

CORTLAND COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES:

This internship will provide students with an opportunity to gain an understanding of the services provided to child abuse victims and their non-offending family members during a time when families are experiencing a tremendous amount of trauma. In addition, students will gain an understanding of prevention education, investigations, prosecution, fundraising, and community awareness events.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES:

Shadow the Family Advocate ...

- When a family is scheduled to visit the Center to meet with law enforcement investigators and child protective case workers surrounding the allegation of abuse.
- During pre and post meetings with law enforcement and child protective caseworkers.
- In crisis situations at the hospital or other locations.
- In the play area with children
- At court or sentencings.

Shadow the Community Outreach Educator to schools when administering the Child and Teen Safety Matters curriculum.

Shadow the Coordinator to board meetings where fundraising and community awareness events are reviewed and planned.

Assist with conducting satisfaction surveys on a monthly basis.

Assist with filling comfort bags.

Assist with filing and making up intake folders.

Assist with the Be a Star for Children Program.

Shadow and/or assist with any other duties where there is interest or a need.

By signing this document, the intern agrees to fulfill these responsibilities to the best of their ability.

Student Signature

Supervisor Signature

Email:

Phone:

Address:

EDUCATION

SUNY Cortland

Cortland, NY

August 2020 - May 2022

Pursuing Bachelor's Degree/Human Service Studies

- President's List
- Recipient of the Human Services Award for Outstanding Achievement (2021-2022)
- Tau Sigma National Honor Society Nominee

Hudson Valley Community College

Troy, NY

August 2018 - May 2020

Associates Degree/Human Services

- Dean's List

Averill Park High School

Averill Park, NY

September 2014 - June 2018

Advanced Regents Diploma

- Honor Roll
- Athlete (Volleyball), Asst. Coach (Modified Track)
- Recipient of the Everett Scholarship for GPA and interest in pursuing a career in Psychology

SKILLS & QUALITIES

- Mac & PC
- Microsoft Office
- Adobe Acrobat
- Photography
- Diligent and motivated worker
- Fast learner
- Positive and helpful attitude
- Deadline oriented

EXPERIENCE

Cortland County Child Advocacy Center

Cortland, NY

January 2022 - Present

Internship

- Responsibilities include: Shadow and observe advocates, observe intake process, assist with the *Be a Star For Children* program, facilitate the *Plant a Pinwheel Garden* awareness event. Supervise and engage with young clients.

START Children's Center

Troy, NY

May 2021 - August 2021

Asked to return as a Family Engagement Specialist

- Responsibilities included: Manning phones, checking in clients, scheduling appointments, and other administrative duties. Supervised and engaged with young clients.

EXPERIENCE (cont'd)

START Children's Center

Troy, NY

January 2020 - March 2020

Internship

- Responsibilities included: Filing cases, attending home visits, observing intakes, reception, and engaging with young clients.

South End Children's Cafe

Albany, NY

August 2019 - December 2019

Internship

- Responsibilities included: Cleaning café and play areas, assisting the kids with homework, monitoring group activities, and helping to serve dinner.

Ocean State Job Lot

Troy, NY

October 2018 - March 2020

Sales Associate

- Responsibilities included: Customer service, handling transactions, organization, and assisting the Visual Merchandising Manager with setting up displays.

Huck Finn's Playland

Albany, NY

April 2017 - August 2017

Summer Ride Operator

- Responsibilities included: Assisting and monitoring children on rides, reviewing ride operational maintenance, and ensuring all safety requirements were met.

Sushi House

West Sand Lake, NY

August 2015- February 2016

Hostess

- Responsibilities included: Manning phones, greeting & seating customers, managing take-out orders and handling transactions.

VOLUNTEER WORK

- **Roarke Center** — Assisting employees with food pantry services during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- **Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York**
- **Equinox** — Helping prepare Thanksgiving meals, since 2014
- **Troy & Wynantskill Food Pantries**
- **Sand Lake Town Library** — Assist librarian

**Cortland County Child Advocacy
Center**

60 Central Avenue, Room B36
Cortland, NY 13045
Phone (607) 753-5087 Fax (607) 753-5101

TIME SHEET

Student Name: _____ (Intern) _____

Supervisor: _____

Date	Start Time	End Time	Regular Hrs.	Total Hrs.
1/26/22	8:30	4:45	8	8
1/31/22	10:10	2:10	4	12
2/2/22	10:00	2:00	4	16
2/7/22	10:00	2:00	4	20
2/9/22	10:00	2:00	4	24
2/14/22	10:00	2:00	4	28
2/16/22	10:00	2:00	4	32
2/17/22	12:45	2:30	1:45	33:45
2/23/22	10:00	2:00	4	37:45
2/28/22	10:00	4:00	6	43:45
3/2/22	10:00	2:00	4	47:45
3/9/22	10:00	4:00	6	53:45
3/21/22	10:00	2:00	4	57:45
3/23/22	10:00	4:00	6	63:45
3/28/22	10:00	2:00	4	67:45
3/30/22	10:00	4:00	6	73:45
4/1/22	12:00	3:00	3	76:45
4/2/22	9:00	3:00	6	82:45
4/4/22	10:00	2:00	4	86:45
4/6/22	10:00	2:00	4	90:45
4/11/22	10:00	2:00	4	94:45
4/13/22	12:30	4:30	4	98:45
4/18/22	10:00	2:00	4	102:45
4/20/22	10:00	2:00	4	106:45
4/25/22	10:00	2:00	4	110:45
4/27/22	8:30	2:00	5:30	116:15
5/2/22	11:00	3:00	4	120:15

			Weekly Totals	120:45

Student signature: _____

Date: 5/2/22

Supervisor signature: _____

Date: 4-2-22

Internship Agreement Form

Human Service Studies Program at SUNY Cortland

HUS 491

As a student majoring in the B.S. in the Human Service Studies degree program, I am completing an internship with the Cortland County Child Advocacy Center during the Spring 2022 semester to secure practical experience in the field of Human Services. I agree to meet all the requirements listed below and will attempt to meet them to the best of my abilities.

