

McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center

Erin Bates
Executive Director





McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center

Mission:

Ending child abuse in our community, through prevention, intervention, and education by facilitating a coordinated multidisciplinary team approach, meeting the needs of children and families.

Vision:

A community where all children are free from abuse and exploitation and the community understands the impact of abuse and actively protects our children.

What is a CAC?

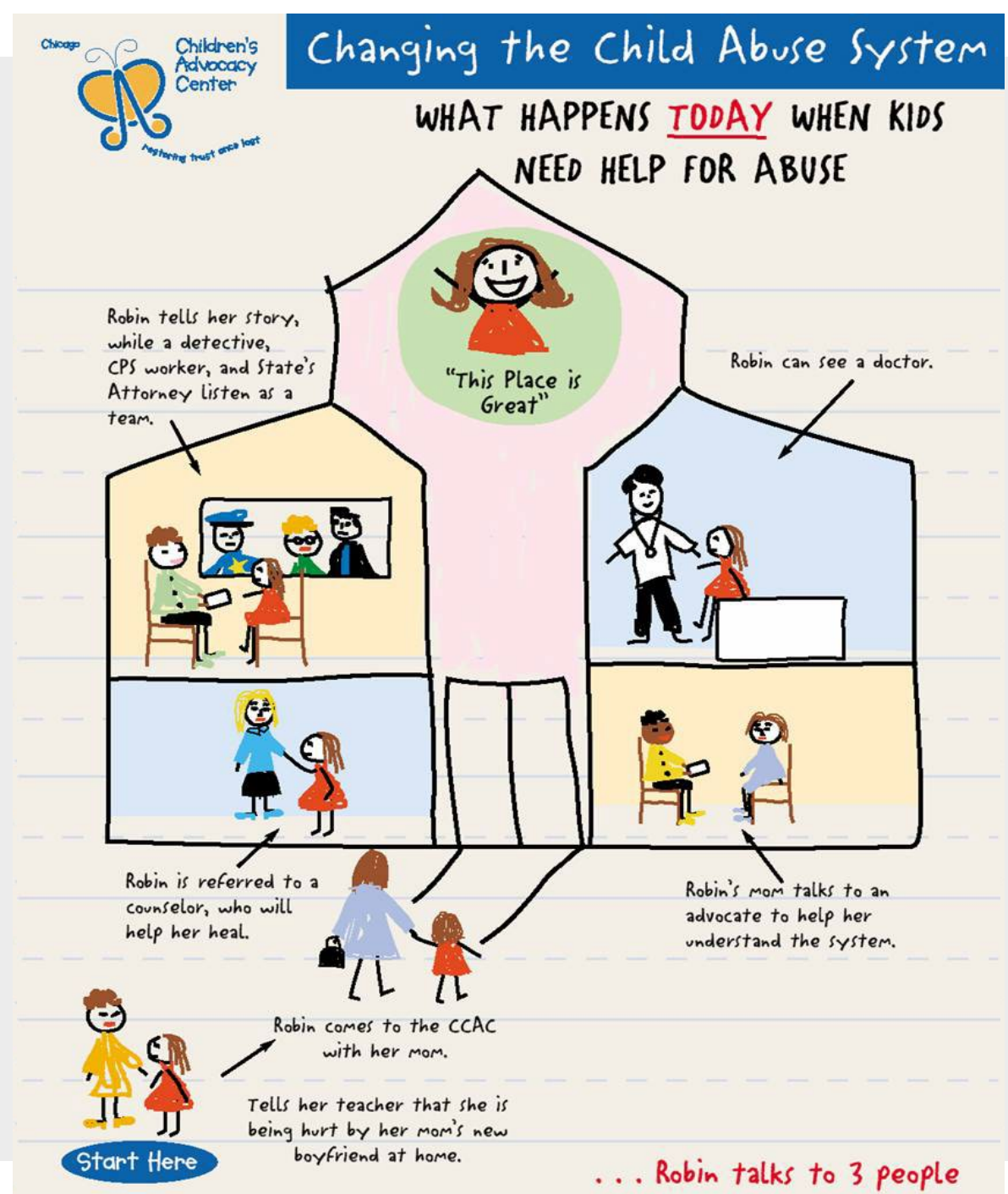
Houses all essential services for abused children in one safe, child-friendly location

Before...

