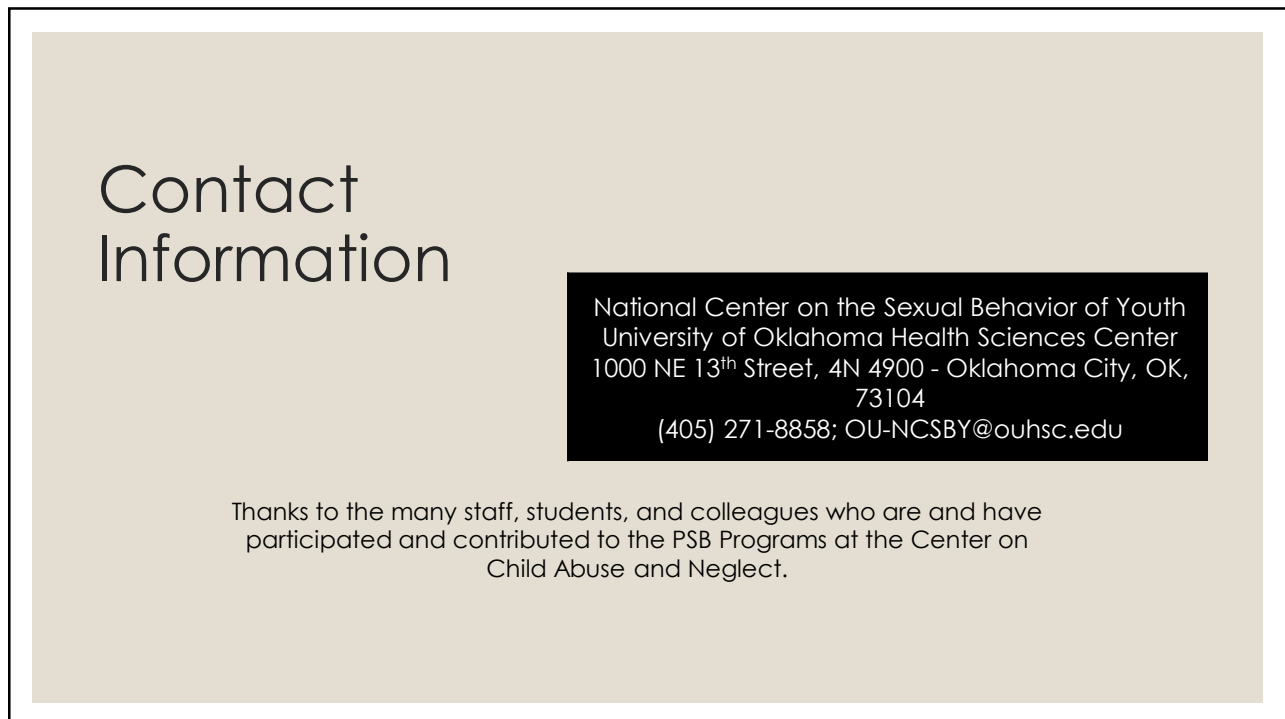


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## Learning Objectives

1

Develop an understanding of the benefits of a case review team for youth with problematic sexual behaviors

2

Identify key players and their roles on the case review team

3

Become familiar with the case review process using case examples

3

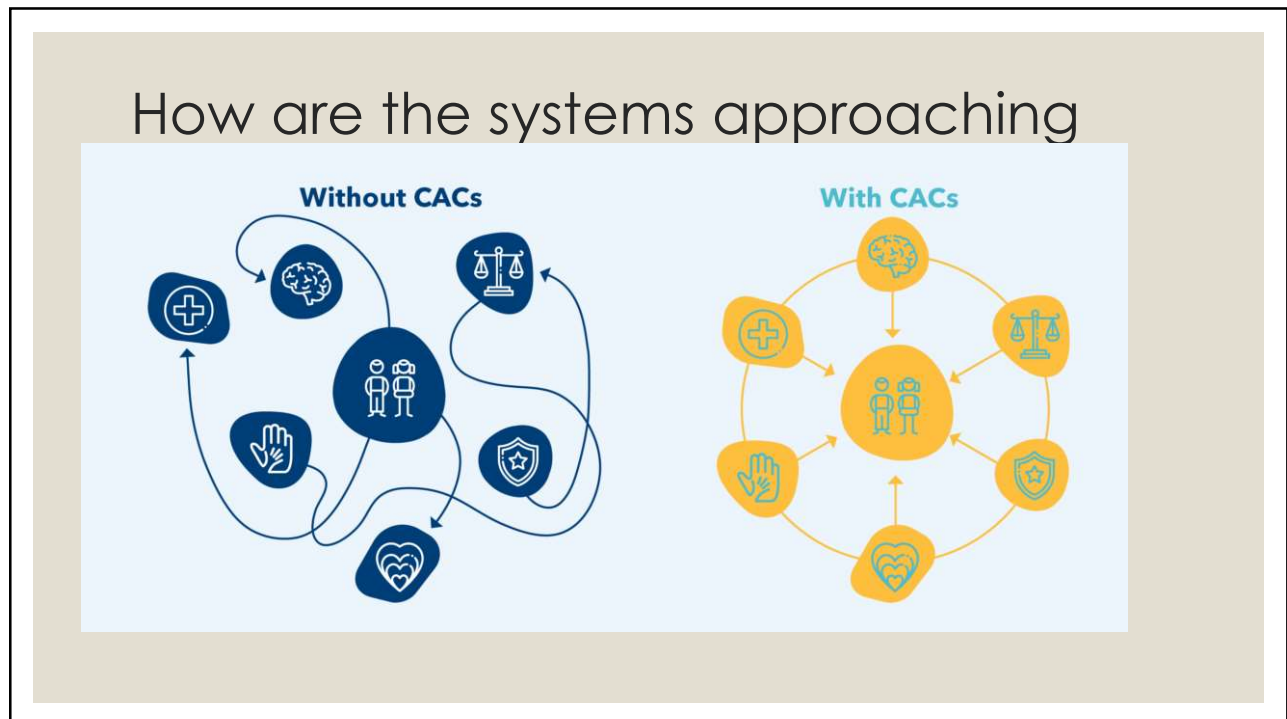
## MULTIDISCIPLINARY EFFORTS IN ADDRESSING YOUTH WITH PROBLEMATIC SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

