Web address: www.dnlcc.org

Street Address: The Dee Norton Lowcountry Children’s Center, Inc. 1061 King St. Charleston, SC 29403

Contact information: Phone: (843) 723-3600

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Mission: The mission of The Dee Norton Lowcountry Children’s Center, Inc. is to reduce the incidence of child abuse and its impact on the child, family and community by providing a forum for concerned agencies and individuals to identify needs and respond through the development, coordination, and delivery of quality services.

A Spanish translator is employed at DNLLC. When a child/ren requires a forensic assessment and medical exam, the center utilized the translator. Pamphlets available in Spanish.

Geographic area covered: Charleston and Berkeley Counties.

Services Provided:

DNLLC provides safe and non-threatening "one stop shopping" for victimized children and their families

Forensic Interviews
• A forensic interview is a neutral, fact-finding interview that takes place when there is a concern for abuse. A forensic interview provides a comfortable, unbiased, child-friendly setting and uses non-suggestive, non-leading interview techniques. Dee Norton's therapists are trained in evidence-based techniques for interviewing children. Through coordination of services with our community partner agencies, we are able to minimize the number of interviews a child receives and optimize the child’s comfort level.

Mental Health Assessment
• This appointment lasts approximately 1.5 – 2 hours and includes the caregiver and child each meeting with a trained therapist. Additionally, caregivers and children ages 6 and older answer questionnaires about the child’s emotions and behaviors. The results are used to help guide recommendations for the child and family. Mental health assessments are provided at no cost to the child or family.

Medical Services
• Through a partnership with the Medical University of South Carolina Department of Child Abuse Pediatrics, we have board-certified child abuse pediatricians, as well as pediatric nurse practitioners, who provide comprehensive forensic medical exams at Dee Norton. The medical exams identify any medical issues that need attention and provide reassurance to the caregiver and the child regarding any concerns they might have about the child’s body.

Therapy Services
• At the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center, we are committed to using treatments that have been proven in research to be effective. Where there are gaps in proven treatments, we are developing and evaluating innovative new treatments. Based on the needs identified in the mental health assessment, children and their caregivers find the services they need at Dee Norton or are referred to programs available elsewhere in the community.
Parental Assessments
- Caregivers are an essential source of support for children. Parental assessments are designed to help determine a caregiver's primary focus of attention, and to provide recommendations that will help the caregiver act as a supportive resource for his or her child.

Multidisciplinary Case Coordination
- The Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center's professionals work with community agency partners involved in a particular case — including medical, legal, law enforcement, educators, social services, guardians ad litem, and mental health — to take appropriate action as quickly as possible. Case coordination occurs through weekly multidisciplinary team (MDT) staffing, where professionals give input into the assessment of needs and the development of safety and treatment plans. Recommendations and updates regarding protection, case management, prosecution and needed services are discussed by the staffing team and the progress of each case is monitored through the MDT process.

Education/Outreach Provided:

Child Abuse School Liaison Program
- The Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center's Child Abuse School Liaison (CASL) Program is designed to support school personnel in identifying and appropriate reporting of suspected child abuse. The Child Abuse School Liaison works directly with school administrators, guidance counselors and teachers to provide training on mandated reporting responsibilities and the impact of trauma on children and families, and is also available to school personnel when specific case consultation is needed.

MDT Cross-Training
- As a Children's Advocacy Center, Dee Norton works regularly with Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) partners from agencies in the community — including medical, legal, law enforcement, educators, social services, guardians ad litem, and mental health — to take appropriate action as quickly as possible. We coordinate and provide cross-training opportunities for our MDT community partners for the purpose of enhancing our collaborative response with children and their families. Training topics are developed in collaboration with and to meet the identified needs of the MDT.

Community Training/Outreach:

The Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center provides training and outreach to professional and community groups in Charleston and Berkeley counties.

Dee Norton provides a variety of training opportunities on child maltreatment and child trauma, both to professionals and to the general public. Any organization that wishes to increase their knowledge in these areas may contact our Education Coordinator to discuss training options.

Sample Training Topics
- Reporting Suspected Child Maltreatment
- The Impact of Trauma on Children
- Secondary Traumatic Stress / Vicarious Trauma
- Importance of Evidence-Based Interventions
- Screening and Referring Children for Trauma-Specific, Evidence-Based Treatment