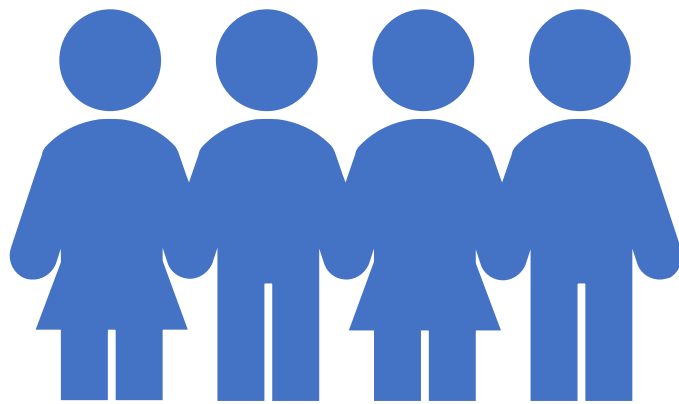
Offers a safe, child-friendly process for abused children and their families,

Now...

Supported by professionals specializing in the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse



Scope of the Problem



1 in 10
children have
been sexually
abused by
their 18th
birthday

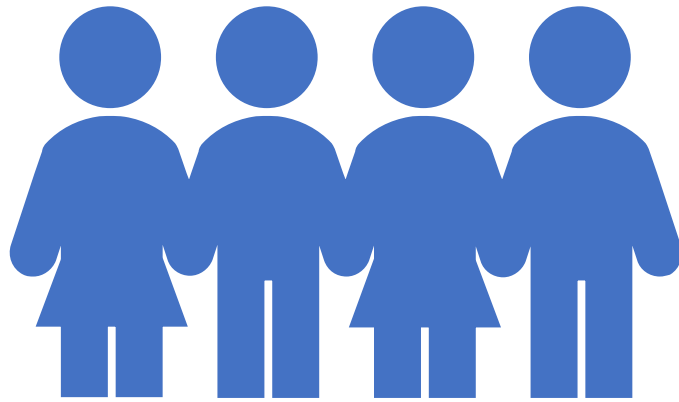
5 children die
each day as a
result of abuse
and neglect

90% of child
sexual abuse
victims know
their abuser

Child abuse and
neglect are the
leading causes
of death for
children under 4
years old

In 2022 NYS Child
Advocacy Centers
saw 22,526 children
for sexual and severe
physical abuse,
neglect, and
commercial sexual
exploitation

