripps Healthcare
- Scripps Memorial Hospital

Navy:
- Naval Medical Center SD
- Naval Hospital SD
- Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton
- Navy Marine Corps Public Health Center

Kaiser Permanente
Sharp:
- Sharp Memorial Hospital
- Sharp Healthcare

UCSD
- UCSD Health
- UCSD Hospital

Palomar Health
- Palomar Hospital
- Palomar Health Forensic Services

Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest
American Medical Response San Marcos Fire Dept
Vista Fire Dept
San Diego Mesa College
Palomar College
San Diego County Medical Examiner’s Office
Awareness and Information Packets
### Volumes (Calendar Year)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cases</strong></td>
<td>241</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>1502</td>
<td>1394</td>
<td>1408</td>
<td>1617</td>
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<td><strong>CAP Interviews</strong></td>
<td>141</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>253</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>304</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CAP Exams (PEDS)</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SART Total</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>518</td>
<td>660</td>
<td>687</td>
<td>578</td>
<td>678</td>
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<td><strong>DAFE</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>253</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>New Alternatives</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>214</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Rady’s Exams (not in final total)</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AT Therapy Program</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>125</td>
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</table>
SART COVID Impacts

- SART 2019
- SART 2020
- SART 2021
- 2 per. Mov. Avg. (SART 2019)
- 2 per. Mov. Avg. (SART 2020)
- 2 per. Mov. Avg. (SART 2021)
CAP COVID Impacts
DV/FAX COVID Impacts

Axis Title

January  February  March  April  May  June  July  August  September  October  November  December

DV/FAX 2019
DV/FAX 2020
2021
2 per. Mov. Avg. (DV/FAX 2019)
2 per. Mov. Avg. (DV/FAX 2020)
2 per. Mov. Avg. (2021)
Breaking The Cycle of Violence

3-10 Million Children Witness DV Violence in Their Homes Each Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Primary Interviews</th>
<th>Secondary Victim Interviews</th>
<th>Total CAP</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>253</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>312</td>
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</table>
Community Outreach

- Law Enforcement Briefings
- Trainings
  - Stewards of Children Darkness to Light prevention Training
- Advocacy Training
- Public Health
- Partner or Medical Agencies
A Few of Our Community Partners
Some of Our Community Partners
RECOGNITION

County of San Diego, California

PROCLAMATION

HONORING PALOMAR FORENSIC HEALTH SERVICES

ASSEMBLYMEMBER BRIAN MAIENSchein

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

Assembly

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

North County Forensic Health Services

Child Abuse Program & Sexual Assault Response Team - Palomar Health

In recognition of over fifteen years of service rendered to the victims in San Diego’s North County community

Assembly Member Brian Maienschein

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

S E N A T E

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

Presented To:
Palomar Health Forensic Health Services Center

For outstanding service to North San Diego County

Your commitment to protect the victims of child abuse and sexual assault provides invaluable service to North San Diego County and improves the quality of life for all within our community

January 21, 2014
Escondido, California

Mark Wyland
Senator, 70th District
RECOGNITION
Team Tribute Video with animation by a child:

https://vimeo.com/412798761/f99ada910a
Pinwheel Displays, *Planting Hope*

*Palomar Medical Center – Poway*
Why We Strive to Get it Right

https://flic.kr/s/aHsmdS9ca5

https://www.flickr.com/photos/153611942@N07/41354745512/in/album-72157692413154682/