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- A group of people with different functional expertise/areas of work, who are working toward a common goal
- First responders to PSB can come from many places

## What is a multidisciplinary team or a case review team?

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The doorway through which a youth with PSB and their family enters the community service system can have profound impacts...

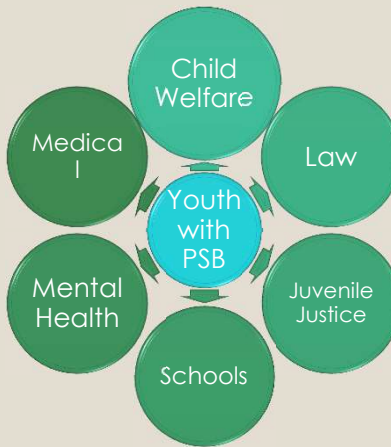
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## Barriers

- Stigma and isolation
- Shame, guilt, embarrassment
- Misunderstandings about PSB
- Lack of accurate information about the situation
- Families worry about what's going to happen next

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What beliefs related to teen PSB have you heard or seen influence your community partners' decisions in addressing teen PSB?



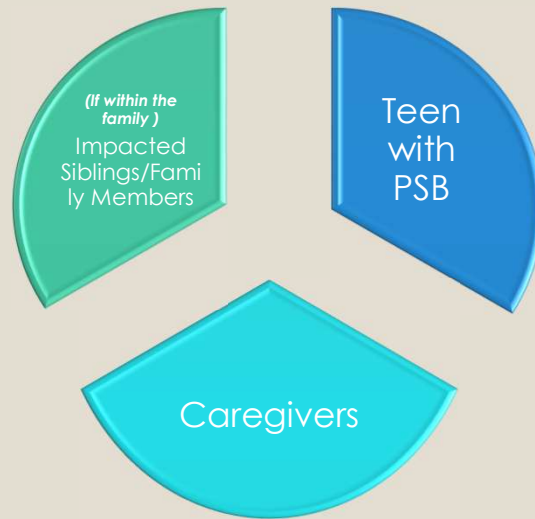
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## Example Impact of Policy and Practice Based on Myths

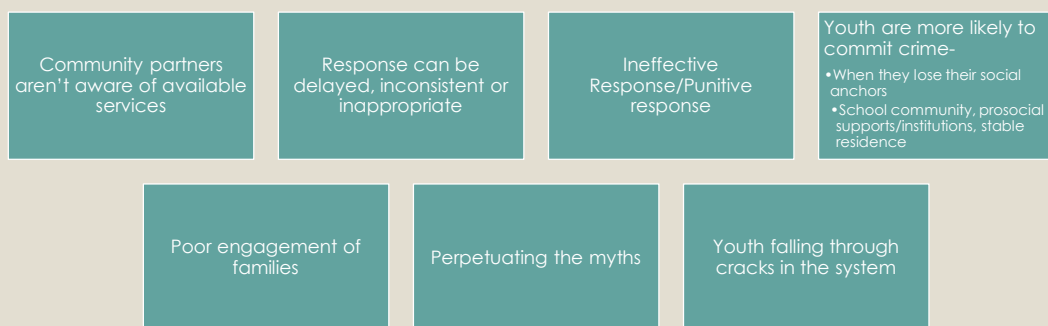


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## Many Communities Struggle With Fragmented System Responses & Lack of Available Specialized Treatment