1. Abide by all personnel policies and practices established by both the university and the agency where I have my internship.
2. Be prompt and conscientious in fulfilling all internship requirements established by both the university and the agency with whom I do the internship.
3. Alert my agency supervisor and/or my Human Services professor to any problems that may affect my overall performance, as soon as possible.
4. Represent the university and agency in a manner that reflects well on all parties involved with the internship.
5. Complete, in a timely fashion, all internship requirements, as outlined in the course syllabus and/or by my agency supervisor.

My signature below indicates that I have read completely, and fully comprehend the aforementioned policies and agree to abide by all of them.

Student's Printed Name

01/26/22

Date

Student's Signature

Professor Schecter
Human Services Culminating Project (HUS 491)
February 23, 2021

Project Outline

- My project will look at the significance community involvement has in a small, local agency. I will focus on the benefits of being a part of a multi-Disciplinary team, why community involvement is crucial for an agency's ability to thrive, and how the agency and the community work together to ensure both benefit from the relationship. I will also create a procedural manual for future interns and/or employees to use for the Pinwheels for Prevention awareness event.
- I will collaborate with my coworkers, supervisors, and community on the Pinwheel Garden Awareness Event. This event includes assembling pinwheel gardens, pinwheel kits for children, and promoting the sale of pinwheel gardens in the community to raise awareness against child abuse throughout the month of April. Through my first-hand experience in this community outreach event, observations, and conversations with my supervisor and fellow staff, I plan to see why community outreach is so vital for a small agency in a small town.
- January: Contact schools and start assembling pinwheel kits, February: Continue assembling pinwheel kits, Work with Scout troops to finish building them, March: Finish up any last minute pinwheel garden assemblance, Work on community connections to sell pinwheel gardens, Promote the sale of pinwheel gardens, April: Get pinwheel kits out to everyone, Work with local businesses to display pinwheel gardens, Promote pinwheel gardens throughout SUNY Cortland and educate people on their significance, May: Ask staff and supervisors questions about their opinions on how crucial community involvement is in the success of the agency, Observe at least one MDT meeting, Evaluate success of Pinwheel Garden Awareness Event
- My supervisor, _____ as well as the employees at the Cortland County Advocacy Center will be great resources and references. I may also reach out to local businesses that participate and see why purchasing pinwheel gardens is important to them.
- I'll collect the data I need to come to the conclusion of why community involvement is so imperative for this agency by interviewing my supervisor, MDT members, and members of the community.

Professor Schechter
Human Services Culminating Project (HUS 491)
March 24, 2022

Project Timeline

January 2022: Reach out to schools about class sizes, Begin assembling pinwheel kits

February 2022: Continue working on pinwheel kits

March 2022: Finish pinwheel kits, Reach out to schools and local agencies for permission regarding planting pinwheel gardens on their property, Working with local Cub Scout troops to plant pinwheel gardens at local agencies, Work on community connections to sell pinwheel gardens, Promote the sale and message of the pinwheel gardens to members of the community

April 2022: Deliver all pinwheel kits and gardens, Participate in local community events to engage children and spread information on child abuse prevention, Promote the pinwheel gardens and child abuse awareness throughout the SUNY Cortland community, Ask questions regarding community involvement, Create Pinwheel manual for future interns to reference

May 2022: Observe at least one MDT meeting, Evaluate the success of the Pinwheel Prevention Garden Awareness Event, Follow up with co-workers and supervisor on further information regarding community involvement

Professor Schechter
Human Services Culminating Project (HUS 491)
March 24, 2022

Human Services Culminating Project

The focus of my culminating project is how important community involvement is to a small-town agency. The Cortland County Child Advocacy Center provides services for local families and children in need, including but not limited to: providing a safe and kid-friendly space for forensic interviews to be conducted, connecting families to appropriate resources, offering clothing and food for every child that needs it, and raising awareness about child abuse prevention and the ways we can help children in the community. Community involvement is imperative for this agency's success because without it, the agency wouldn't have the adequate supplies and support they need to uphold their dedication to helping children.

One of the major factors in community involvement is connecting with the community through events. In 2014, the CAC put together their first ever community event. This event focused on what abusers look for in children and some rather intimidating statistics. The agency quickly realized that in order for members of the community to engage with them, they needed to shed their services in a more optimistic light. The CAC then started to share information on how they help families and what they need from the community to help these families to the best of their ability. Instead of focusing on the horrors of child abuse, they put a more positive spin on how you can help these children and the services the agency provides to children who have experienced abuse. Cortland county has the seventh highest amount of child abuse cases in the state. This startling statistic demands the agency raise awareness and make members of the community aware of how they can help.

The Pinwheels for Prevention event is a great way to raise awareness without frightening anyone. It sheds positive light on the agency and encourages people to purchase and plant

pinwheels without the sadness that surrounds the issue of child abuse. The CAC wanted to connect with kids in the community so they decided to set up coloring stations at their community events. Unfortunately, they had to compete with the Girl Scout table that were having kids decorate cookies. The CAC then switched to creating sensory bottles with the kids, so they not only had a hands on project, they had something to bring home and use in times of distress or discomfort. While the kids made the sensory bottles, they also got the opportunity to learn about the agency and what exactly the agency does. Thanks to the agency's ability to adapt and learn from past mistakes, they are now widely recognized throughout the community and with each passing year, more and more people show up to awareness events.

A crucial piece of community involvement is inclusivity. The CAC has endless opportunities for volunteers based on their skills and interests. For example, the CAC went around to local nutrition centers and spoke with the elderly population about what the agency does and how the elderly can help kids in need. The agency then received an influx of quilts, knitted hats, scarves, and gloves, blankets, and countless other hand-made treasures. The CAC recognizes the challenges of involving all members of the community and by allowing them to volunteer or donate something that they enjoy, they make volunteer work fun.

The one population in the community that the CAC struggles to connect with are the college students. The agency has a difficult time maintaining connections with the community as a whole. They make temporary connections through interns but once the interns leave, the connection dissipates. Most of the students don't even know what a child advocacy center is or what they do so it's hard to get the message across when you don't have a strong connection already formed within the college community. My supervisor, _____, has worked with certain SUNY Cortland classes and programs on small projects but she struggles to spread

information across the campus. Due to restrictions, rules, and a lack of consistent connections, it's incredibly difficult to promote the agency or find volunteers. _____ has tried to get pinwheel gardens planted on campus, but SUNY Cortland is incredibly strict about what can be displayed on campus grounds. Some solutions I offered are connecting with residence halls to put up flyers and posters about outreach events, getting a table at a club fair, reaching out to clubs directly for volunteer opportunities, and seeking approval for flyers to be posted in public buildings around campus so more there's the possibility for greater exposure.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a unique set of problems for the CAC. Since children weren't going to school, going to doctor's appointments, or really leaving their house, there weren't any mandated reporters to protect and report abuse. Teachers couldn't see them in person so the agency decided to educate doctors, daycare centers, and teachers with the program "If you see something, say something". This way, members of the community who are in some sort of contact with children and their families are aware of the signs of child abuse, neglect, and maltreatment. The New York State Children's Alliance (NYSCA) also provided the agency with literature to distribute to doctor's offices, daycare centers, and teachers. There was a span of two months during the pandemic where the agency had no reports of child abuse because there was no one to report it. During this time, the agency set out to engage with families already enrolled in services and see if they needed any assistance. The agency also began virtual art classes for clients and would drop off the art supplies to them in a safe and contact-free way.

Fundraising and community awareness events also needed a different approach due to the pandemic. In previous years, local stores would sell pinwheels to customers but this stopped because of COVID. This caused the agency to switch to selling pinwheel gardens instead and have found great success in doing so. Every year, child advocacy centers have a 5K event where

people come out to run and donate to the cause. One of the employees at the Cortland County Child Advocacy Center came up with the idea of a virtual 5K during the pandemic to avoid a big crowd of people. They pitched the idea to the NYSCA and they loved it. The NYSCA also launched their 'One Child Abused is One Too Many' to coincide with the mission of raising awareness on child abuse. Another way to raise awareness during the pandemic was by wearing blue during April to honor child abuse awareness month and take a picture to spread the word. One huge benefit of holding an awareness event is that the agency can expand on the events, schedule them for the same day every year so people in the community become accustomed to it and look forward to it. The consistency allows for members of the community to tell their friends and family about it and bring more people together to spread awareness.

Since the agency receives a majority of its spending money through grant funding, it's important to have fundraising events to cover the costs that are restricted by allotted spending with grants. Their 'Be a Star For Children' fundraising event is a way for people to donate money for children to be able to attend summer camp, afford horseback riding lessons, or another activity that the child may not have been able to otherwise experience. It's important to offer these kinds of services as a cathartic and healing way for children to make friends and have something to look forward to after everything they've had to endure. This program and the 5K event are the only major fundraising events the CAC partake in. They prefer community events because it's less demanding and time consuming and allows for more community engagement. The CAC only has six employees so it's much easier to take on a table at a local festival than it is to put together an entire fundraiser.

The Cortland community is also incredibly supportive when the agency is in need. The CAC started their own Facebook page and whenever they post about items and/or supplies they

need, they always receive an influx of donations and support. Partner agencies support and share the CAC's mission statement and passion for helping and local libraries love to host awareness events for the children. The CAC also provides teacher and mandated reporter trainings on what signs to be aware of regarding child abuse. Another helpful thing the CAC does is reassure school social workers that hot lining a report doesn't mean the child is going to suffer. The agency brings in school social workers and shows them the child-friendly atmosphere of the center and assures them that these children are in a safe environment throughout the investigation process. Some school social workers or mandated reporters hesitate to report something because they don't want to disrupt the child's life unless they deem it's absolutely necessary. The agency reminds them that these reports are necessary, and it's not up to you to make the decision of whether or not to report it. As mandated reporters, you're legally obligated to report any suspicions or signs of child abuse. Ever since the agency has been doing this, there has been an increase in the number of reported cases of child abuse in Cortland county.

The Cortland County Child Advocacy Center not only relies on the Cortland community for support, but the partner agencies that encompass the multi-Disciplinary team as well. One of the major benefits of being part of a multi-Disciplinary team is being united. All the agencies express the same message and support to families in need. Everyone is always on the same page. They all generously share resources and information, to ensure everyone gets the help they need and deserve. They have a deep trust and mutual respect for one another. Multi-disciplinary teams allow for a smooth transition in services. If an advocate hears something crucial from a victim or a victim's family, they make sure to inform law enforcement and CPS workers on the case. One issue that arises between the agencies are the discrepancies of rules and regulations within the agencies. Some agencies can't share certain information with others due to departmental

stipulations. CPS and law enforcement may not always overlap with certain procedures and rules. This may cause some confusion, but each agency serves to be transparent with one another and always informs the other when there may be an issue. The monthly MDT meetings also serve as a constructive way to express issues and concerns in a professional manner. All agencies always provide clarification, so no one feels as if another agency is keeping something from them. This is a huge part of an agency's success. By having fellow agencies that express the same message as you, communicate with you through an investigation, and serve as a united front, you have a strong foundation of human service agencies that can make a real difference in the community.

I was given the responsibility to essentially take over the Pinwheel Prevention awareness event. I have been reaching out to local schools and agencies to communicate when we can drop the kits off to the children. The local scout troops have volunteered to plant pinwheel gardens at various agencies throughout Cortland County and surrounding areas. It's been remarkable to see how helpful and supportive this community is to the agency. They recognize the significance of the child advocacy center and do everything in their power to help them flourish. While there's still a need for more people to become aware of what exactly a child advocacy center does and what their purpose is, it's still a strong start. I didn't expect the Cortland community to be so receptive and helpful towards the CAC. The more I've spoken to members of the CAC and members of the community, I realize how beneficial this relationship is on both sides. They both need each other. Without the support of the community, the CAC wouldn't be able to raise money, spread awareness, and expand. On the flip side, without the CAC, the community wouldn't have a safe haven for children who have experienced abuse or even know how drastic the issue is in their community. The Cortland County Child Advocacy center needs the support

of their community. I can't begin to explain how heartwarming it is to see just how supportive this town really is.

My culminating project involved community involvement as well as creating a pinwheel procedural manual for future interns and/or employees to follow to make the process more efficient and time effective. The manual was pretty simple, all I did was assemble step-by-step instructions for every part of the project. The first step was contacting local UPK schools and getting a headcount for each classroom and make sure you have the correct number of classrooms. Then you need to make the individual pinwheel parts. This includes cutting, hole punching, and slicing paper, hole punching straws and placing brass fasteners in them. You then need to make the class pinwheel kits. You need to make kits consisting of a coloring book, stickers, crayons, individual pinwheel supplies, signs, and pinwheels for the school. I included an updated contact sheet of the local UPK classrooms for them to refer to. The next step is reaching out to the Cub Scouts. I was unsuccessful in having the Cub Scouts assist assembling the pinwheel kits but they helped the agency out by planting pinwheel gardens at local agencies all over Cortland. I provided email information, and an email template to follow to ensure professionalism. The last step is to reach out to local agencies to receive permission to plant the pinwheel gardens in front of their place of business. There is a list of contact information for the intern or employee to refer to as well.

My procedural manual didn't take up much time, I completed it in a day. The hard part was actually putting together the Pinwheels for Prevention event. It felt like every time I turned around, there were more pinwheel related things assigned to me. I found it very monotonous and boring. There's only so many times you can assemble pinwheels and pinwheel kits before you get sick of them. I craved more challenging tasks but the agency only has so much you can do.

While my interactions with clients were few and far between, I still cherished them. It was nice to see the agency in action (so to speak). Does the CAC have their flaws? Sure. But who doesn't? I learned what I like about a potential employer and what I don't like and those are important things to consider when searching for a job. I've never interned at a child advocacy center in such a small area before so I did enjoy seeing how it operates within Cortland county. Some days were definitely slower than others, but the entire experience left me yearning for more. I wanted something more substantial, working with the population more or just having other things to observe and do that weren't related to pinwheels. I take full responsibility for how my internship experience panned out. I have a voice and I could've worked harder to ensure that I was learning new things or doing something different. I just never knew how to approach my supervisor about it. I felt that _____ and I communicated better at the beginning of the internship but once the fundraising and awareness events started taking shape, it was hard to sit down and talk with her. I'm glad that I could provide future interns and/or employees with a procedural manual to help guide them through the madness of Pinwheels for Prevention. I think I did a great job of laying out every step in an organized and concise manner. It's incredibly easy to follow, I just wish I had this manual when I began the pinwheel project.

Human Services Culminating Project (HUS 491)

Professor Schechter

2/8/22

Bi-Weekly Journal Entry 1

My first couple of weeks at the Cortland County Child Advocacy Center have gone well.

On my first day, _____ (my supervisor) went over some basic information about the agency in general. I shadowed my co-worker, _____; as she made a few follow-up calls with clients. The follow-up calls were to see if some clients would be interested in attending a virtual creative art class through the agency. I then spent some time watching a coworker (who is a school educator) give a virtual presentation on how to be safe online. I spoke with _____ about possible project ideas and we decided I will help facilitate the annual pinwheel garden awareness event. This event raises awareness on child abuse and all proceeds go to the agency. I will make phone calls to local schools and agencies to get an accurate number on how many kits they will need. The local elementary schools and agencies on the MDT receive kits for free but everyone else has to pay for them. Most of my tasks have been centered around putting these kits together and networking to ensure we sell as many pinwheel gardens as possible. I will need to work on making connections at Cortland and with Cortland students to ensure we get the word out on the pinwheel gardens. One thing that I found interesting was the statistic that there was an increase in the number of children between the ages of 13 and 17 who were abused starting in 2017. . . and I discussed this and theorized that the increase could be attributed to the Me-Too movement that received a high amount of media coverage at about the same time. I've been contacting agencies and schools to get a number on how many students they have. I feel like I've been doing anything that needs an extra set of hands. Whether it be helping make a flyer for the virtual art class, bagging crayons, folding socks, entering names into Excel spreadsheets, or assembling

Human Services Culminating Project (HUS 491)
Professor Schecter
2/24/22

Bi-Weekly Journal Entry 2

My internship has been going well. I'm struggling a bit to set a concrete date and time for the scout troops to help assemble pinwheel kits but I'm hoping to sort that out next week. I've been putting together free pinwheel kits for the local UPK programs and organizing the kits so we know which ones belong to which school. I got the opportunity to shadow an advocate in court last week. Unfortunately, I couldn't go in the actual courtroom due to COVID guidelines but I still got to meet _____, the emotional support dog and offer support to the client and her family. I'm glad that I have my project sorted out. I hope to learn more about the significance of community involvement with small town human service agencies. Since the CCCAC is so understaffed, they have to rely on the community in times of need. I think that relationship will be interesting to observe. Since I'm only in the office a couple days a week, I have my supervisor a list of dates and times that I'm available in case there's a court appearance or a forensic interview. I hope to learn more about these aspects of the human service field and that when the opportunity arises, I will be contacted to shadow and observe. This internship is definitely much slower paced than my previous internships, but I enjoy learning more about my coworkers and collaborating with scout leaders in the community. I've never done anything like this so I'm eager to learn about the process of community engagement. My coworkers have been incredibly nice and helpful so far. Some days feel a little monotonous, but I don't mind it. Assembling the pinwheel kits and making sure all of the little moving parts are in place get a bit tedious, but I enjoy the routine. Hopefully I'll be able to shadow a forensic interview in the weeks to come and

Human Services Culminating Project (HUS 491)

Professor Schechter

3/12/22

Bi-Weekly Journal Entry 3

The past two weeks at my internship have been somewhat eventful. I got the opportunity to shadow my first forensic interview intake. The case involved a mother who was supposedly selling drugs to her fourteen-year-old daughter's friends. The mother then said that her daughter's father (they are separated) touches her inappropriately. The mother, daughter, and little sister came in. I was with my coworker, _____, completing paperwork with the mother and little sister. While I mainly entertained the little girl and played with her, I still listened in on how the intake process was executed. One major mistake I noticed was that _____ filled out all the information she could before she sat down with the client's mother. _____ based it off the CPS reports and police reports she received. It turns out that she had the client's last name completely wrong. _____ proceeded to apologize and white out her mistake. The agency doesn't have that many interviews where you need to save time by filling in paperwork ahead of time. The whole reason you complete an intake with the family is to guarantee you have the correct spelling and information. How are clients supposed to trust you with their children when you can't even take the time to make sure you have the correct last name? That really stuck out to me. It was nice to be able to interact with clients. I really miss that. I've still been working on assembling pin wheel kits and sort of orchestrating that event. I was frustrated with the cub scout troops because I reached out to them over a month ago about finding a good day and time that worked best for everyone and when we finally agreed on a date and time, only two scouts were actually available. We decided to schedule for an other day and they will help plant pin wheel gardens at local agencies. Sometimes I feel a little overwhelmed when my supervisor does because it feels

Human Services Culminating Project (HUS 491)

Professor Schechter

4/31/22

Bi-Weekly Journal Entry 4

The past few weeks at my internship have been filled incredibly busy. Things were chaotic at the end of March because we are all rushing to finish pinwheel related things. I was a little confused when my coworkers created a different system to complete pinwheel kits but I got the hang of it and really appreciated all the help from them. I felt as if maybe I wasn't doing enough or what I did wasn't what they wanted but my supervisor gave me a thank you card and a water bottle and it really meant the world to me. She didn't need to do it but it really helped me feel appreciated and make all my hard work worth it. When a coworker and I went to drop off the pinwheel kits to the schools, some of them had a different number of students than we had originally recorded so we had to make some alterations. I'm not sure if that was a mistake on my end, a coworker, or the school but I felt embarrassed that we weren't all on the same page. Kris has since asked me to make a pinwheel procedural manual so the next intern that helps with the project will have clear instructions. I was excited that she tasked me with this because I think it will be helpful to interns and everyone in the agency to have a manual to have in case you ever need it. This will also be a great addition to my culminating project. Another big moment at my internship was the forensic interview I shadowed on March 30th. The mother of the client was really distressed and is going through more than I could ever imagine. She's seeing a multitude of different therapists to help her but it's clear she just needed to vent about her situation. It took everything I had not to burst into tears. This was the first time I had ever heard what's happening to a client, straight from the client. The system has failed her several times and the fact that she's still trying so her daughter can hopefully be in a better situation is so incredibly brave. Some of

Human Services Culminating Project (HUS 491)
Professor Schecter
4/27/22

Internship Journal Entry 5

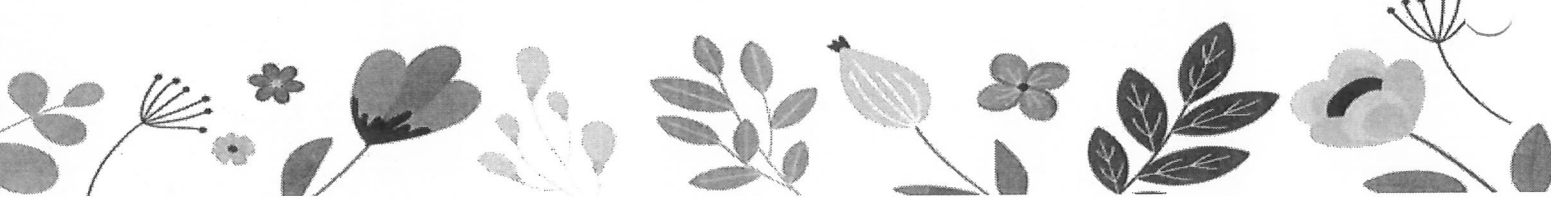
The past few weeks at my internship haven't been very noteworthy. I'm still continuing to work on pinwheel related things. I've been assembling pinwheels for next year's event. Since April is Child Abuse Prevention Awareness month, the agency has been doing all sorts of different events in the Cortland community. One of these events includes advocates going to local libraries and teaching kids about different ways to keep yourself safe. Unfortunately, when I shadowed an advocate at the library, no one came. It was still a worthwhile experience though, because I got to meet the librarian and learn about her experiences in Cortland. I shadowed another intake process and was sad to see the client so upset. She was crying because she was worried she'd get someone in trouble and the forensic interviewers assured her that nothing bad would happen and we're here to help her. She brightened up a bit and then the forensic interview went well, although I'm not sure if she disclosed anything. I haven't been seeing my supervisor as much because she had been on vacation for a week and our hours didn't seem to overlap. I'm planning on speaking with her this week about my overall experience at the internship. Ever since I finished preparing all the pinwheel kits, I feel very bored and underwhelmed at my agency. I find myself not having substantial things to do and even the intakes for the forensic interviews seem to be all the same (with the exception of the one I previously wrote about). I wish I got the chance to work more with the actual clients and have more interactions. Today I got the opportunity to interact with a seven year old boy with hyperactive disorder and a social disorder. I was a hyperactive child and I had a blast playing with him. While he was easily distracted, he had so much energy and really made my day. I think kids who are hyperactive get

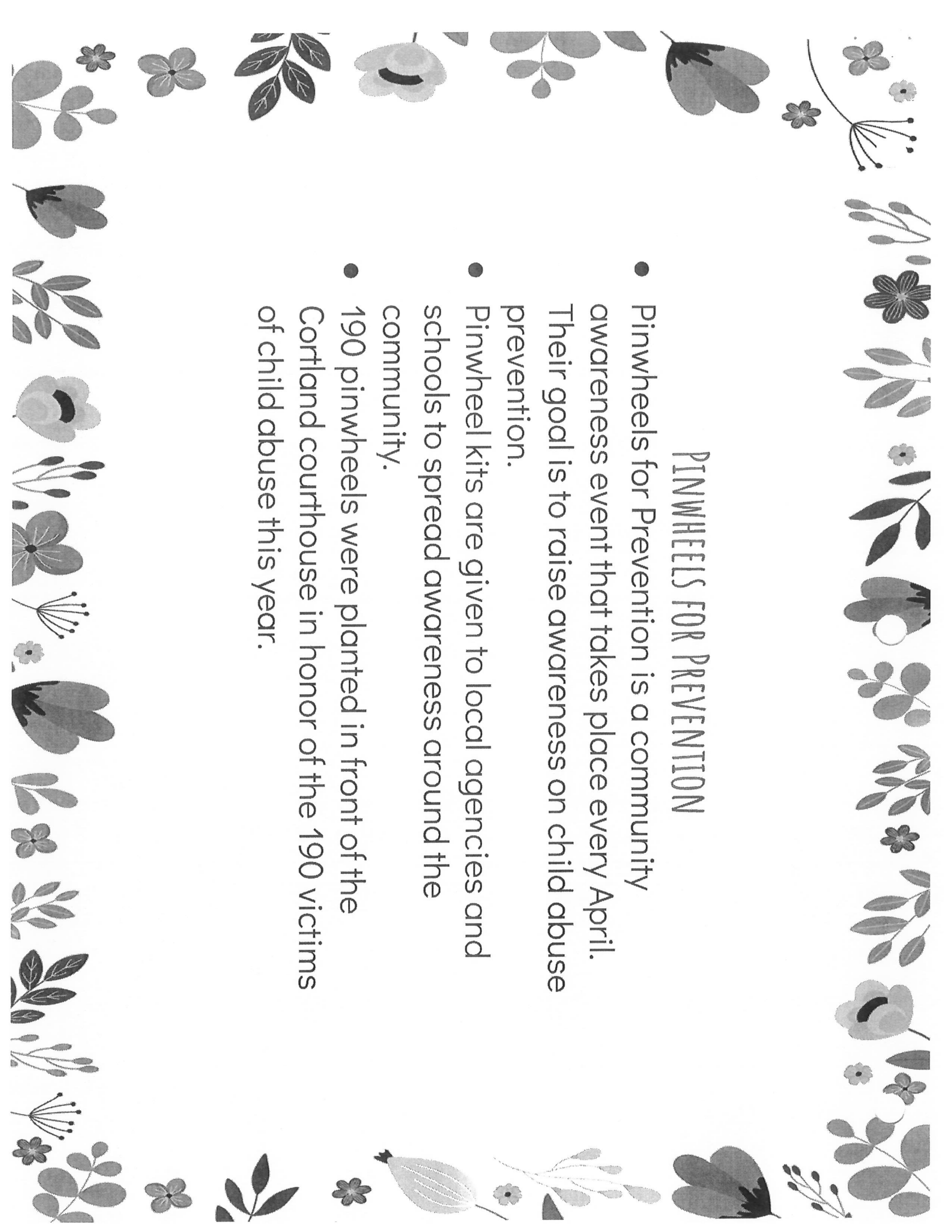
Cortland County CAC - 2012-2018 Statistical Summary

