



# WVCAN FY23 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023) Strategic Plan Progress Report



**WILL YOU BE  
SOMEONE'S SUNSHINE  
ON A RAINY DAY?**

MAKE A GIFT TO THE  
*Sunshine  
Fund*

Help WV's Child Advocacy  
Centers keep shining for kids!

# Strategic Plan Year 2 of 3

Following the creation and ratification of our first-ever Network-wide Strategic Plan in FY22, we embarked on our mission: ***working together to support hope, healing, and justice for children affected by abuse.***

In FY23, 4 Strategic Priority Work Groups (SPWGs) were established, each with a Chapter board member and a CAC co-lead. The SPWGs are facilitated by Chapter staff and meet quarterly to work on projects. This report highlights many achievements of the Network and the power of a unified approach!

## FUND DEVELOPMENT

**GOAL STATEMENT:** *Our Network has enough cashflow and cash reserves that operations can continue uninterrupted, services are expanded statewide, and we are able to address emerging needs.*

**SPWG co-leads:** *Beth Cook, Logan-Mingo CACs & Mimi Wilson, WVCAN Board*

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Strengthen Network-wide organizational fiscal management
- Diversify funding sources
- Increase access to public funding across the Network
- Grow general operating support for CACs

## SERVICES QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

**GOAL STATEMENT:** *Our Network is actively engaged in strategies for increasing the quality of services at CACs as well as deepening our partnerships with external service providers to best meet the unique needs of all children in WV.*

**SPWG co-leads:** *Maureen Runyon, Women & Children's Hospital CAC & Robert Peters, WVCAN Board*

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Support position-specific networking, technical assistance, and training
- Ensure CAC leads' roles are manageable and sustainably supported
- Enhance the medical response to child abuse in WV
- Increase cross-organizational work in the Network
- Support and strengthen MDITs in counties served by a CAC across WV
- Ensure all WV CACs remain fully accredited
- Enhance facilitation of MDITs

## ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

**GOAL STATEMENT:** *Our Network has the resources, staffing, and partnerships needed to provide high quality, compassionate services statewide.*

**SPWG co-leads:** *Rita Coyne, Harmony House CAC & Tom Hancock, WVCAN Board*

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Recruit and retain talented staff and boards
- Strengthen administrative infrastructure

## INCREASED ACCESS TO SERVICES

**GOAL STATEMENT:** *Our Network is increasingly available to and supportive of the unique needs of all children in WV who require our specialized services, including those from traditionally marginalized groups, and recognized as a hub for best practices in the community response to child abuse.*

**SPWG co-leads:** *Greg Collins, North Star CAC & Mickey Blackwell, WVCAN Board*

### **OBJECTIVES**

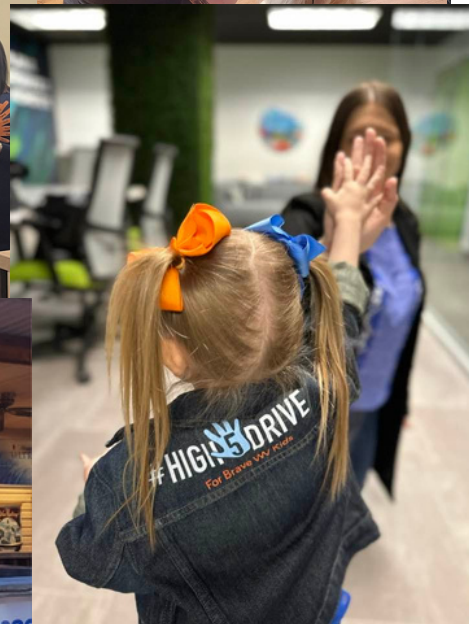
- Expand official services to 5 counties
- Support and strengthen justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) throughout the Network
- Develop community understanding of and partnership with CACs
- Strengthen operations in counties officially served by CACs with a limited physical presence

Email Amanda [ahinchman@wvcn.org](mailto:ahinchman@wvcn.org) if you would like to join one of the SPWGs!

# 01 Fund Development

## #HIGH5DRIVE

Our inaugural year of the #High5Drive included participation from 17 CACs! We exceed our statewide goal of getting a High 5 for all 4,703 kids seen last year raising over \$25K! Additionally, the campaign generated a ton of online and in-person engagement statewide.



# 01

# Fund Development

## ONE WITH COURAGE

In September 2022, we hosted the first public One With Courage Awards Reception at the Charleston Coliseum & Convention Center with proceeds going to the newly-established Sunshine Fund. With more than 100 attendees, it was a huge success!

**PARTNER WITH COURAGE: THE HONORABLE**  
*Governor Jim Justice*

**ONE WITH COURAGE:**  
*Julie Nutton*

**FUNDER WITH COURAGE:**  
*Greg Burton*

**PROFESSIONAL WITH COURAGE:**  
*Jim Sizemore*

**TRUDY LAURENSON ADVOCATE WITH COURAGE:**  
*Nettie Joan*

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT:**  
*Dr. Joan Phillips*

**SHINE | MEMORIAL TRIBUTE:**  
*Ian Frampton*

**ONE WITH COURAGE**



# 01

# Fund Development

## Sunshine Fund

### CREATION OF THE SUNSHINE FUND

The Sunshine Fund, seeded by a gift from the Sisters of St. Joseph Health & Wellness Foundation, provides emergency aid, general operating support, and employee recruitment and retention for locally-based CACs and combats vicarious trauma experienced by CAC staff and multidisciplinary investigative team (MDIT) members. The goal of the fund is to ensure happy, healthy teams are ready when WV's most vulnerable kids need them. In FY23, 14 CACs have received Sunshine Fund mini-grants for activities ranging from staff, multidisciplinary investigative team, and/or board retreats, trauma debrief sessions, staff retention bonuses, and more. We were able to provide a \$13,000 emergency payroll loan which was forgiven. All proceeds from WVCAN's 2022 Annual Appeal, One With Courage Reception, and half of all membership dues and board giving were directed to the Sunshine Fund this year.



"The Sunshine Fund was an enormous help to our MDIT in the face of tragedy. I don't know what we would have done without the extra support."

Felisha Hartwell, REACHH CAC

### VOCA BRIDGE ROUND 3

For the third year, federal VOCA (Victim of Crime Act) awards to states have been incredibly low compared to pre-pandemic awards. WVCAN advocated to WV Department of Homeland Security, the Governor's Office, and the WV Legislature to pass a third state supplemental appropriation to ensure level-funding for WV's victim-serving agencies. HB 2911 passed on 3/10/23 and will fill the \$9.5M shortfall in FY24 awards.

# 02

## Organizational Capacity

### IT/CYBERSECURITY PROJECT

13 CACs joined the IT/Cybersecurity Project and signed MOUs. We completed 11 site visits this past year.

### CYBER INSURANCE PRESENTATION

Rob Boyce with Hub International presented to Membership in April. He explained the need for, and general information regarding Cyber Liability Insurance.

### HIPAA TRAINING

Chris May with Advantage Technology presented a HIPAA training in June with 36 CAC attendees - and 13 of 21 CACs were represented.

**advantage**  
TECHNOLOGY

**STRENGTHENING  
CYBERSECURITY: A  
45-MINUTE HIPAA  
COMPLIANCE  
TRAINING**

Presented by Chris May,  
Advantage Technology's  
Security Solutions Director

**Wednesday, June 14th  
Noon**

[Register here](#)

**wvcn**

### CULTURE & COMPENSATION SURVEY

WVCAN conducted a Culture & Compensation Survey earlier this year gathering 114 responses and all CACs represented in the data! Consultant Kara Bixby from WithInsight helped compile the report and presented to CACs in July 2023.

# 02

# Organizational Capacity

## **CASE TRACKING SOFTWARE**

Collaborate, WVCAN's primary case tracking software system, was updated to reflect appropriate terminology for gender identity; to ask about pregnancy at intake; an Elaborate Services section that allows for Medicaid compliant notes by therapist to be entered; and a bill to be pulled from the info provided in the system.

## **BILLING SERVICES**

Funding was secured to cover at least four CACs to have Center and therapist credentialed. Two CACs signed a BAA with a billing service. Updates were made in Collaborate to create therapy notes and generate a bill. WVCAN worked with Advantage and PBO to find a secure method of transmission of bills. Additional funding secured with a mental health priority that can also cover credentialing and upfront costs of billing for CACs in the upcoming year.

## **FISCAL FOUNDATIONS PROJECT**

The CAC Fiscal Foundations project was initiated in July 2022 with Suteera Williams of IGB Resources. Suteera worked with four non-umbrella'd expansion subgrantees on strengthening their fiscal foundation. A 5th CAC was added in January 2023.

## **FINANCIAL SELF-ASSESSMENT**

In March and April this year, the Fund Development SPWG facilitated a training on financial self-assessment with staff and board members from 10 CACs in attendance.

# 03

## Services Quality Improvement

### **FAMILY ADVOCACY**

Family Advocates met three times in the last fiscal year with special presentations on grand-families, WV ABLE, Crime Victims Compensation Fund, and youth with problematic sexual behaviors.

### **MEDICAL**

CAC and Chapter staff worked with other partner organizations to develop the state's first pediatric-focused forensic medical exam (rape) kit and paperwork. This new kit will help emergency medical staff to provide a more child-friendly and legally-sound intervention when forensic evidence is collected from a child after sexual assault.

WVCAN is working in partnership with other organizations of the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Commission to expand and enhance child abuse medical training in WV. If funded, a pending grant proposal would cover several scholarships for CAC medical partners to receive initial/basic training that meets national standards, one in-person regional medical preceptorship scholarship, one continuing education workshop for child abuse medical providers, and development of an online training module for any medical provider collecting forensic evidence.

### **MENTAL HEALTH**

11 CACs' mental health providers participated in our monthly expert-facilitated peer consultation calls this program year.

### **MULTIDISCIPLINARY INVESTIGATIVE TEAMS**

Eight CACs received support and assistance with MDIT issues and one MDIT received WVCAN-facilitated training in the last fiscal year.

# 03

## Services Quality Improvement

### STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

WVCAN's virtual conference reached 401 MDIT professionals this year with presentations on youth with problematic sexual behaviors, understanding privilege, technology-facilitated crimes against children, and trauma-informed workplaces.



### FORENSIC INTERVIEWERS

24 interviewers from 18 CACs received Forensic Interviewing for Preschoolers Training in April 2023 in Charleston. They got to enjoy the town after the training with dinner, axe throwing, and a smash room! WVCAN's monthly forensic interviewer peer review had 51 participants divided into six groups in the last year.



# 03

## Services Quality Improvement

### CAC LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT



WVCAN's second Leadership Cohort Initiative wrapped up in July 2023 in Canaan Valley. Over nine months, participants cultivated their leadership, deeply considered what will foster positive organizational climate for staff, and workshopped their vision for effective multidisciplinary team functioning at their CAC. Two CACs and their boards have been supported through executive leadership transition in the last year.

**“THIS HAS BEEN THE MOST BENEFICIAL COHORT/SERIES OF TRAININGS I HAVE DONE TO HELP ME TRANSITION INTO A LEADERSHIP ROLE. I HAVE SO MANY TOOLS IN MY TOOLBOX NOW AND THEY ACTUALLY WORK!”**

*-Participant*

### ACCREDITATION SUPPORT

11 CACs have received reaccreditation support in the last year, with four engaging in a full reaccreditation review and follow-up support in partnership with chapter staff. Materials have been developed, and continue to be updated, to support WV CACs' reaccreditation under the new 2023 Standards.

### TEAM FACILITATION

The WV TF Learning Collaborative will launch in September 2023. 22 Team Facilitators, representing 19 CACs, have enrolled for the program year. The cohort will meet quarterly - twice in-person and twice online in the program year.

### CROSS-ORGANIZATIONAL WORK

20 CAC staff/leaders attended "Sustainability through Self Care" at the 2023 Membership Retreat at Adventures on the Gorge. Barbie Dallmann led us through self-care exercises including painting and journaling. And in our free time, we hiked and sang by the fire. It was an amazing time of rest and renewal for all! Check out the pics on the following page!

# 03

# Services Quality Improvement

## MEMBERSHIP RETREAT



# 03

# Services Quality Improvement

## CAC-TO-CAC VISITS

There were several CACs that hit the road this past year to spend time with other CACs and their staff. We've heard nothing but good comments about the time and experiences with their peers!