McMahon Ryan CAC – Onondaga County



More than
71% of child
victims were
less than 12
years old

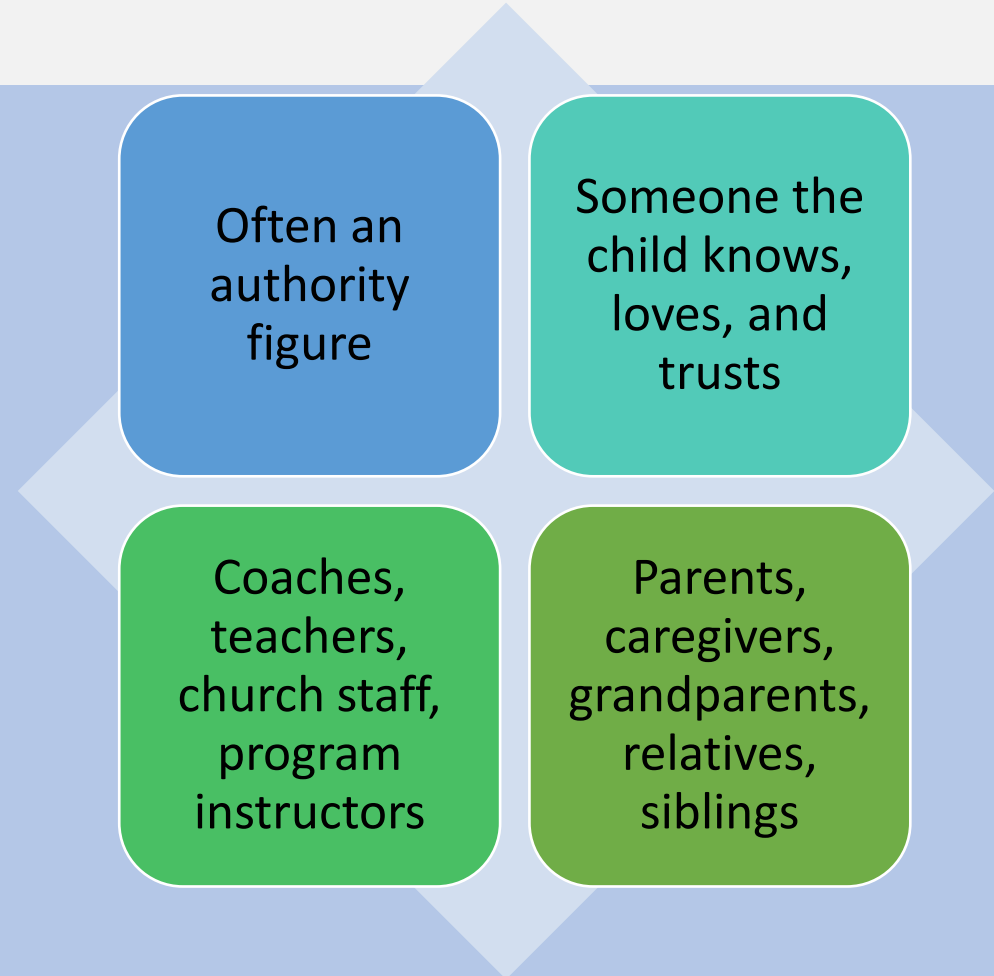
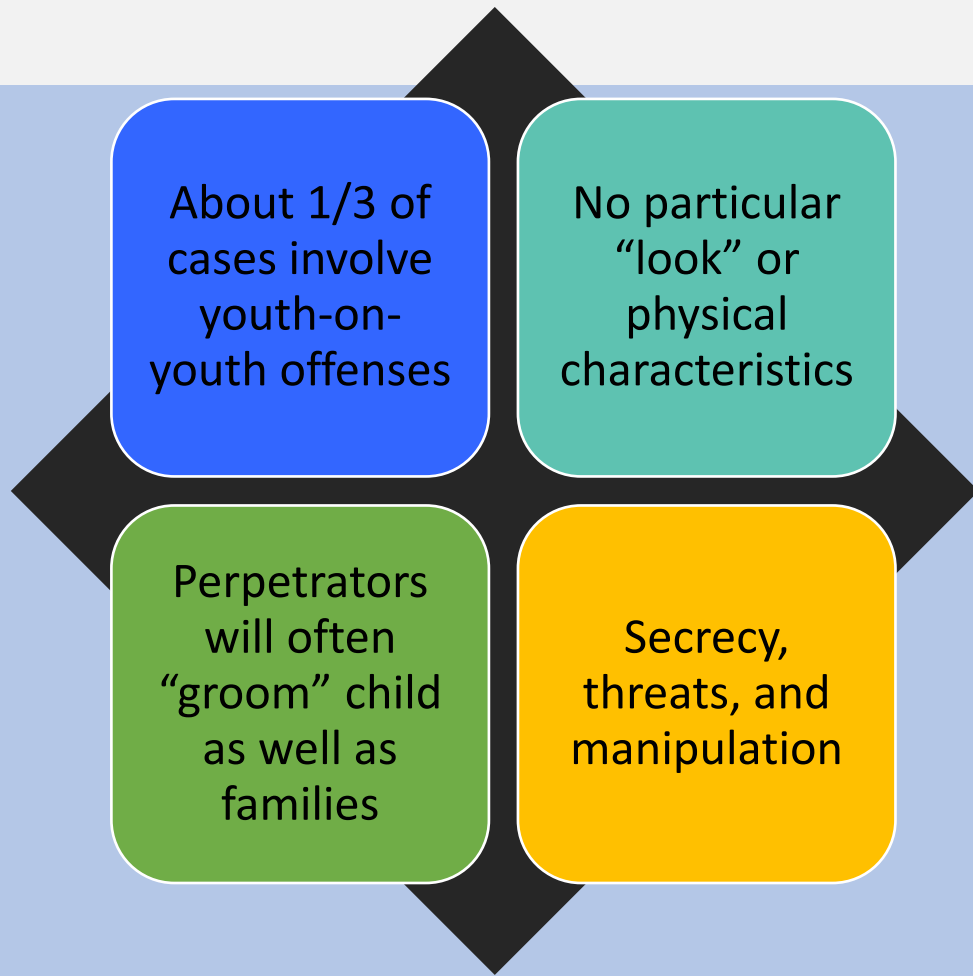
96% of child
sexual abuse
victims knew
their abuser

