



From “Heinous roots” of Sandusky serial child sexual abuse, blossoms of funding and services for victimized children

PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency awards another \$1.7 million in Endowment Funding

December 16th – Pennsylvania’s recently elected [Attorney General Josh Shapiro](#) put protecting children and the work of Pennsylvania’s Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) front-and-center in this week’s news cycles.¹

First, Shapiro announced Thursday that when he takes the oath of office in January; his top deputy will be long time Bucks County prosecutor, Michelle A. Henry.²

Henry, who has served in the Bucks County District Attorney’s office since 1995 and even stepped up to serve as the county’s DA for 2 years, has had success in the courtroom across a range of criminal cases. Most recently, Henry helped lead the prosecution that resulted in the conviction of former Attorney General Kathleen Kane. Henry is also widely known and respected for her expertise at prosecuting violence against children and working with key partners (e.g., child welfare, victim services, law enforcement, mental health providers) toward reducing the trauma experienced by a child during a child abuse investigation. Henry was a key partner in the establishment of Bucks County Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC). Bucks County accomplished what other counties have struggled with – navigating what can be a tenuous give-and-take among diverse partners with different roles in the child protection arena.

After announcing Henry’s appointment as First Deputy Attorney General, Shapiro next stepped into his role as Chair of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD).

Shapiro announced that Thursday PCCD had approved \$1.7 million in funding for programs, including CACs.

Funding linked to Penn State/NCAA Settlement Agreement

Thursday’s announced funding to aid victims of child sexual abuse is possible because of the January 2015 settlement agreement between Penn State and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). This settlement was secured following intense legal battles (by multiple parties) in the wake of revelations that Jerry Sandusky, a former Penn State football coach, had serially sexually assaulted children.

¹ <https://www.joshshapiro.org/>

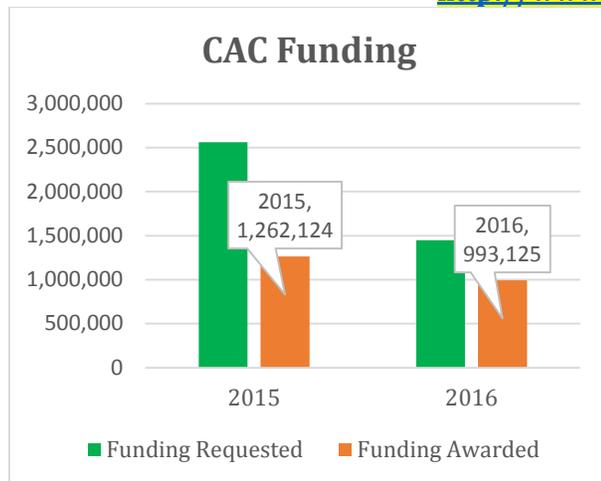
² <https://www.joshshapiro.org/2016/12/ag-elect-josh-shapiro-appoints-first-deputy/>

As part of that settlement agreement, Penn State agreed to direct a total of \$60 million “to activities and programs for the prevention of child sexual abuse and the treatment of victims of child sexual abuse.”³ Of that amount then \$48 million was provided to the Commonwealth and the remaining \$12 million was retained by the university to underwrite costs associated with its own self-directed child protection research and initiatives.

During Thursday’s announcement of the Endowment funding Shapiro underscored, “These funds have their roots in the heinous acts committed by Jerry Sandusky but today is a day to be hopeful. Today we took

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Below is a chart highlighting services and/or initiatives expected to be funded in 2017 within the CAC category:

³ <http://www.ncaa.org/about/resources/media-center/news/ncaa-reaches-proposed-settlement-corman-lawsuit>