

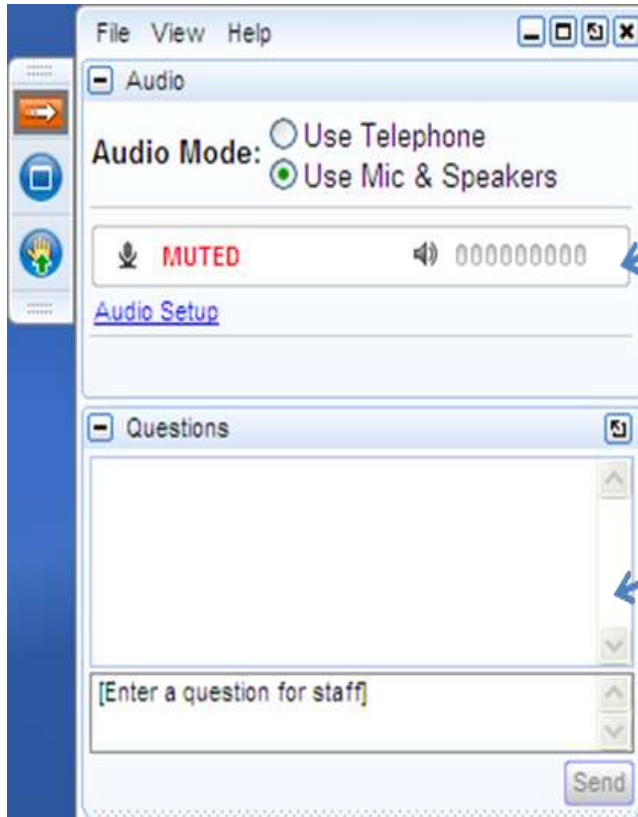
# Multi-Disciplinary Team Investigations A Victim Oriented Approach

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# OJJDP's MECP

- MECP offers assistance to local, state and tribal law enforcement, nonprofit organizations, and other juvenile justice practitioners to:
  - strengthen their responses
  - increase the use of evidence-based practices
  - identify and address operational and programmatic needs
- Coordinated by Fox Valley Technical College
- For more information or to submit a training and technical assistance request:
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  - [mecptraining@fvtc.edu](mailto:mecptraining@fvtc.edu)
  - 1-888-347-5610