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## Negative Impact of Fragmented Response

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## Conceptualizing a Developmental Framework for Addressing and Treating Youth with Problematic Sexual Behavior



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## Bringing Policy and Practice Together



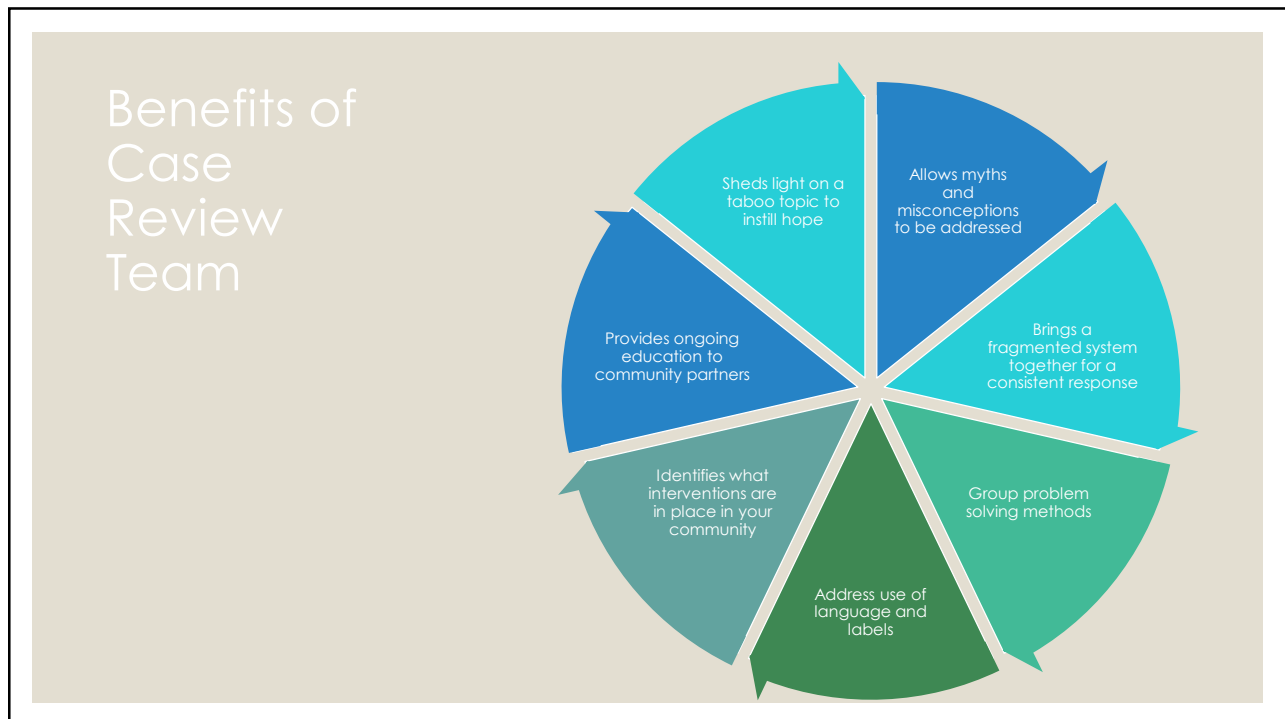
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## Positive Impact of a Collective Response

- Engage rather than alienate caregivers and families
- Working with other disciplines to bring consistency to their practices that include:
  - Options that fit the needs, risk and protective factors
  - Appropriate triaging of youth to pathways that fit their need, accountability, rehabilitation and healing
  - Considers levels of care that are needed
  - Address inappropriate language and myths