Children and
youth of all ages,
races, genders,
socioeconomic
status, religions,
geographic
locations, and
education.

142 cases of
youth at risk of
or identified as
commercially
sexually
exploited or
trafficked IN
2025

In 2025, McMahon
Ryan CAC provided
services for 1,803
children in Onondaga
County for sexual and
severe physical abuse,
and commercial sexual
exploitation

The Facts about Perpetrators



Why Children Don't Tell

1

Child fears they will not be believed

2

Sworn to secrecy or threatened by alleged offender

3

Relationship to alleged offender

4

Child feels what happened is their fault

5

Shame, guilt, embarrassed, about abuse etc.

6

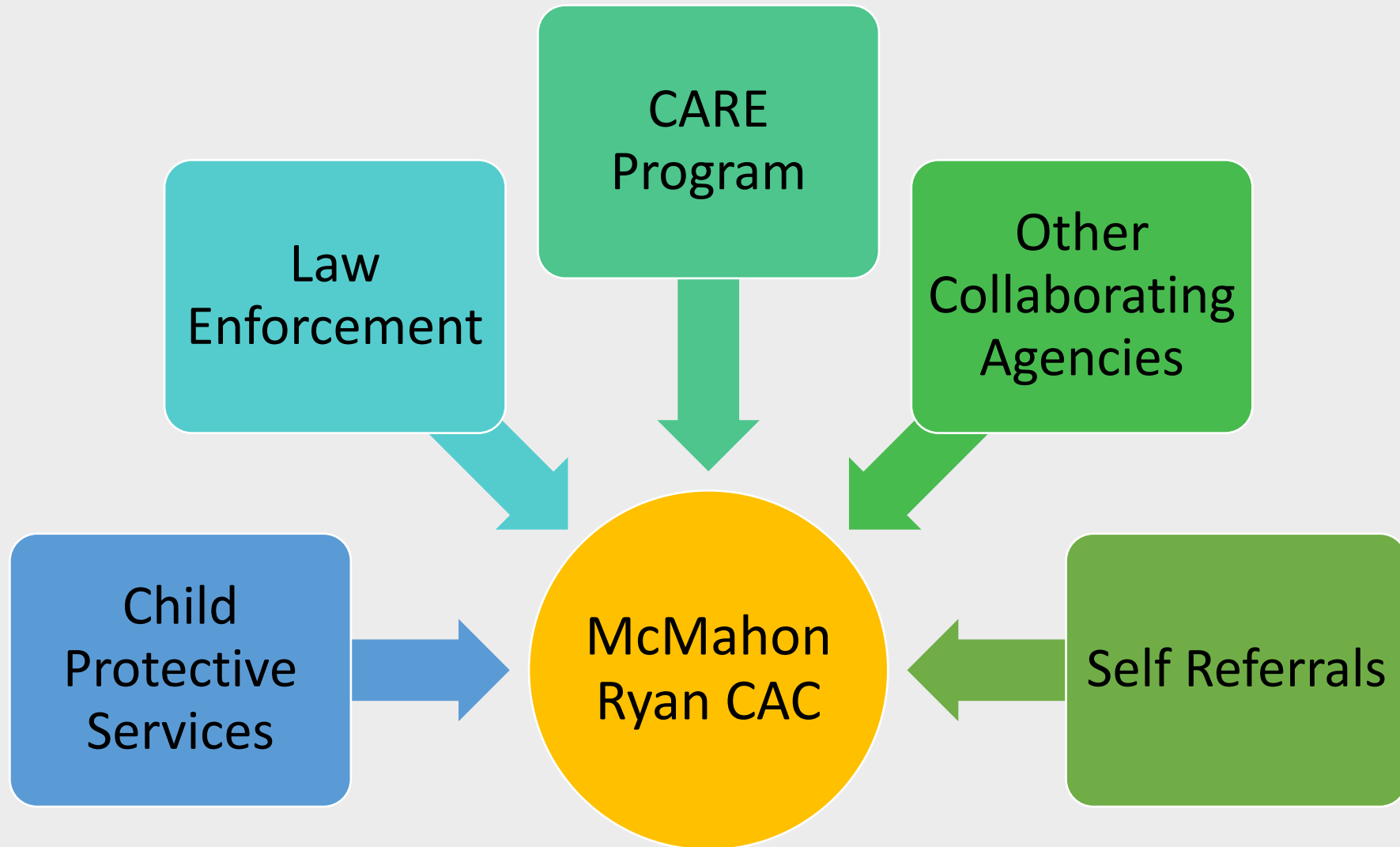
Some children don't know what happened to them is unsafe