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
Victim: Female	79	100	110	100	90	99	143	137	134	121	1113
Victim: Male	56	74	55	49	42	42	54	71	71	69	583
Victim: TOTAL	135	174	165	149	132	141	197	208	205	190	1696
Victim: 0-6 yrs old	56	86	76	52	50	42	63	62	55	70	612
Victim: 7-12 yrs old	40	50	50	54	42	48	57	75	67	68	551
Victim: 13-18+ yrs old	39	38	39	43	40	50	77	71	83	52	532
Suspect: Parent	38	112	70	53	16	27	37	50	40	45	488
Suspect: Step-Parent	6	21	14	9	3	3	6	3	5	6	76
Suspect: Other Relative	29	45	54	30	22	29	41	44	45	42	381
Suspect: Parent's Boy/Girlfriend	8	26	17	13	8	12	14	13	11	6	128
Suspect: Other Known Person	43	20	35	26	48	40	69	74	77	44	476
Suspect: Unknown	2	5	0	5	7	6	6	1	13	2	654
Suspect: <13 yrs old	6	6	15	12	20	17	29	28	36	30	199
Suspect: 13-17 yrs old	9	6	17	12	21	20	26	26	61	42	240
Suspect: 18+ yrs old	51	117	85	76	53	76	111	120	130	108	511
Suspect: Unknown Age	31	19	0	2	4	2	1	1	3	0	63
Abuse: Sexual	106	106	108	108	109	122	174	194	176	130	1333
Abuse: Physical	25	30	24	23	26	29	37	23	20	24	261
Abuse: Neglect	13	56	36	16	8	10	19	11	3	12	184
Abuse: Witness to Violence	0	9	27	29	0	6	16	11	8	24	130
Abuse: Drug Endangerment	0	4	6	9	5	15	38	21	14	11	123
Abuse: Other	12	10	20	15	0	0	4	0	0	0	61
Race: White	128	149	143	131	122	131	177	184	191	168	1524
Race: Black/African American	1	12	11	6	0	1	4	8	4	1	48
Race: Hispanic/Latino	0	0	6	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	11
Race: Am Indian/Alaska Native	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Race: Asian/Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Race: Other	6	12	4	12	10	6	14	16	9	18	107
Victim: Medical Exam	18	31	52	50	37	30	46	41	15	18	338
Victim: Enrolled in Counseling	0	6	42	83	53	47	42	49	109	58	489
Victim: Referred to Counseling	8	90	87	64	96	108	98	102	47	39	739
Forensic Interview: On-site	77	101	118	101	110	100	114	142	92	103	1058
Forensic Interview: Off-site	39	51	36	39	15	36	44	44	29	26	359
% of Interviews On-site	66%	62%	77%	72%	88%	74%	72%	76%	76%	80%	75%
CPS: Founded	23	28	36	18	36	7	38	78	55	57	376
CPS: Admin Closure	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
CPS: Moved	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
CPS: Unable to Determine	0	6	27	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	46
CPS: Unfounded/Ruled Out	55	86	37	49	62	61	100	33	77	74	634
CPS: Other	13	13	18	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
LE: # of suspects charged	13	11	27	18	29	24	39	42	38	21	262
DA: # of Cases Accepted	13	11	20	17	32	22	34	40	54	23	266
DA: # of Convictions	1	0	5	1	4	3	0	2	0	0	16
DA: # of Pleas	5	1	5	4	6	10	9	21	22	22	105
DA: # of Acquittals	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	3	3	11



WHAT IS THE CORTLAND COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER?

- The Cortland County Child Advocacy Center is an agency that focuses on minimizing the trauma children experience when disclosing abuse.
 - The CAC is a “community organization dedicated to the prevention, education, and investigation of child abuse” (Cortland County Child Advocacy Center, 2022).
 - They provide supportive services to families such as assisting with food, housing, transportation, clothing, childcare, and any other emergency needs.
- 

A decorative border of various floral and leaf motifs in shades of gray surrounds the central text. The motifs include different types of flowers, leaves, and stems, creating a continuous floral frame.

PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION

- Pinwheels for Prevention is a community awareness event that takes place every April. Their goal is to raise awareness on child abuse prevention.
- Pinwheel kits are given to local agencies and schools to spread awareness around the community.
- 190 pinwheels were planted in front of the Cortland courthouse in honor of the 190 victims of child abuse this year.