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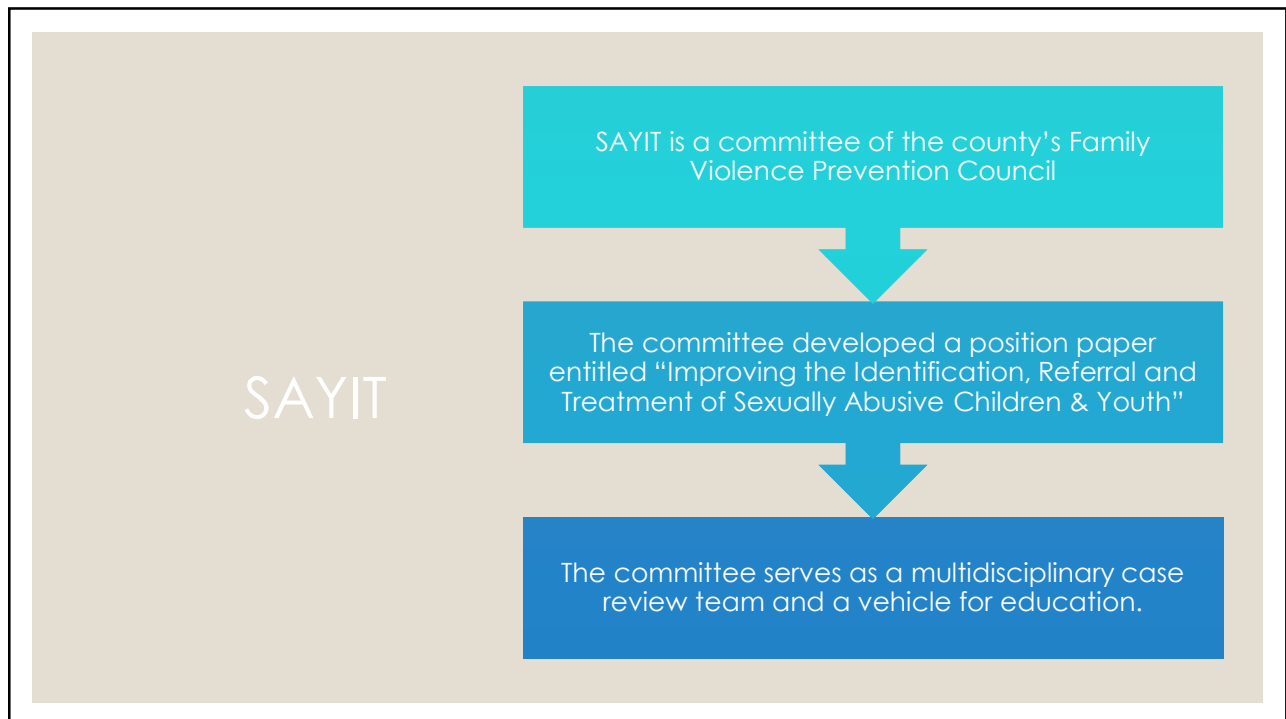


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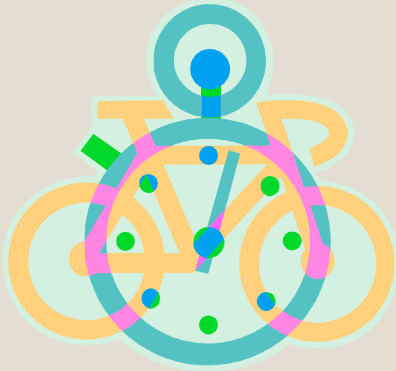




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## The Beginning

- FVPC identified a community issue
- Assigned the issue to the Inter- Agency Planning committee of the Council
- This committee , a white paper on the issue and recommended a stand-alone committee to deal with the issues.
- FVPC approved the creation of a new committee, and it has been in existence since 1994

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## “White Paper”

- Outlines the rational for the intervention
- Overview of the county juvenile justice system response
- Rational for need of prevention and education
- How to choose an appropriate service/provider for intervention
- Rationale for law enforcement involvement

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## Why have a community protocol?

To maintain a safe community for all children

To prevent liability concerns regarding the protection of vulnerable children

To educate community partners on a frequently misunderstood problem

Consistent response and accountability

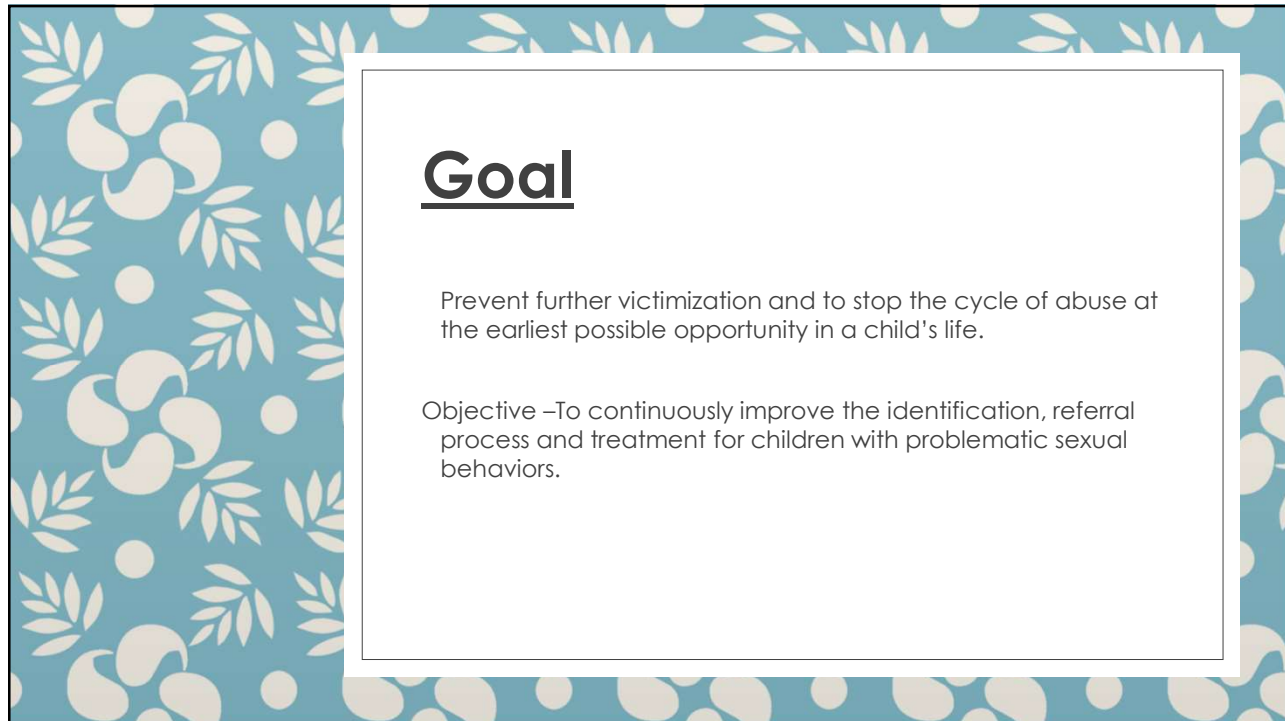
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## Next Steps:

- Developed function of the committee and commenced some pilot projects in a couple area school districts.



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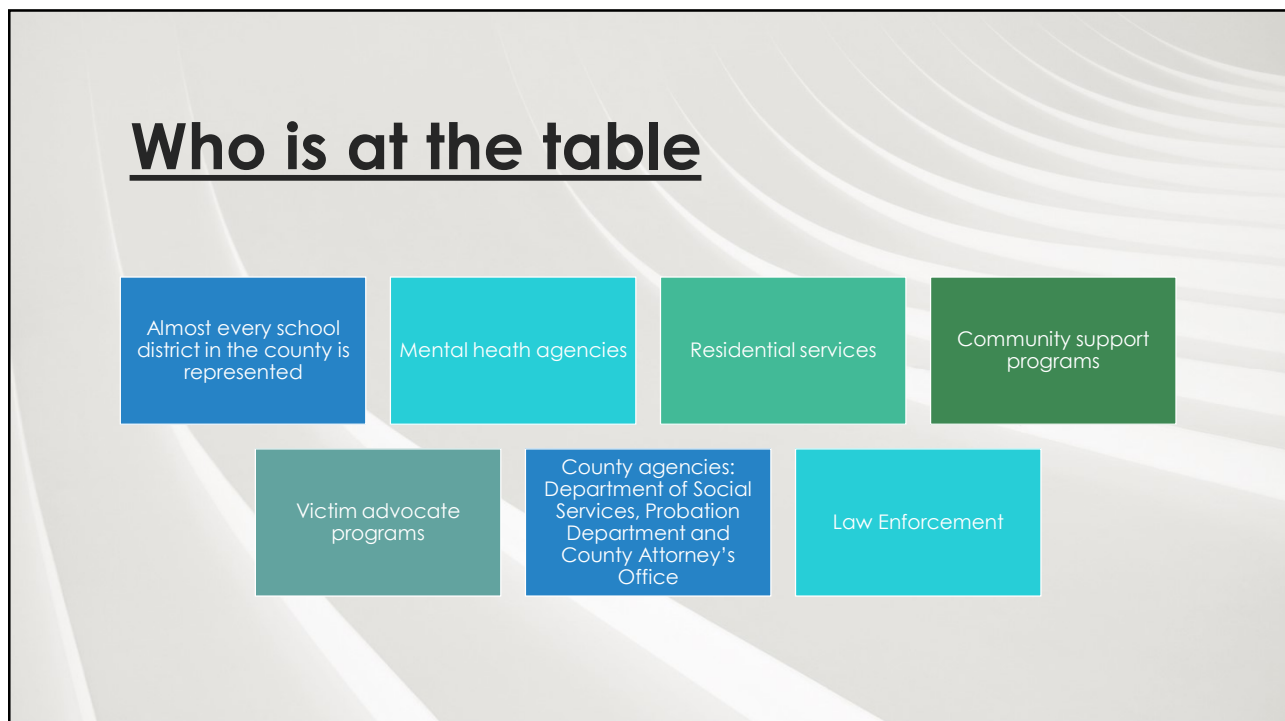


## Goal

Prevent further victimization and to stop the cycle of abuse at the earliest possible opportunity in a child's life.

Objective –To continuously improve the identification, referral process and treatment for children with problematic sexual behaviors.