EXPOSURE TO
**CHILD
ABUSE**
IS LINKED TO...

Mental illness, depression, anxiety	Chronic disease	Impaired neurological/ cognitive development
Impaired social/ emotional development	Smoking, alcohol, and drug abuse	Early death
Risky behaviors and delinquency	Further trauma/abuse	PTSD

*Information from www.cdc.gov

Referrals to the CAC



Co-located Agencies

- Law Enforcement

- Syracuse City Police Abused Person's Unit
- Onondaga County Sheriff's Dept. Abused Person's Unit
- New York State Police

- Onondaga County Dept. of Child and Family Services

- Sex Abuse/Serious Physical Injuries & Fatalities Investigations

- Onondaga County District Attorney's Office

- Special Victims Bureau



- Upstate Golisano Children's Hospital

- CARE Clinic (Child Abuse Referral/Evaluation)

- McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center

- Victim Advocates
- Anti-Trafficking Advocates
- Mental Health
- Child Fatality Review Team Coordinator
- Outreach and Education Team

Victim Advocates



- First contact upon walk in for child and non-offending caregiver
- Provides support for child and non-offending family members
 - Court assistance
 - Mental health referrals
 - Ongoing case management services
- Facilitate and coordinate with MDT, and other agencies for ongoing services
- Maintains contact through life of case within Criminal Court process

Interview Process



- Law Enforcement and/or Child Protective Services meets with non-offending caregiver
- Law Enforcement and/or Child Protective Services will speak with child
- After interview, Law Enforcement and/or Child Protective Services will meet with caregiver to discuss next steps

CARE Intake and Exam



- Caregiver meets with nurse and social worker to obtain psycho-social history and concerns/allegations
- Child meets with nurse who will explain what will happen during the exam
 - Caregiver may be present
- Doctor will examine the child (head to toe and non-invasive dependent on allegations, testing offered)
- Doctor and nurse will meet with caregiver to explain results and any follow up that is needed

Mental Health Services



- Therapy provided on-site; trauma informed service

- Services include:
 - Individual, Family & Groups
 - TF-CBT, EMDR & play therapist





McMahon Ryan Outreach and Education

Erin's Law Mandate



- NYS Assembly Bill A2577B
- NYS Education Law 803-B
- Effective July 1, 2020
- Students in grades K-8 in NYS public schools
- Parents and school personnel (MRCAC)
- Provide awareness, skills, information, self-confidence, and support to aid in prevention of exploitation and abuse

*Information from <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/a2577>

*Information from www.erinmerryn.net

Contact Information



McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy
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www.mcmahonryan.org



McMahon Ryan
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER