



PROTECTING THE CHILDREN OF DALLAS

A COMMUNITY -WIDE
COORDINATED RESPONSE

Lori Allen
President & CEO



THE REALITY IN DALLAS COUNTY

27,793

**Reports of suspected abuse and neglect
in Dallas County in 2025**

638,718

Children living in Dallas County

What happens next matters.

DCAC'S RESPONSE



Supporting children and families across Dallas County

9,158

Cases Coordinated

1,725

Forensic Interviews Conducted

5,681

Family Support Services Clients

14,902

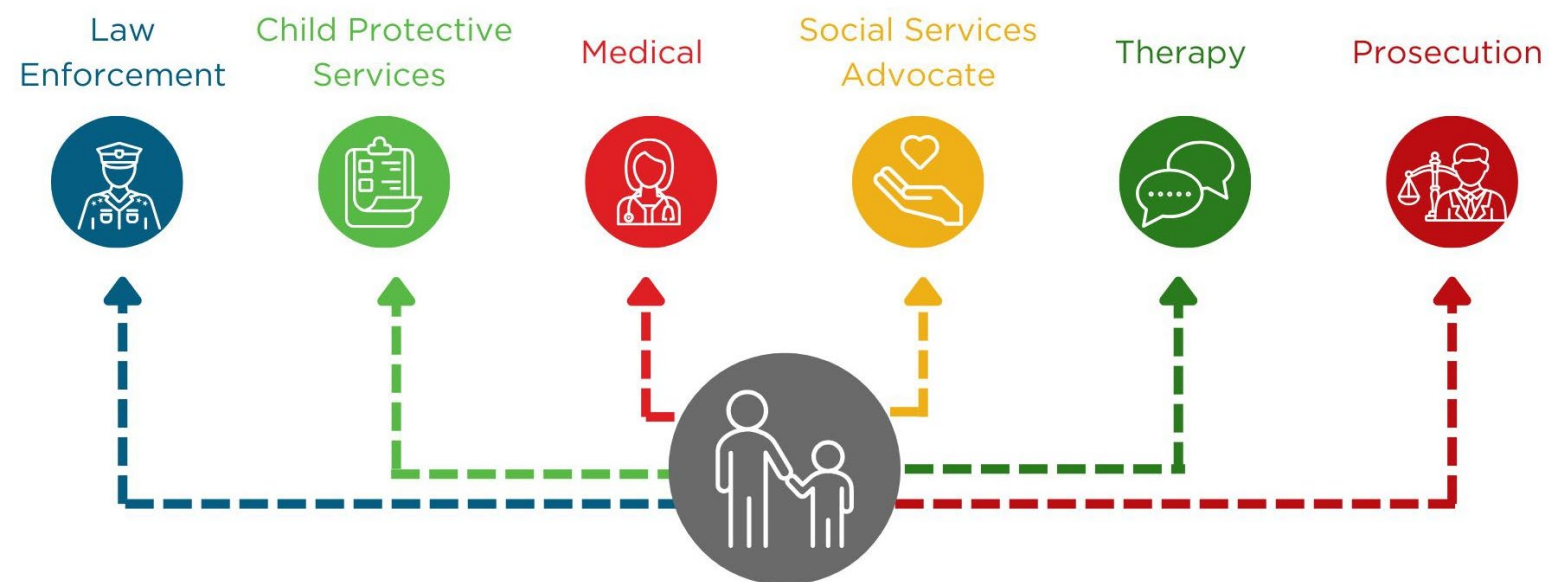
Therapy Hours Delivered

Behind every number is a child,
a family, and a path toward healing.

35 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION



THEN



Families often navigated disconnected systems alone

NOW



Multidisciplinary teams coordinate care and response around the child and family

WHY COORDINATION MATTERS

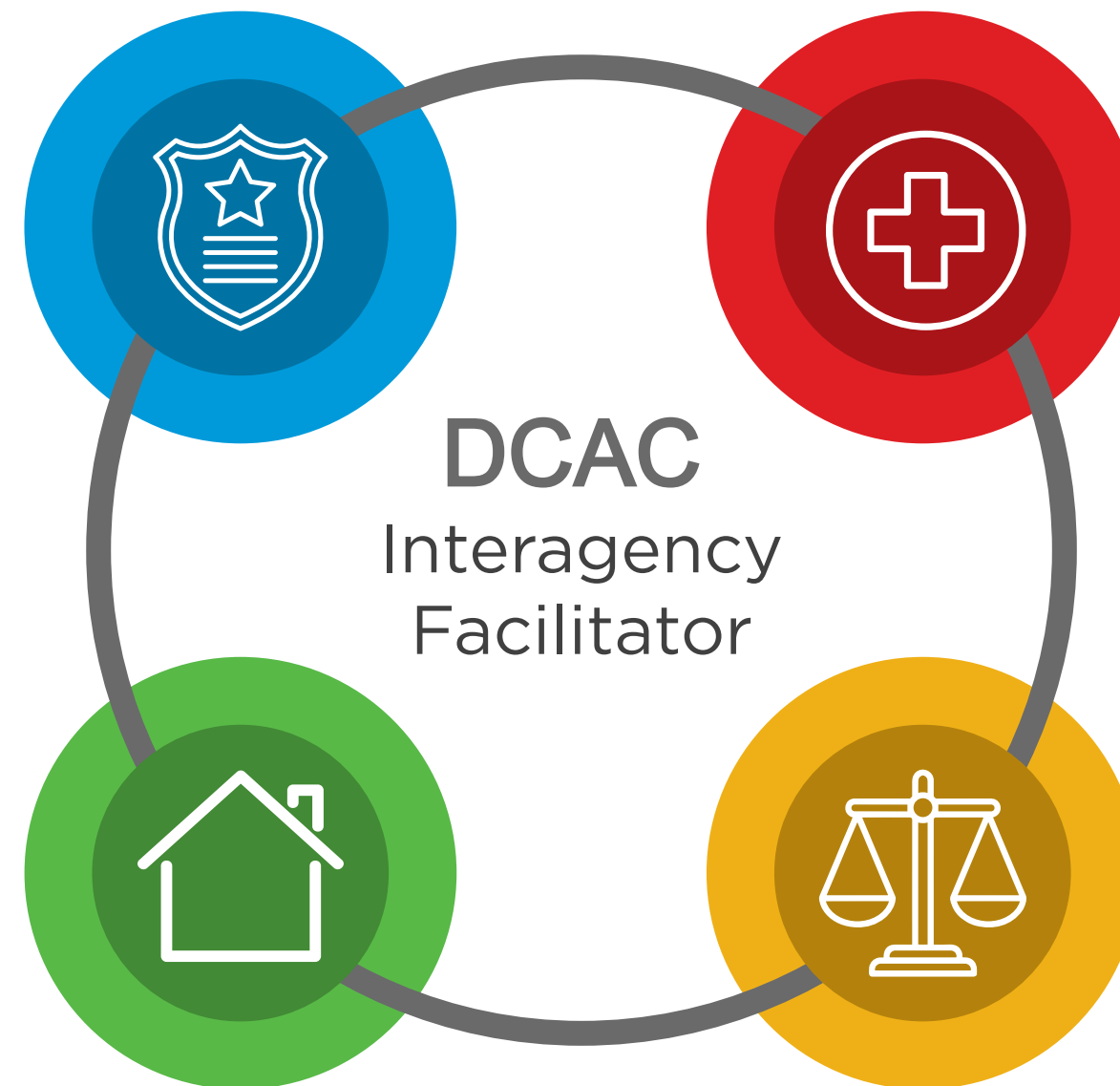


LAW ENFORCEMENT

- 30 jurisdictions
- Dallas Police Department Child Abuse Unit

DFPS

- Child Protective Investigations
- Child Care Licensing
- Adult Protective Services



MEDICAL

- Children's Health REACH Clinic
- Dallas County Southwestern Institute of Forensic Services
- UTSW Medical Center

DALLAS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

- Crimes Against Children Division
- Juvenile Division



A COLLABORATIVE, CHILD-FOCUSED APPROACH

CLARITY

Clear roles and coordinated decision-making

COMMUNICATION

Improved information sharing across agencies

SUPPORT

Coordinated services for children and families

HEALING

Child-focused response reduces trauma

All children deserve a response that is coordinated, compassionate, and centered on their needs.

THE MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESPONSE

01

REPORT RECEIVED

Law Enforcement or DFPS

02

COORDINATED MDT RESPONSE

Facilitated by DCAC

03

CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

- Forensic Interview
- Medical Assessment
- Advocacy & Therapy
- Investigation
- Prosecution

04

JUSTICE. HEALING. SUPPORT.





DEMAND CONTINUES TO EXCEED SYSTEM CAPACITY

9,756 Statewide intake reports reviewed

2,788 Cases pursued through coordinated response

Only **29.6%** of reviewed intake reports were pursued through coordinated multidisciplinary response.

Sexual abuse cases remain the highest intervention priority, with a **92.9%** pursuit rate.



SYSTEM CAPACITY REQUIRES PRIORITIZATION

	Intake Reports	Cases Pursued	Pursuit Rate
Sexual Abuse	1,380	1,307	92.9%
Physical Abuse	2,228	635	28.5%
Neglectful Supervision	3,249	311	9.6%
Medical Neglect	505	43	8.5%
Emotional Abuse	272	32	11.8%
Other*	2,122	460	21.7%
TOTAL	9,756	2,788	29.6%

*Other includes: Abandonment, Exploitation, Labor Trafficking, Physical Neglect, Refusal of Parental Responsibility, Sex Trafficking

OUR COMMITMENT



EVERY CHILD

- Improve response
- Deepen partnerships
- Enhance fidelity and consistency
- Use data to strengthen response

EVERY SERVICE

- Enhance access
- Respond to evolving community needs
- Identify service gaps and target resources