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## Who is at the table

- Almost every school district in the county is represented
- Mental health agencies
- Residential services
- Community support programs
- Victim advocate programs
- County agencies: Department of Social Services, Probation Department and County Attorney's Office
- Law Enforcement

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## Process



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## Things that SAYIT may recommend:

State Child Abuse Report vs. Police report

Role of courts/Juvenile Justice

Referral to treatment/Intervention

Other services

Safety planning

SAYIT follow up

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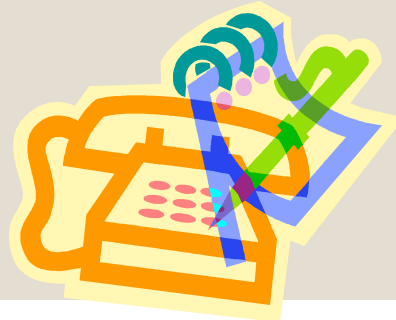
## Specialized Treatment

- Mandated vs. Voluntary Treatment
- Setting Treatment Goals
- Communicating Values
- Limits Of Confidentiality/Working Collaboratively with Other Professionals
- Setting Limits and Using Authority
- Respecting without Colluding
- Confrontation

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## SAYIT Case Review Process

- 1) Referral
- 2) Team Approach
- 3) Recommendations
- 4) Follow-Up
- 5) Statistics



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## Coordinated Response: SAYIT as a Review Team



Purpose



Multidisciplinary  
case review



Anonymous vs.  
descriptive review



Confidentiality



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## Case Review Concerns Encountered



- What is normative behavior vs problematic behavior
- Victim unwilling/unable to proceed
- Referral to services without law enforcement or DSS involvement
- School reluctance to report
- Law enforcement perceptions of case
- Planning for discharge/moves in placement
- Uncooperative parents
- Servicing youth with multiple issues/Co-occurring disorders

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## Other Committee Functions

- Professional & community training
- Advocacy
- Team Consultation



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## Barriers

- Difficult subject to discuss
- Continual need for education
- Continual recruitment of team members
- Continued needs of the team:  
self analysis/training/statistical analysis
- Accountability among the team with following the protocol



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## Case Example

- Caleb is a ten-year-old, male in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at a local elementary school. His case has been referred to the committee by the social worker at school. The family has agreed and signed necessary releases for the social worker to talk openly at the committee. Caleb was recently discovered at school peeking under a stall in the girls' bathroom, and several female classmates complained that Caleb makes them uncomfortable talking about sex and private parts. A parent of one of the female children is very angry with the school and feels the school is not addressing the issue. Although, highly concerned, the school social worker is unsure how to address the issue and feels the school administration is not supporting the social worker intervening. The school administration was open to recommendations from the committee, as they fear legal action or liability from the impacted children's families.

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### SAYIT Recommendations Caleb

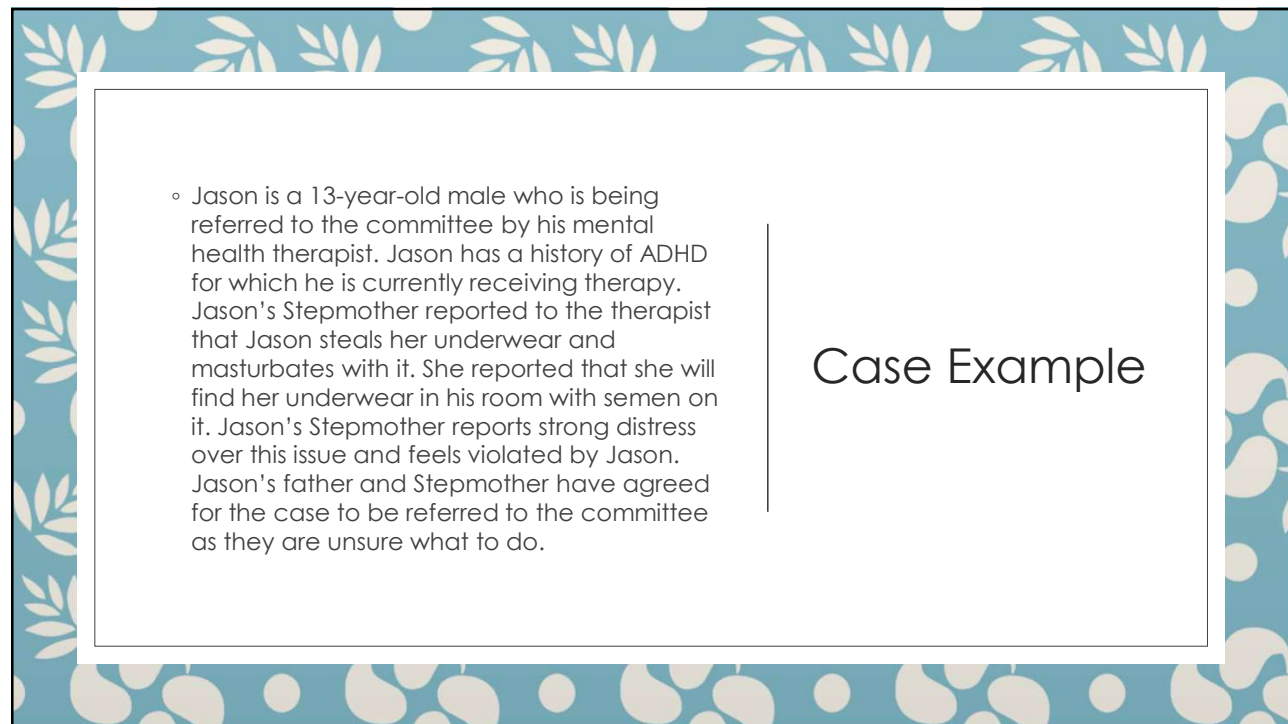
Caleb's caregivers need to be made aware of the concerns