# Webinar Housekeeping



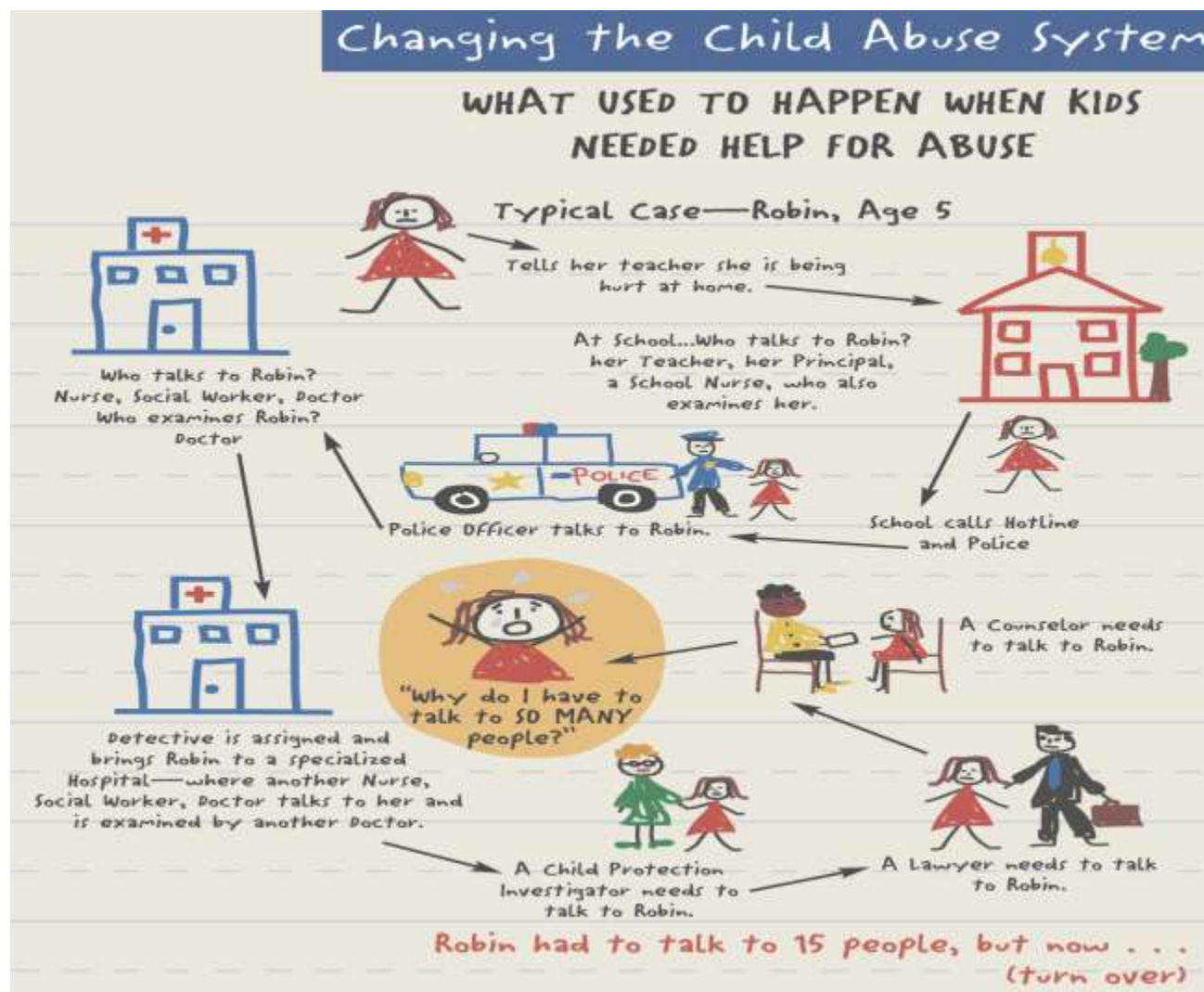
## Audio Support:

- Use Telephone or Mic & Speakers
- Check 'Audio Setup' for problems
- All callers will be on mute throughout the webinar

## To ask a Question:

- Type a question in the box; click Send
- Staff will respond in the 'Questions' box

# What Used to Happen



# 5 Key Disciplines

- District Attorney
- Law Enforcement
- Child Protection
- Medical
- Mental Health
  
