Dorchester Children's Center

Web address: https://www.dorchesterchildren.org/

Street Address: 303 East Richardson Avenue Summerville, SC 29483

Contact information: Phone: 843.875.1551

Email: info@dcccic.org

The program offers Spanish translation for all services.

Geographic area covered: Dorchester County, some of Berkeley and a tiny bit of Charleston (where Summerville stretches)

Mission:

Our center provides a coordinated, evidence-based response to child abuse that reduces trauma and provides treatment for the children and families in our community in a safe child-focused environment.

Dorchester Children's Advocacy Center is dedicated to creating communities in which children and families live free from abuse and are free to reach their full potential.

Services Provided:

Forensic Interviews

- The forensic interview may be completed with a child or teen (3 years to 17 years of age) and developmentally delayed adults. The interview is conducted in a child-friendly and non-leading manner by a professional forensic interviewer trained in the Child First South Carolina forensic interview model. Interviews are typically a single session; however there may be times where a follow-up interview may need to be scheduled. Interviews are remotely observed by representatives of the agencies involved in the investigation. The interviewer will meet with the child's caregiver prior to and after the forensic interview.

Medical Exams

- A Forensic Medical Exam may be requested by the investigative team, by a caregiver or pediatrician. The purpose of the exam is to collect evidence, to diagnose and treat sexually transmitted infections or injuries, to assess for pregnancy, and to identify and document any forensically significant findings, as well as any other medical conditions and/or psychological/psychiatric concerns. Most importantly, it is performed to reassure the child/teen and family that his/her body is okay.

Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy

- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT) is an evidenced based therapy that helps children, youth and their families, who have been affected by traumatic events. The treatment is designed to last from 4-6 months with weekly sessions.

Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT)

- Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) is a cognitive-behavioral therapy (treatment that focuses on thoughts and feelings) for PTSD and related conditions. CPT focuses on the connections between thoughts, feelings, behaviors and bodily sensations. CPT is an evidence based theory which means that it has been proved to be effective through rigorous scientific research. CPT provides a way to understand why recovery from traumatic events is difficult and how symptoms of PTSD affect daily life.

Alternative for Families-Cognitive Behavior Therapy (AF-CBT)

- Alternatives for Families: a Cognitive- Behavioral Therapy (AF-CBT) is an intervention for families who are struggling with anger, conflict, and aggression. It can also help families at risk for or worried about aggression and violence. AF-CBT promotes use of positive coping and self-control skills, effective discipline strategies, and constructive family problem solving and communication. AF-
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B SAFE

- Be-Safe is an individual psycho-educational class that is open to children age 3-8 and their caregivers. The purpose of the group is to promote body safety in children, and to help facilitate conversations about touching rules between children and adults. During the session, children will be taught proper names for private parts, have the opportunity to distinguish “ok” from “not ok” touches, and practice telling a caregiver about getting a “not ok” touch. The session is designed to be fun and interactive, so all in attendance should be willing to participate. Be-Safe can be scheduled individually at a time that works for you and your child. Occasionally, several families may be combined and Be-Safe will be held in a group format. Be-Safe is typically held every first and third Tuesday from 3:00-4:30. For more information or to sign-up, please call Beth Pilcher.

SEXUAL BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS GROUPS (SBP)

- Sexual Behavior Problems Groups focus on children exhibiting signs of abnormal sexual behavior from ages 3 to 17. These ages are broken up into three groups based on age. Sexual Behavior Problem Groups focus on allowing children to examine feelings and touching rules as well as helping them learn self control, behavior management, abuse prevention, social skills, and empathy.