Caleb must be provided education about why his behavior is unacceptable and could have further consequences if it is ongoing

Where is Caleb talking about inappropriate things? Once identified providing more supervision in the classroom and during non structured times (bathroom, hallways, cafeteria, recess).

Referral to treatment provider who has knowledge of PSB/more comfortable talking about behaviors

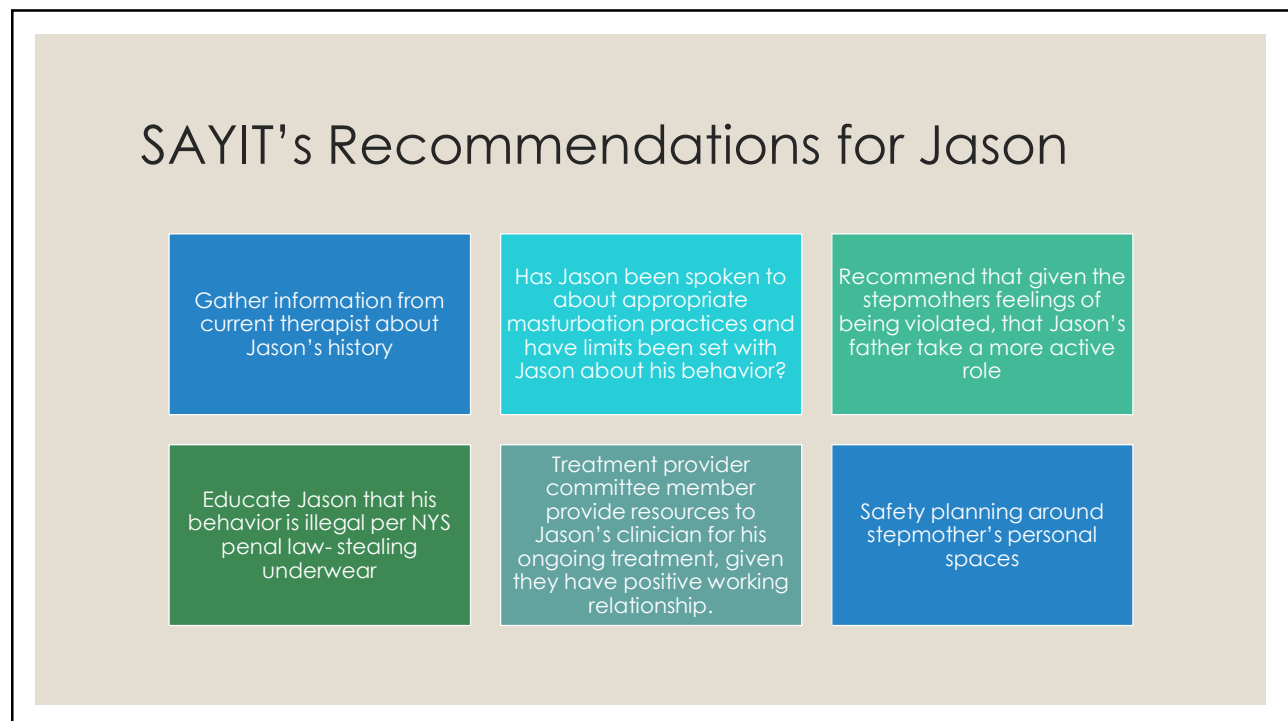
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- Jason is a 13-year-old male who is being referred to the committee by his mental health therapist. Jason has a history of ADHD for which he is currently receiving therapy. Jason's Stepmother reported to the therapist that Jason steals her underwear and masturbates with it. She reported that she will find her underwear in his room with semen on it. Jason's Stepmother reports strong distress over this issue and feels violated by Jason. Jason's father and Stepmother have agreed for the case to be referred to the committee as they are unsure what to do.