# 04

## Increased Access to Services

### PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

- HB 3190 passed during the 2023 General Legislative Session making it a felony offense to solicit a minor in person. This accomplished a proactive policy initiative of the Network!
- Five CACs held open-house tours including legislators and other elected officials, among other community leaders.
- Our September 2022 Membership Meeting included a breakout discussion around cultivating relationships with local elected officials led by Susan Scharf and Margot Evick.



# 04

## Increased Access to Services

### EXPANSION

- WVCAN partnered with WV CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for a Network Call around strengthening collaboration, which included conversation around the overlap of CAC/CASA service, as well as areas of expansion for both programs. This call was attended by representatives from eight CACs.
- Active expansion is happening via SARAH's House CAC into Hardy County.

### DEI TRAININGS



WVCAN's April Conference included a session by Shante Ellis M.ed, CDP titled "Understanding Privilege" which included attendance by 94 participants!

### 2023 ADVOCACY DAY

The Network gathered in Charleston in early February as part of Crime Victim's Day during the 2023 Legislative Session.



# Strategic Plan Year 2 of 3

## CHAPTER REACCREDITATION

WVCAN was reaccredited by the National Children's Alliance this year. The application completed and submitted in August 2022 with virtual site visits in the following months. In an email after the visits, NCA Site Reviewer Janet Fine said,

*"Another exceptional meeting - truly a Board and Board meeting that seems to be a model for others. The depth and detailed updates and the open and honest discourse were enormously edifying and clearly focused on how to ensure that the Chapter has the knowledge, guidance and support it needs to pursue all your myriad of activities and priorities. Very well facilitated and covered all the bases for which your Chapter is being reviewed for re-accreditation. I have been so impressed by all of the meetings in which I participated - what an excellent picture of all that makes the Chapter go 'round!"*



January 24, 2023

West Virginia Child Advocacy Network  
601 Morris St #200  
Charleston, WV 25301

Dear West Virginia Child Advocacy Network,

Congratulations! The National Children's Alliance Board of Directors has approved your application for re-accredited chapter membership. Additionally, being recognized by a national organization as accredited validates the hard work and commitment of your chapter and state.

We would like to acknowledge the extensive work your chapter has completed to demonstrate through both written documentation and observed practice that the chapter is in compliance with the national chapter accreditation standards. Over the next few weeks you will receive your new NCA membership plaque in the mail - we hope that you will display it with pride. Please reply to this email confirming your mailing address.

A link is listed below that contains items regarding your membership with NCA including:

<https://learn.nationalchildrensalliance.org/memberbenefits>

- A copy of the Policy on Critical Incident Reporting.
- Information on Chapter-specific opportunities for engagement, such as Chapter Huddle and Collaborative Work Groups.

Please bookmark the above link for your on-going reference. Additionally, you will receive a letter containing information on how to access NCA's Brandfolder, which includes the following:

- A Graphic Standards guide for NCA Logo Usage and login information to the NCA brandfolder. You should begin using the NCA logo in accordance with the agreement and standards.
- A sample press release announcing your membership with NCA. Please feel free to tailor it to fit your Chapter. We encourage you to use this opportunity to gain publicity for your center.

Chapters participate in the re-accreditation cycle every 5 years. Your next re-accreditation will be scheduled during 2028.

Again, congratulations on being accepted as an accredited chapter of National Children's Alliance. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Teresa Huizar  
Chief Executive Officer

Dave Betz  
Vice President of Operations



# Strategic Plan Year 2 of 3

## STRATEGIC PLANNING FEEDBACK

During the May 2023 Membership Retreat, we asked CACs to describe the most valuable accomplishment of the Network during the fiscal year. Here are a few highlights!

“For my team, the most valuable accomplishment of WVCAN was the Sunshine Fund. I cannot explain the magnitude of my gratitude for this fund. We were able to work through, process and begin healing after the most traumatic event of our MDIT's history because of the Sunshine Fund.”

“Gaining access to funds for CACs. Without funds, CACs cannot provide services to children; the trainings and resources offered to CACs are so valuable.”

“IT support/Cyber security has been needed by most for a long time & I am so glad all WV CACs now have access to this.”

“Continued Legislative advocacy and working to close the funding gaps and secure the supplemental funds cut from VOCA. The dedication to be present at the Capitol, regularly sitting in meetings and sharing our mission and work we do to secure the funding so we can keep serving our kids. We would not be able to keep doing this work without the Network.”