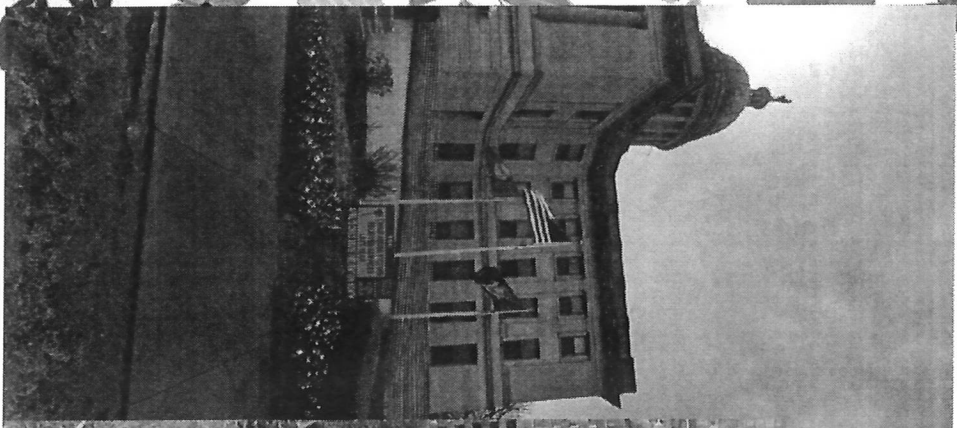
PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION (CONT.)

My culminating project was to run the Pinwheels for Prevention event this year. My responsibilities included (but were not limited to):

- Reaching out to local schools for information about class sizes
- Assembling the individual parts of the pinwheel kit as well as the class pinwheel kits
- Distributing pinwheel kits to the local UPK classrooms
- Creating a procedural manual for future interns to follow



PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION (CONT.)



Child Advocacy Center
Ochland County
Mississippi

A community organization dedicated to the prevention, education, and investigation of child abuse.

Multidisciplinary Team

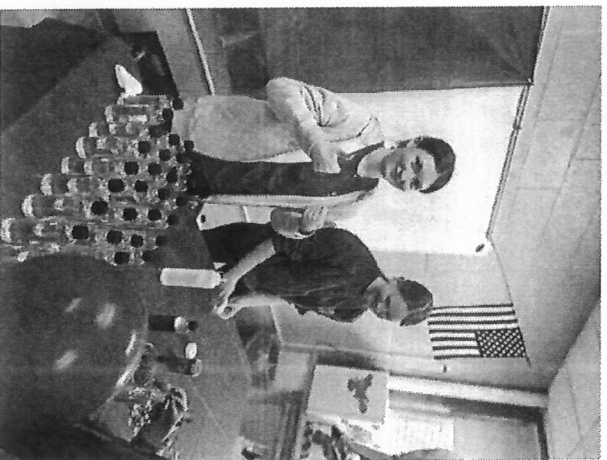
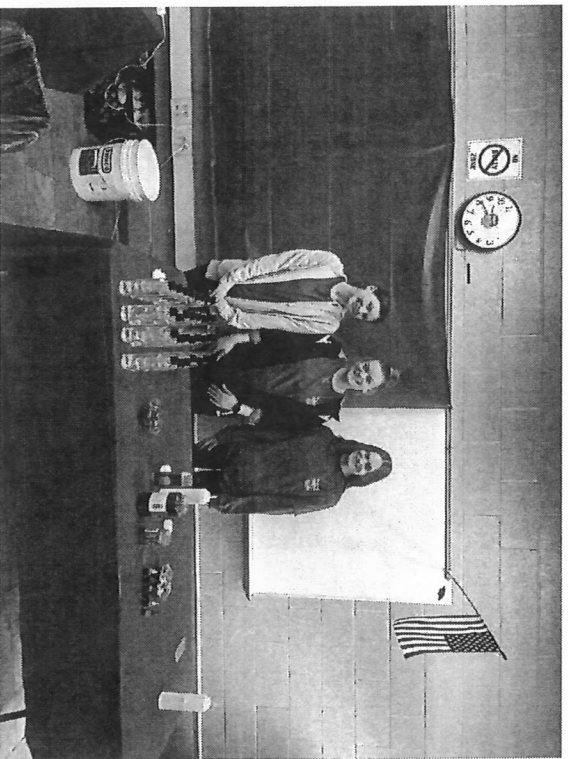
With the District Attorney's Office, the law enforcement, medical, professional, social work, and mental health professionals provide high quality specialized services for abused children and their family members.


A 501(c)(3) corporation that supports and provides community centers of the Child Advocacy Center by organizing and fundraising events.

1126316
www.childadvocacycenter.org

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND INVOLVEMENT

Another aspect of my culminating project included examining the significance of community involvement with a small-town agency. The Pinwheels for Prevention event shed light on this as well as the Marathon Maple Fest.



A decorative border of various floral and leaf motifs in shades of gray surrounds the page. The motifs include small five-petaled flowers, larger flowers with dark centers, and various types of leaves and stems.

MY EXPERIENCE AT THE CAC

- While the majority of my time at the CAC revolved around pinwheels, I got the opportunity to shadow a few forensic interview intakes.
- I also got the chance to witness community involvement first hand at various events and fundraisers.
- I was lucky enough to sit with a family in the waiting room while they were in the process of testifying at the courthouse.