

InterConnections

linking the ties that bind

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State Office Message

Since this is the first issue of *InterConnections* this year it is full of information! Please take the time to read it and pass it along to staff when you are done, there is something here for everyone. It has been a busy year so far with a new reporting system in place, exciting and innovative ideas for the future, and new partnerships abound, ANCAC is continually paving the way for a better tomorrow for Alabama's youth.

As many of you know we have received funding from the Verizon Foundation that enables us to partner with the Internet Crimes Against Children's Task Force to implement a series 'train the trainer' sessions which will expand the current number of professionals in Alabama providing Internet safety awareness to generations young and old. We are so excited to begin this process, it is utterly crucial to reach our pre-teen and teenage clients surrounding this issue. The Governor has joined in the efforts of four organizations to provide such awareness by naming October 10th "Internet Safety Day in Alabama". During the press conference Governor Riley said:

It used to be that when your child came home from school each day you could lock the door behind them and know that they were safe. But that's not the case anymore. If you have Internet access in your home, the bullies, the thieves and the predators can all be there, too

We know the effects of this epidemic all too well, thanks to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, we have access to an interactive presentation that was developed for varying age groups and community members that explains what it means to be safe on the Internet. We will gain knowledge of the NetSmartz curricula from the ICAC Task Force trainers as well as tips from personal experiences.

As we end the quarter there are important dates just around the corner so please take note of those as you scan the newsletter. If you forget to jot them down, no worries, just check the ANCAC calendar online at: <http://www.alabamacacs.org/ANCAC-Online/> to see when the next meeting or training is scheduled.

Finally, I hope that everyone has a wonderful Christmas and the Happiest New Year. The state office will be closed for the holidays from December 22 - 29 then $\frac{1}{2}$ day on the 31st through Monday January 5.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

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Just to remind you...

- Quarterly Reporting deadline is **January 10, 2009**.
- Next ANCAC Board of Directors Meeting is 10:30 a.m. **January 13, 2009** at the US Attorney's Office Conference Room, 131 Sayre St. in Montgomery
- Please send us pictures and articles about happenings at or in honor of your center
- You can call us toll-free: **1-888-848-3468**



ANCAC Board Meetings 2008-2009

Executive Committee meetings begin at 2 p.m. at The Network office unless otherwise stated.

Monday, Jan. 12

Monday, April 20

Monday, July 20

Monday, Sept. 21

Board meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. at The Network office unless otherwise stated.

Tuesday, Jan. 13 *US Attorney's Office*

Tuesday, April 21

Tuesday, July 21

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Legislative Update



MONTGOMERY, AL., (WSFA) -- Governor Bob Riley announced a Deficit Prevention Plan that includes a hiring freeze on state workers, a freeze on state employee merit pay raises, stopping the purchase of new state vehicles and other measures. The Deficit Prevention Plan includes cuts of 10 percent in the current fiscal year to state agencies and - with the withdrawal of half of the amount available from the Rainy Day Fund for education - an effective proration rate of nine percent in the education budget.

Reduce agency spending: The Governor will use his authority under the Budget Management Act to reduce state spending by 10 percent in state agencies funded out of the General Fund. This will reduce spending in these agencies by about \$200 million in the current fiscal year.

Proration in education: The Governor declared proration in the education budget of 12.5 percent. Proration is the process of cutting spending when revenues fall short of expectations. However, the amount of proration will be lessened with the use of some of the Rainy Day Fund for education.

Limit proration with Rainy Day Fund: The Governor is withdrawing \$218 million from the education Rainy Day Fund to lessen the impact of proration. The use of the \$218 million will result in an effective proration rate of nine percent.

We do not know yet how the proration will affect the Network however, the changes to the general fund take effect as of January 1, 2009. We plan to discuss this issue after the first of the year once we know more.

Continuing Your Education in the Workplace

SAVE THE DATE

SRCAC 2009 Core Training Calendar

Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend training that addresses issues for CAC directors, CAC staff and the multidisciplinary team.

- **Forensic Interviewing of Children**

Feb. 2-6, 2009

April 20-24, 2009

- **Advanced Forensic Interviewer Training**

April 27-30, 2009

- **Forensic Evaluation**

Feb. 18-20, 2009

- **25th National Symposium on Child Abuse**

March 23-26, 2009 CEU's will be offered—please visit www.nationalcac.org for more details

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CAC Training and Technical Assistance for Communities ESTABLISHING and STRENGTHENING Children's Advocacy Centers

More information is available online at www.srcac.org, click on training.

Network Neighborhood News

ANCAC submitted the following reports or applications to various entities during this quarter:

Southern Regional CAC: Chapter Training and Technical Assistance Grant report (2008), [Dec. 11](#)

Chapter Survey, [Oct. 10](#)

Children's First Plan of Investment: Budgeted Service Statistics (Fiscal Year 2008), [Oct. 10](#)

DHR / CFTF 4th Quarter Report (and Final), [Oct. 20](#)

DHR / CFTF 1st Quarter Request for Funds, [Oct. 20](#)

Executive Budget Office: Budget Request (Fiscal Year 2009), [Nov. 1](#)

SMART Office: 4th Quarter Performance Statistics, [Oct. 17](#)

SMART Final Report FY 06-07, [Oct. 17](#)

Operations Plan (Fiscal Year 2008), [Sept. 9](#)

Budget Request (Fiscal Year 2009), [Nov. 1](#)

National Children's Alliance: Chapter Development Grant Application (Calendar Year 2009), [Oct. 06](#)