- *Focus: Respond to the outcry*
- *Investigative*

# Standard: A Multidisciplinary Team For Response To Child

**ABUSE ALLEGATIONS INCLUDES REPRESENTATION FROM THE FOLLOWING:**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

**PROSECUTION**

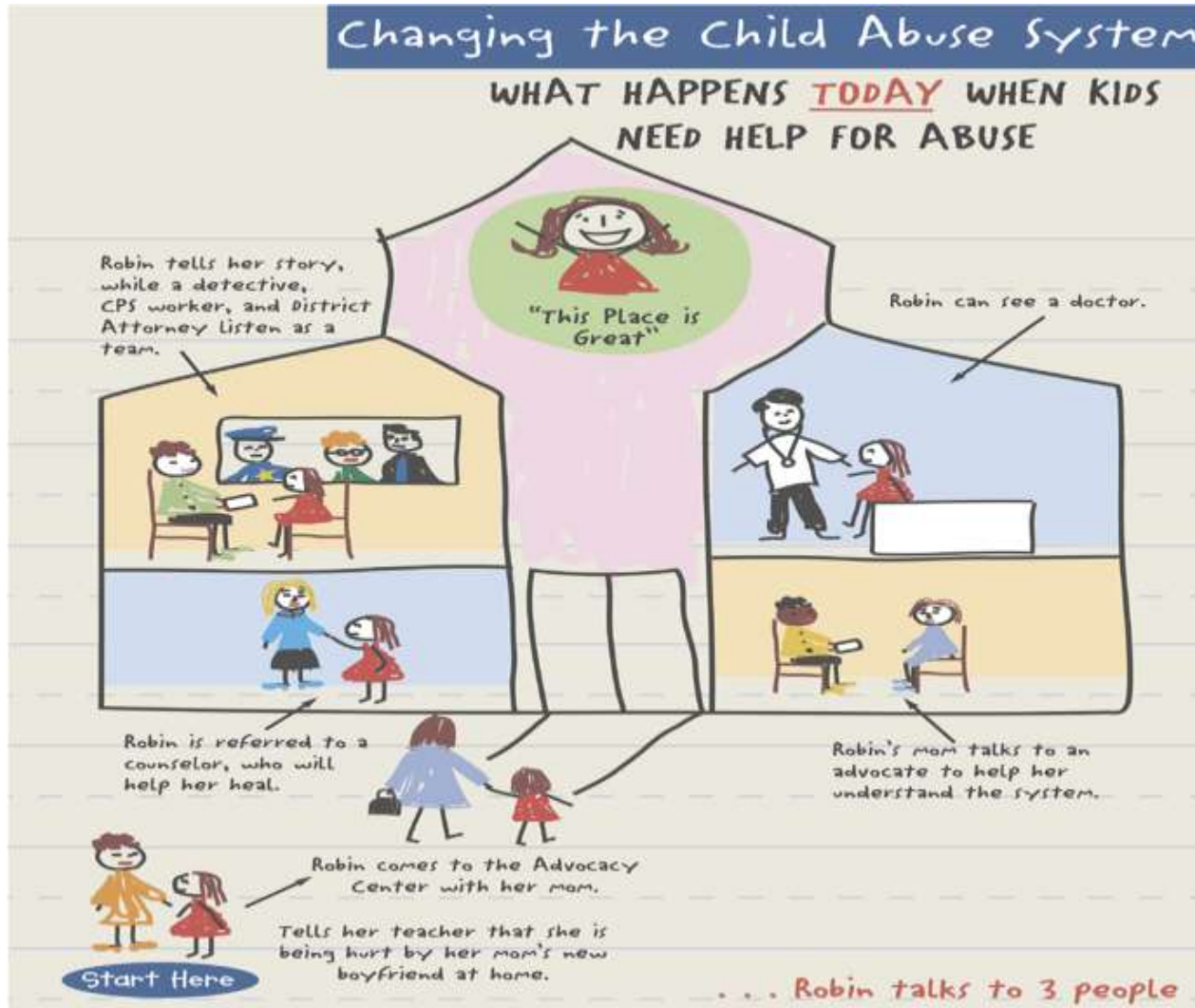
**MEDICAL**

**MENTAL HEALTH**

**VICTIM ADVOCACY**

**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

# What Happens Today



# CAC

## Child-Appropriate Child-Friendly Facility

**Therapeutic  
Intervention**

**Case  
Tracking**

**Victim  
Support/  
Advocacy**

**Forensic  
Interviews**

**Case  
Review**

**Medical  
Evaluation**

**Cultural Competency & Diversity**

**Organizational Capacity**

**Multidisciplinary Team**

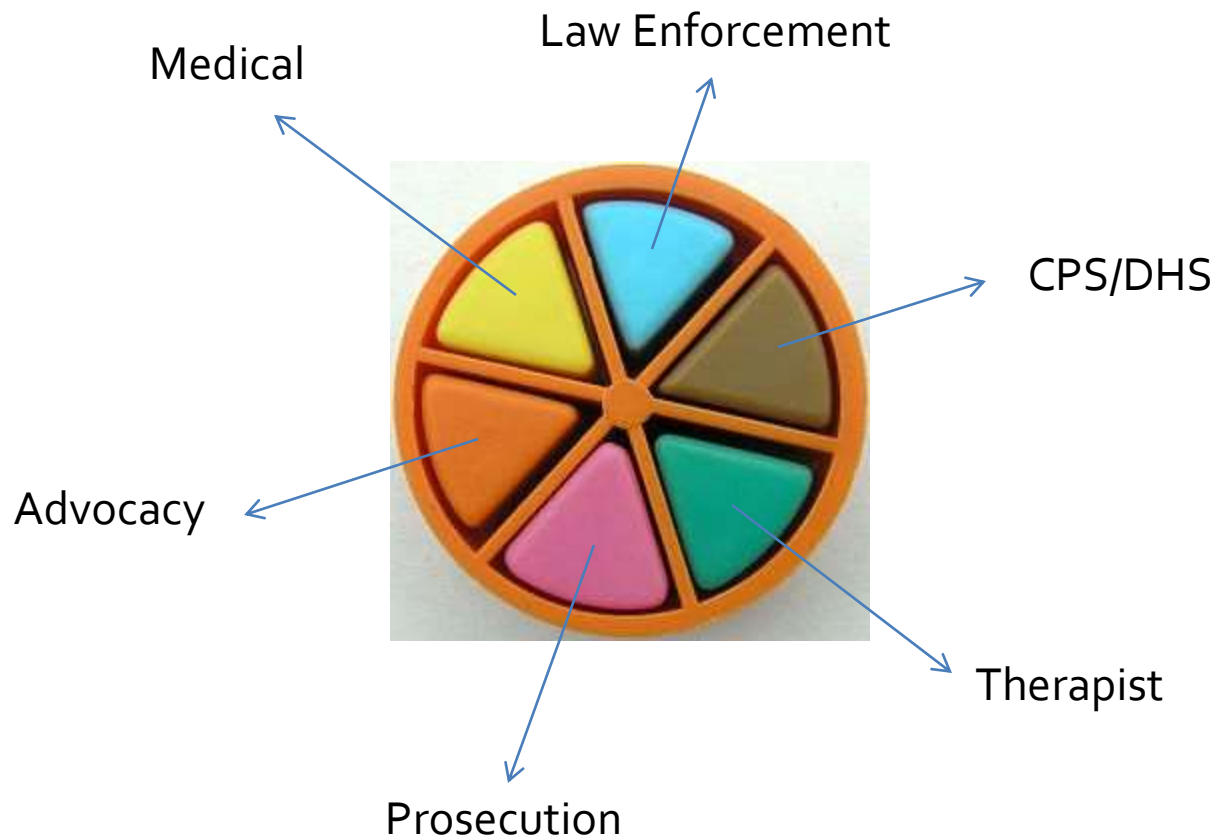


# Field Evolves – expanded focus - as part of last NCA revision...

- As part of the Multidisciplinary Team Response (the core element of the CAC model)
  - Movement toward a more inclusion process – VA, MH, School, etc
  - Continuum of service provision
  - Build a more effective MDT collaboration meant more effective response
  - Victim Advocacy role highlighted & emphasized – Thread
  - Clarified their role
  - Evidenced Based Practice across disciplines
  - Trauma Informed Response

# Victim Advocacy Standard

- **Standard:** Victim support and advocacy services are routinely made available to all CAC clients and their non-offending family members as part of the multidisciplinary team response.
  - Crisis intervention and ongoing support for children and non-offending family members
  - Education (dynamics of abuse, MDT response, treatment, and access to services)
  - Provide information regarding the rights of crime victims
  - Victim advocacy & support written into MDT protocols
    - A designated, trained individual to provide victim support and advocacy