EVERY EFFORT

- Protect integrity of CAC model
- Advance recurring, sustainable funding



PROTECTING CHILDREN TAKES ALL OF US

SYSTEM RESPONSE

- MDT coordination
- Investigation
- Medical
- Prosecution

HEALING & SUPPORT

- Advocacy
- Therapy
- Case navigation
- Crisis support

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

- Holiday of Hope
- Back to School
- Volunteers
- Donors

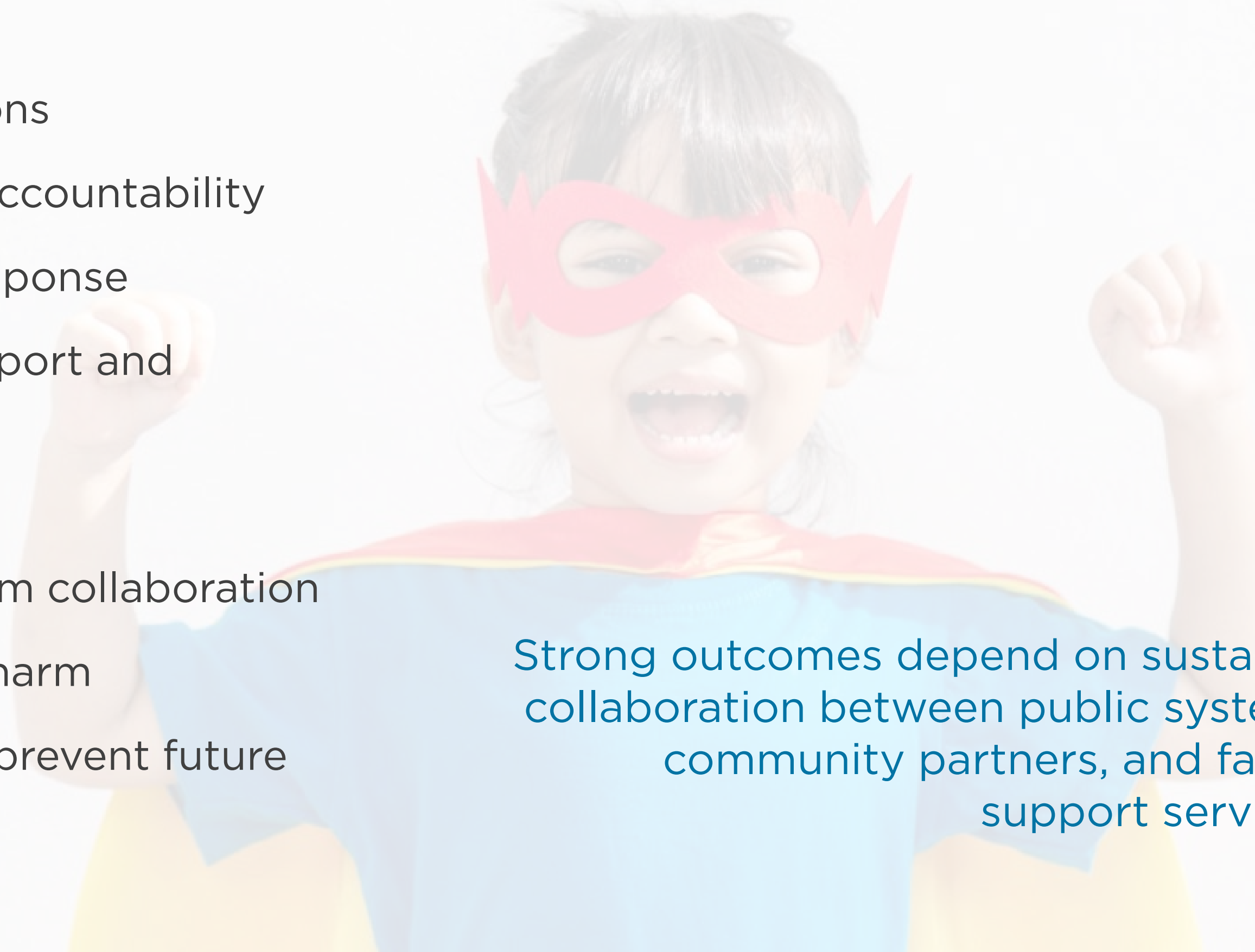




WHEN SYSTEMS ARE STRONG

- Stronger investigations
- Increased offender accountability
- Trauma-informed response
- Increased family support and engagement
- Access to healing
- Stronger cross-system collaboration
- Reduced long-term harm
- Greater potential to prevent future victimization

Strong outcomes depend on sustained collaboration between public systems, community partners, and family support services.





SUPPORTING CHILDREN & FAMILIES



ADVOCACY

Supporting families through crisis and system navigation



HEALING

Therapy and trauma-informed support services



STABILITY

Programs like Holiday of Hope and Back to School to support practical family needs



TRAINING

Crimes Against Children Conference and multidisciplinary education strengthen response nationally

STRENGTHENING THE FIELD



CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN CONFERENCE

The largest multidisciplinary child abuse conference in the world

- Cross-disciplinary collaboration
- Emerging research and best practices
- Training for professionals across the globe
- Stronger coordinated response for children and families



STRONGER TOGETHER



Protecting children requires strong systems, trusted partnerships, and shared responsibility.

Thank you for helping strengthen the response for children and families across Dallas County.





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