

Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center

Spring/Summer
2026



Message from the Director

Key Priorities for 2026:

- Investing in People: We will create opportunities for growth and cultivate a culture of recognition, competence, and respect.
- Community Engagement: This year, we will deepen our connection with the people we serve. By strengthening our outreach efforts and actively listening to feedback, we will ensure our work remains responsive to the needs of child victims and non-offending family members.
- Expanding Our Reach: We are committed to growing our presence within Lake and Sumter County and increasing community donors to create new opportunities for the child victims we serve.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our mission!

Brenda Crellen

In this newsletter
you can expect:

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Roles at the CAC

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Staff Profile Highlights



**Dr. Rosalyn
Johnson, Ed.D.,
MBA, LMHC-QS
Clinical
Supervisor**

Welcome to the
CAC, Dr. Johnson!

Dr. Johnson joined the CAC team in April 2025 and holds a master's degree in Counseling from Nova Southeastern University, a Master's in Business Administration from Florida Gulf Coast University, and a Doctorate degree in Counseling Psychology with a Concentration in Counselor Education and Supervision from Argosy University. She is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and Qualified Supervisor. Dr. Johnson has been a Qualified Supervisor since 2017. She is trained in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and has provided counseling to children, adolescents, and families since 2011.



**Regina Berry, B.A.
Assistant
Director/CPT
Team
Coordinator**

**Congratulations,
Regina Berry, for
your new role as
Assistant Director!**

Regina attended Bethune-Cookman University and later finished her B.A. in Criminal Justice with Kaplan University. She joined the CAC in February 2021 as a Child Protection Team Case Coordinator and was promoted to Senior Case Coordinator. She has served as Team Coordinator for three years and recently accepted additional responsibility as Assistant Director. Regina previously worked with the Department of Juvenile Justice as a Detention Superintendent retiring from the State of Florida after 27 years of service.



**Angela Wood, B.S.
Receptionist/Family
Advocate**

Hello! My name is Angela, and I am honored to serve at Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center as a receptionist and Family Advocate.

I hold a Bachelor's of Science degree in Elementary Education from the University of Central Florida. My background working with children and families allows me the unique opportunity to connect with children and families and to provide them with crucial resources they may need after a crisis, or any time they are in counseling.

I am passionate about helping people feel heard, supported, connected, and less alone during times of crisis. Creating meaningful connections is at the heart of what I do.

Training Updates

FNCAC utilizes our Training & Resources Newsletter to provide Children's Advocacy Centers and their MDT partners with information on training opportunities and resources. We've recently introduced Coalition Manager, a platform where you can access FNCAC trainings and our Resource Library at any time. [Sign up on our Coalition Manager platform](#) to enjoy unlimited access. If you have any questions or suggestions for additional trainings or resources to include, please contact Jim Jolley at jjolley@fncac.org.



Community Support

Do you want to help support the Children we see at Lake Sumter Children's Advocacy Center? Here is a list of items that we have the greatest need for:

- Individually wrapped snacks and juice boxes
- Brand new children's clothing
- New blankets, without large knitted holes
- Fast Food Gift Cards in \$10.00 denominations
- Grocery Store and gas gift cards in \$20.00 denominations
- Toilet paper and paper towels
- Cleaning supplies

Local Statistics

Our CAC has been averaging over 1000 children per year. From July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, children were seen in the following areas:

- **722** children received medical exams following allegations of abuse
- **546** children received forensic interviews
- **26** children under 4 years old received specialized interview services
- **367** children received counseling services
- **1327** individuals received victim advocacy services.



News From the Nurse: Water Safety

Summer is coming, which means families will be spending more time outdoors, potentially near pools or other water sources. Please read on to learn critical water safety information, as written by Heather Palasky, MSN, APRN.

Drownings and near drownings are preventable!

Central Florida regional monthly fatality report 2025: out of 113 child deaths, 42 were drownings and greater numbers of near-drownings. Increased number of children with Autism drownings due to eloping. Individuals with autism are up to 160x more likely to drown than neurotypical peers.

Water Safety Tips: Layers of Protection Supervision!!!! Watch kids near water – every second counts. Keep toddlers within arm's reach.

Assign a Water Watcher – no distractions allowed, no phones, no lapses in attention.

Most infant drownings occur in just a few inches of water such as a bathtub or bucket. Never leave infants or toddlers unattended in a bathtub even momentarily

Barriers: Use fences, gates, and pool alarms for protection. Open water and backyard pools alike pose risks when barriers, supervision, or preparation are missing. Use four-sided 4'+ pool fences, self-closing/self-latching gates, and secure door alarms. Eliminate unsupervised entry points to pools, lakes, and canals. Know the law Chapter 515, Florida Statutes – Residential Swimming Pool Safety Act, Rule 64E-9, Florida Administrative Codes – Public Swimming Pools and Bathing Places, Chapter 45, Florida Building Codes – Private Swimming Pools

**Swim Safety: Teach kids to swim, especially those with autism or other special needs – lessons save lives. Start water familiarization early, but never assume a child is "drown-proof." Use U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets
Learn CPR – it can turn seconds into survival**

Remove toys from pools when not in use. They can entice a child to be inquisitive.

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