## Case Example

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## SAYIT's Recommendations for Jason

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Gather information from current therapist about Jason's history                  | Has Jason been spoken to about appropriate masturbation practices and have limits been set with Jason about his behavior?                            | Recommend that given the stepmothers feelings of being violated, that Jason's father take a more active role |
| Educate Jason that his behavior is illegal per NYS penal law- stealing underwear | Treatment provider committee member provide resources to Jason's clinician for his ongoing treatment, given they have positive working relationship. | Safety planning around stepmother's personal spaces  |

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## Case Example

- Sarah is a 16-year-old whose case is brought to the committee by the local child advocacy center. Sarah was seen at the CAC following concerns that she was being sexually exploited by adults online. The CAC brought the case to the committee as they are aware that Sarah has been sending nude photos of herself to adults online, however they are concerned that Sarah may also be sending photos to other youth. They are not sure if Sarah is engaging in illegal behavior or if she is the impacted youth.

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### Recommendations for Sarah

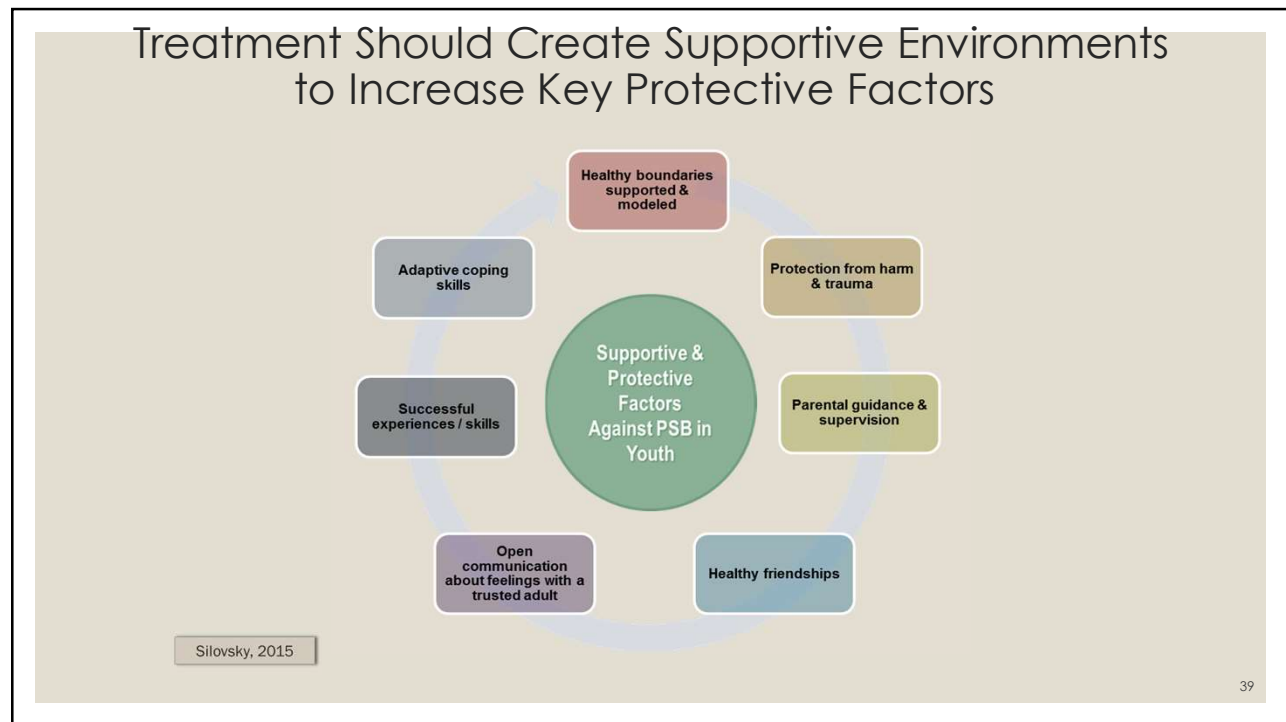
Referral to law enforcement for Sarah's possible victimization

Caregivers to supervise internet use and safety plan around internet use be developed

Referral to services for risk of sexual exploitation

Education for Sarah around the dangers of internet use and sharing pictures.  
Education about laws

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## Problematic Sexual Behavior

- **Serious problem**
  - Impact on other children and family members
  - Need to address safety and well-being
- **And there is hope...**
  - Effective intervention
  - Safety planning

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## Key Points

There are many doors that youth walk through, and all may give different messages

Early identification and intervention of PSB is most beneficial to both exhibiting and impacted children

Having a consistent response with consistent messages about PSB is helpful to families and the community

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## QUESTIONS ?

- Thank You!
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- [jalmanzar@chowc.org](mailto:jalmanzar@chowc.org)

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# Resource



- Problematic Sexual Behavior in Schools, How to spot it and what to do about it, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition
- J. Wilson Kenney (2020)