    - Procedures in place to provide initial and ongoing support and advocacy



# Victim Advocate Role with MDT

- Investigation Phase
  - Pre-interview/Evaluation
  - During the evaluation process
  - Post interview/Evaluation
- Post Investigation Phase
  - Follow up
  - Case Management
  - Case Review
- Court/Post Adjudication

# Varying Victim Advocate Agencies

- Building a victim advocacy response with multiple victim advocacy programs
- VA participation at Case Review –
  - Part of the team response
  - Critical to understand victim/family dynamics
  - Advocate for rights of victims/family
  - Avoid duplication of services
  - Address needs of victim/family
- Confidentiality – Informed consent
  - Primary client – child
  - Work with Non-Offending Caretaker (secondary victim)
  - Releases
  - Information sharing

# Why is the role of Victim/family Advocate Important?

- ❑ Linkage – Thread between family and systems
- ❑ Support – consistent, specific, crisis intervention, empathetic
- ❑ Positive outcomes

# NOC Support is the Primary predictor of a child's psychological function!

- We must find a way to engage with the Non-Offending Caretaker(s) & family
  - *The Victim Advocate Role*

# VICTIM SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY

## Coordinate Response

- reduces trauma
- encourages access to and participation in investigation
- provides up-to-date information
- provides assistance in navigating through the systems' response
- education about the coordinated, multidisciplinary response



# Summary

## Child First Doctrine

The child is our first priority.

Not the needs of the family.

Not the child's "story".

Not the evidence.

Not the needs of the courts.

Not the needs of police, child protection,  
attorney's etc.

**The child is our first priority!!!**