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KANE COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER EARNS RE-ACCREDITATION FROM NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE CENTER RECOGNIZED FOR HIGH QUALITY, EFFECTIVE SERVICES TO CHILD ABUSE VICTIMS

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Kane County State's Attorney Jamie L. Mosser announces that the Kane County Child Advocacy Center has been awarded re-accreditation by National Children's Alliance following an extensive application and site review process.

As the accrediting agency for children's advocacy centers across the country, National Children's Alliance awards various levels of accreditation and membership to centers responding to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient, and put the needs of child victims of abuse first. Accreditation is the highest level of membership with National Children's Alliance and denotes excellence in service provision.

Accredited Child Advocacy Centers must undergo a review process every five years to ensure that the best practices are continually applied. With accreditation standards being updated in 2010, re-accreditation this year reflects the Kane County Child Advocacy Center's commitment to providing evidence-based methods practice.

The Kane County Child Advocacy Center was established in 1994 as a prosecution-based program to ensure coordination and cooperation in the investigation of cases of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse to children in Kane County. The Kane County Child Advocacy Center investigated 400 cases in 2021 and provided support services for nearly 1,300 children and adults. The Kane County Child Advocacy Center also provides access to education, prevention and counseling for victims and their families.

National Children's Alliance awards accredited membership based on a Child Advocacy Center's compliance with 10 national standards to ensure effective, efficient and consistent delivery of services to child abuse victims. Accredited members must utilize a functioning and effective multidisciplinary team approach to work collaboratively in child abuse investigation, prosecution and treatment. National Children's Alliance also considers standards regarding a center's cultural competency and diversity, forensic

interviews, victim support and advocacy, medical evaluation, therapeutic intervention and child-focused setting.

Lori Schmidt, Executive Director of the Kane County Child Advocacy Center, said: “Every member of our Kane County Child Advocacy Center multidisciplinary team – law enforcement investigators, forensic interviewers, assistant state’s attorneys, the multidisciplinary team coordinator, victim advocates, mental health counselors, the MERIT medical team, DCFS caseworkers and administrative staff – should be proud of this accomplishment and the work they do day-in and day-out for the Kane County community.”

Kane County State’s Attorney Jamie L. Mosser said: “As a team of individuals dedicated to responding to child abuse, we recognize the importance of maintaining accredited status from National Children’s Alliance. Re-accreditation not only validates our organization’s dedication to proven effective approaches of child abuse intervention, it also contributes to consistency across the child advocacy center movement as a whole.”

Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of National Children’s Alliance, said: “The Kane County Child Advocacy Center is to be commended for its continued commitment to effectively serve victims of child abuse. As the national association and accrediting body for children’s advocacy centers, our goal is to ensure that every victim of child abuse has access to high-quality services that result from professional collaboration. By requiring accredited centers to undergo re-accreditation every five years, we ensure that evidence-based practices are being implemented and the highest quality of service is being provided.”

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The Kane County Child Advocacy Center is committed to providing a safe environment for child victims of sexual assault and severe physical abuse. The CAC’s executive director, investigators, social workers and support staff work together to efficiently and effectively investigate each case, to minimize the stress on the child and the child’s family that results from the allegations and to ensure that effective treatment is available to every child who has experienced abuse.

National Children’s Alliance makes one big difference, one child and one voice at a time. As the nonprofit association and accrediting body providing comprehensive care through hundreds of children’s advocacy centers nationwide, we unify and amplify our voices to command better outcomes. With a forward-thinking approach that stays at the forefront of every child’s future, we are the beginning of child abuse’s end. For more information, visit nationalchildrensalliance.org.