

Mission

Our mission is to lead the community in improving the health, safety, and well-being of children and families affected by child abuse and domestic violence.

We do this by providing: expert medical and psycho-social assessment and identification of child abuse; medical and psychological treatment of the negative effects of child abuse and domestic violence for victims; and prevention and education services to the community.



Baystate
Children's Hospital



The Family Advocacy Center is proud to be an accredited member of the National Children's Alliance (NCA)



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE®



Baystate
Children's Hospital



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FAMILY
ADVOCACY CENTER



Multidisciplinary Interview Team

The Multidisciplinary Interview Team enables children to be interviewed on-site in a child friendly and safe environment when child abuse is suspected or has been disclosed. This coordinated interview reduces trauma for the child by decreasing the number of interviews.

The team consists of trained professionals from the Hampden County District Attorney's Office; the Department of Social Services; local, regional, and state law enforcement; and the Family Advocacy Center (FAC).

Child Abuse Medical Evaluation Clinic

Children receive a comprehensive medical evaluation by a pediatrician and social work team with special training in evaluating children for sexual and physical abuse. Intervention and follow-up services are provided by the team.

Individual and Group Therapy

Children and families affected by trauma, including physical and/or sexual abuse, dating violence, and witnessing domestic violence, receive individual, family, and group therapy in a child friendly environment.

Our clinicians offer several age specific groups for victims of physical and sexual assault. Non-offending parent groups are also offered as an additional source of support.

Family Advocacy

The Family Advocate is an additional support to the families involved in the Multidisciplinary Interview Team process. The Family Advocate offers educational and supportive material and resources to the families, answers questions, and provides guidance throughout the process. The Family Advocate follows families up to six months after the interview in order to offer continued service and support.

Domestic Violence Advocate Volunteer Program

FAC staff coordinates and trains Domestic Violence Advocate Volunteers who offer immediate confidential support and information to victims of domestic violence seen in the Baystate Medical Center Emergency Department.

Play Partner Program

Children receiving counseling services are paired with an adult play partner who provides ongoing activities and support in a fun environment. The goal of the play partner relationship is to help children build self-esteem, develop skills, and enjoy activities not associated with past violence in their lives.

Education and Outreach

The FAC staff provides education and outreach regarding child abuse and child witness to violence issues to area schools, businesses, community organizations, and medical facilities.

Funding and Development

Funding sources include Baystate Children's Hospital, National Children's Alliance (NCA), Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Massachusetts Children's Alliance (MACA), and Criminal Justice Act (CJA) funding. Insurance is accepted and some services are free of charge. All children needing Family Advocacy Center services are seen regardless of ability to pay.

For more information, or to make a referral to the Family Advocacy Center, please call 413-794-9816.

