

Le Bonheur's Child Assessment Program (CAP) evaluates children entering our hospital who are possible victims of child abuse and neglect. The team consists of Program Director Susan Steppe, Medical Director Karen Lakin, MD, social worker Latoya Belgrave and nurse practitioner Ashley Wiederhold. Patients are referred to CAP by other physicians and social workers in the hospital who are concerned that a child's current injuries may be the result of maltreatment. When children are referred, the team performs medical and psycho-social assessments of those children and their families. A key aspect of the teams' job is to determine when reporting to child welfare and law enforcement authorities is appropriate and to follow-up with those authorities to ensure safe discharge for children. Additionally, the team identifies services in the community that can strengthen families and provides referrals to those services.

Le Bonheur's development and support of the CAP team is at the heart of our efforts to bring attention and focus to the issue of child maltreatment and to work with families and other agencies to bring about good outcomes for children in our community.

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