

About us

The CAARE Center was founded in 1988 and is part of the UC Davis Children's Hospital in Sacramento, California. The CAARE Center staff includes psychologists, a psychiatrist, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, home visitors and administrative support staff.



CAARE Center leadership

Dawn Blacker, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Training Director

Michele Ornelas-Knight, Psy.D.
Associate Director

Blake Carmichael, Ph.D.
Evaluation Manager

Susan Goff Timmer, Ph.D.
Director of Mental Health Research

Eric Vargas
Community Health Program Assistant Chief

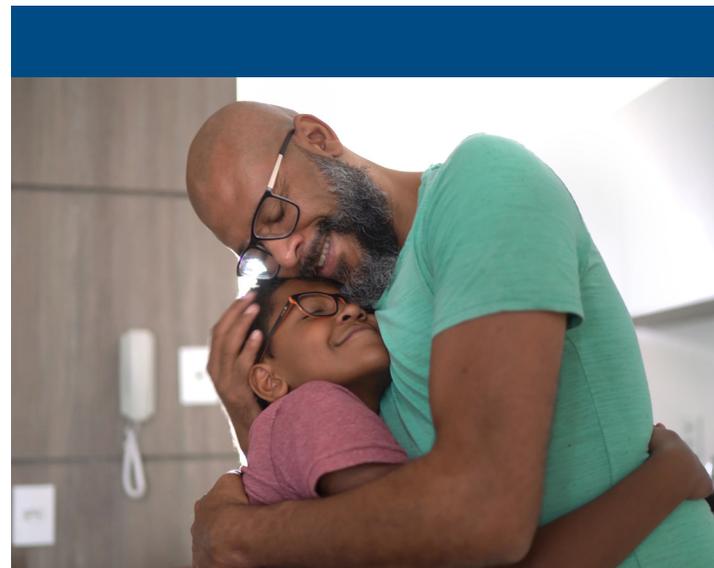
Gina LaTour
Community Health Supervisor

Elizabeth Mota-Garcia, L.C.S.W., M.A.
Training Director

For more information on how to support the CAARE Center, please contact Health Sciences Development and Alumni Relations at **916-734-9400** or visit health.ucdavis.edu/giving/contact-us.html.

UC DAVIS
HEALTH

CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL



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**CAARE Diagnostic
and Treatment Center**

3671 Business Drive
Sacramento, CA 95820
916-734-8396

health.ucdavis.edu/caare

23-0054 (2/23)

Mental health services

Specializing in services for
abused and neglected children
ages birth to 21

Our mission

The CAARE Center's mission is to provide patient care, teaching, research and prevention initiatives on behalf of abused and neglected children and youth identified as high-risk.

Mental health services

Individual therapy to assist children ages 4–21 experiencing mental health problems such as depression, anxiety and/or behavioral problems.

Group therapy to assist children ages 3–21 with social and behavioral problems.

Family therapy to help children and families build healthy relationships through improved communication, problem solving and healthy coping strategies within the family system.

In-home behavioral management services to support the family as part of a child's overall treatment plan. Services focus on improving daily living skills, routines, reducing disruptive behaviors and improving compliance.

Individual therapy for children ages 0–3 supports strong and nurturing relationships between infants or young children and their primary caregiver(s). Services focus on "goodness of fit" and behavioral concerns to promote healthy social and emotional development.

- Services are provided in homes or in community based and clinic settings.
- Services may also be provided to pregnant teens, under the age of 21 years.

Evidence-based treatments

Parent-child interaction therapy (PCIT) is an intensive treatment program for children ages 2–7 designed to help both parents and children. PCIT works to improve the quality of the parent-child relationship by teaching parents the necessary skills to manage their child's severe behavioral problems.

Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (TF-CBT) is treatment shown to help children and adolescents ages 4–18, and their caregivers to overcome trauma-related difficulties. The goal is to address the needs of children with problems related to traumatic life experiences.

Dialectical behavioral therapy (DBT) is a treatment designed specifically for individuals with self-harm behaviors, such as cutting, suicide attempts and suicidal ideation. Many meet criteria for Borderline Personality Disorder and all have problems with emotional regulation. DBT is offered to adolescents and young adults ages 12–21.

Psychiatric services

Psychiatric services provide medication evaluation of children as part of their overall treatment plan.

How to refer a child for services

The CAARE Center is an EPSDT/Medi-Cal provider. Eligible children can be referred through the Sacramento County ACCESS Team at **916-875-9980**.

Trauma Recovery Services are provided via a grant from Cal EMA. Call us at **916-734-8396**.

Learn more about the CAARE Center at health.ucdavis.edu/caare.



Evaluation services

Psychological evaluations assess a child's cognitive, emotional and behavioral functioning. Common referral concerns include differential diagnoses and treatment planning.

Child welfare evaluations are court-ordered evaluations to assess a child's current functioning, a parent's current functioning, a parent's parenting ability, and/or sibling relationships.

Emergency response (ER) consultations to review and provide feedback regarding case records and/or mental health reports, conduct face-to-face mental health assessment, feedback regarding mental health status and assist in linkage to necessary mental health services.

Training programs

The CAARE Center offers exceptional training programs for pre-doctoral interns, post-doctoral fellows, and MFT and MSW interns specializing in the area of child maltreatment.

Training and supervision is offered in PCIT, TF-CBT, individual, group and family therapy, psychological evaluations and child welfare evaluations, depending on the program. The APA accredited clinical psychology program subscribes to a practitioner-scholar model and emphasizes knowledge of current research to guide assessment and intervention.