



ST. CLOUD AREA CHILD RESPONSE INITIATIVE

Responding to the Needs of Children in Crisis

Mission

The mission of the **St. Cloud Area Child Response Initiative (CRI)** is to **provide early intervention** to children and families after a traumatic incident; **inform adults and children** about trauma and its impact on child development; and **connect children and families** to trauma informed care services.

CRI Partners

- Central MN Mental Health Center
- St. Cloud, Waite Park and Sartell Law Enforcement Agencies
- Stearns, Benton and Sherburne Counties
- Anna Marie's Alliance
- Village Family Services
- Lutheran Social Services
- Caritas-Catholic Charities
- Ken Hanna
- Creative Connections
- True Balance Counseling
- Medway Services
- Northwest Counseling

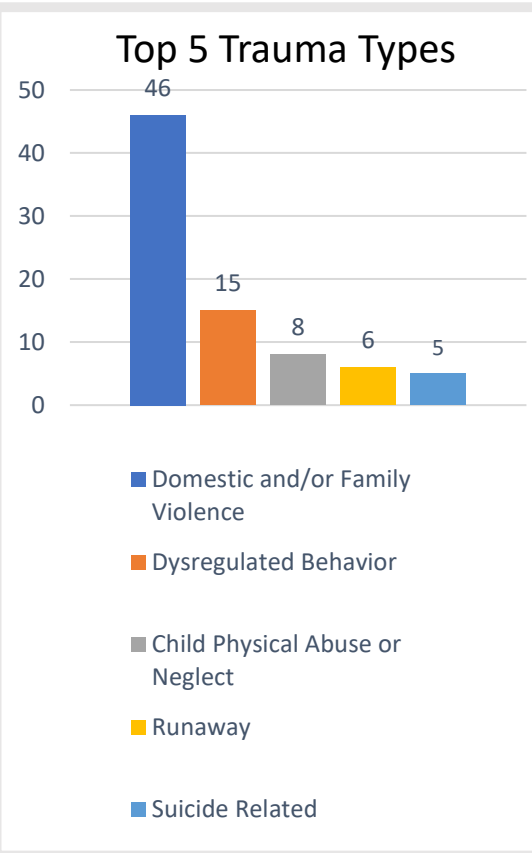
St. Cloud Area CRI

St. Cloud Police Department
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St. Cloud, MN 56303

Trauma Advocate:

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St. Cloud Area CRI Impact

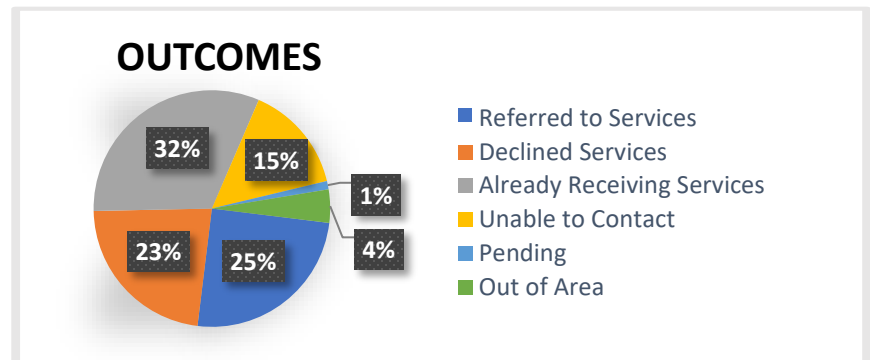


In the 3rd Quarter of 2019, CRI received **60** referrals, involving **88** children.

Since inception in April 2014, CRI has served **1,747 children**.

Referrals were received by Trauma Advocate:

- Less than 24 hours – **52**
- Less than 48 hours – **3**
- More than 48 hours – **5**



Collaboration Story

CRI's Trauma Informed Advocate, Paige McConkey, was called on-scene when a grandmother had called police reporting that her 16-year-old grandson had runaway. The grandmother had located her grandson who was walking outside in the frigid cold. St. Cloud Law Enforcement officers, along with McConkey, went to the location to talk with "Jamie" and his grandmother.

McConkey learned that "Jamie" was already involved with Stearns County Child Protective Services (CPS), as well as with a Case Manager from the Central MN Mental Health Center (CMMHC). Because McConkey is in close contact with both agencies, he was able to speak on the phone with "Jamie's" case worker at CMMHC and learn more about the background story. McConkey then contacted Stearns County CPS and asked to have a CPS worker come to the scene.

In this situation, McConkey was able to facilitate a coordinated response between law enforcement, county services, and case management. More information was shared, and a decision could be made as to what was in the best interest of "Jamie."

The decision was made to place "Jamie" into a temporary foster care placement. McConkey followed up with the family as well as all the agencies involved. "Jamie," along with his family have been offered ongoing trauma informed therapeutic services through one of the identified mental health partnerships.

CRI's relationships with law enforcement agencies, county agencies, schools, and mental health services, provides the opportunity to address the needs of children in a timely and well-informed manner. CRI can work with all parties and direct the child and family to appropriate services.

"Youth run away or are homeless for a range of reasons, but involvement in the juvenile justice or child welfare systems, abuse, neglect, abandonment, and severe family conflict have all been found to be associated to youth becoming homeless. These youth are vulnerable to a range of negative experiences including exploitation and victimization. Runaway and homeless youth have high rates of involvement in the juvenile justice system, are more likely to engage in substance use and delinquent behavior.

Providing timely and direct interventions to homeless and runaway youth is important to protect them from the risks of living on the streets and to support positive youth development, yet despite the risks and needs of these youth, few appear to know of, and access, support services. Even more critical is addressing the family/parental needs to prevent youth and/or their families from becoming homeless and addressing their behavioral health needs through comprehensive methods that involve both youth and their families."

- *Youth.Gov (Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs)*