



What we do

The Mental Health Coordinator

(focuses on the child's psychological well-being before, during, and after the abuse investigation)

Utah's CJC model brings mental-health professionals into the multidisciplinary team alongside law enforcement, CPS, prosecutors, medical providers, and victim advocates.

Our Mental Health Coordinator's role includes:

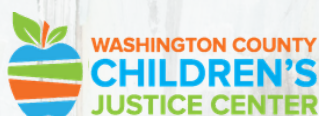
- **Screen children for trauma**, mental-health concerns, and suicidal ideation.
- **Talk with children and caregivers about mental-health needs.** This can include identifying symptoms such as anxiety, depression, trauma reactions, behavioral changes, or safety concerns.
- **Make therapy referrals.** The coordinator connects children and families with qualified trauma-focused therapists and follows up to make sure families can actually access services.
- **Provide short-term support** or intervention when appropriate.
- **Help caregivers understand trauma.** They can explain what trauma responses may look like in children and what parents/caregivers can do to support recovery.
- **Coordinate with therapists** and other providers. Utah's CJC standards emphasize evidence-based, trauma-focused treatment and ongoing consultation with behavioral-health providers.
- **Participate in the multidisciplinary team (MDT).** They may contribute mental-health information to case reviews while maintaining appropriate clinical confidentiality.
- **Help ensure children receive appropriate treatment.** The CJC system can fund or facilitate certain mental-health services for eligible child-abuse victims, including assessments and therapy.

A recent Utah Department of Health and Human Services study showed that **80% of Utah teens who completed suicide had experienced childhood maltreatment.** In Washington County, our Mental Health Coordinator is on the front lines for helping keep kids safe.

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