Chapter Support Grant Application (Calendar Year 2009), [Oct. 15](#)

Chapter Survey, [Oct. 13](#)

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs: 4th Quarter Report, [Oct. 15](#)

September Request for Funds, [Oct. 15](#)

Recent activities and meetings:

James M. Barrie Center: Sarah Wilhite and staff, ANCAC Reporting Training

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs: Rachel Sims, meeting

Child Protect: Jannah Bailey, meeting

VOICES for Advocacy: James Dupree, workshop (NRCA)

Children's Justice Task Force: Mini-Grant Review, meeting

James Randolph, CPA: Annual audit

Steering Committee Meeting: Office of the Attorney General, meeting

ANCAC Fundraising Training: Cym Doggett, Mona Watson, James Dupree, ANCAC Fundraising Training

Verizon Foundation: Governor Bob Riley and Verizon Foundation Executives, Press Conference

Alabama Civil Justice Foundation: Sue McInnish, meeting

Internet Safety Day in Alabama - December 10, 2008

MONTGOMERY - Governor Bob Riley proclaimed Wednesday "Internet Safety Day" and announced that the Verizon Foundation is awarding grants of almost \$60,000 to programs that protect Alabamians, particularly children, when they get online.

"There have always been bullies. There have always been thieves. There have always been predators out there who seek to harm our children. It used to be that when your child came home from school each day you could lock the door behind them and know that they were safe. But that's not the case anymore. If you have Internet access in your home, the bullies, the thieves and the predators can all be there, too," Governor Riley said during a ceremony at the State Capitol on Wednesday.

The Governor said that in a world where children can go online and be instantly connected with strangers, parents need to set rules on Internet usage and talk to their children about online safety.

But he also pointed out: "Internet safety isn't just for kids. Everyone of all ages must be vigilant when they get on the Internet because everyone can be a target." Governor Riley said that means making sure you don't give out personal information to strangers on the Internet, that you contact authorities if you're sent material that is obscene or inappropriate, and if you receive an email with an offer that's too good to be true, "it is. Delete it."

"Society will never realize the full promise of broadband technology unless we make it a safe and secure environment for commerce, communications and, most of all, for kids. That's why it's critical to Verizon's future that we play an active role in helping," said Michelle Robinson, Verizon's Senior Vice President of the Southeast Region

The grants awarded by Verizon's philanthropic arm to four nonprofit organizations will be used to promote Internet safety in Alabama. Grant recipients are:



From left to right: Jeff Mango, President, GA/AL, Verizon Wireless, Tim Birt, Jannah Bailey, Governor Bob Riley, Lynn Hart, JJ Moody, Mary English, Michelle Robinson, President, Southeast, Verizon

- **Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers:** The organization will use its grant of \$25,000 to collaborate with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to increase awareness of cyber safety and to prevent abuse and victimization of children via the Internet.
- **Geneva County Family Resource Center:** Its \$9,500 grant will be used to conduct Internet safety classes in Geneva County schools and senior citizen centers.
- **Girls Inc. of Central Alabama:** The organization's \$10,000 grant will go to fund its "Smart Girls Stay Safe" project to educate and train girls ages 11-14 on Internet safety. The project will be incorporated into after-school programs and technology classes.

- **Madison City School System:** The school system will use its \$15,000 grant for its SHIELD program (Students Having Internet E-wareness for Living Digitally), which will provide free Internet safety training to educators, parents and students. Program topics will include cyber bullying, online predators and sharing personal information online.

During the event at the State Capitol, disturbing statistics from Pew Internet surveys were read that highlight the dangers the Internet poses to young people:

- One of every three teenagers reports being contacted by a stranger online.
- Thirty-two percent of teens say they've been harassed online by someone who posted unwanted photos, spread rumors, circulated emails or made threats.
- Only 11 percent of teens say they've talked to their parents or another authority figure about these kinds of disturbing online experiences.

"That's why it's so important for parents to talk to their children and to educate them about staying safe online. Parents need to take the initiative and set ground rules about using the Internet," Governor Riley said.



From left to right: Tim Birt, Lynn Hart, Mary English, Governor Bob Riley, JJ Moody, Captain Agatha Windsor, ICAC Task Force, Sgt. Ricky Agerton, ICAC Task Force

CyberTipline Success Story

On September 4, 2008, the [CyberTipline](#) received a report from a registered Internet Service Provider (ISP) regarding suspicious postings between a 16-year-old female and a 32-year-old male that had been made on a popular social networking site the day before. The postings by the suspect indicated that he had already had a sexual encounter with the child on at least one occasion and also revealed that he was going to pick the child victim up in his vehicle the following day, a few blocks from her school. He had also instructed the child to be alone.

An analyst with the NCMEC's Exploited Children Division (ECD) viewed the profile, documented the content, and reviewed the text between the child and the adult male. The ECD analyst was able to locate a cached version of the suspect's social networking page that had previously been deleted. This page yielded a possible first name, a location of Riverside, California, and provided a physical image of the reported suspect. The analyst then turned to the e-mail address provided by the ISP. He analyzed the e-mail address and noticed that the suspect had left a clue to his identity by including his last name. Public record searches corroborated his theory by providing one positive result, which was consistent with the information he had already gathered about the suspect.

Based on the location of the suspect and the child victim, the analyst forwarded the CyberTipline report and supporting documentation to the Child Exploitation/Predator Unit within the San Bernardino Field Office of United States Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Just hours after receiving the report, ICE agents, together with the Ontario Police Department, had identified the 16-year-old victim and interviewed her at the school. Law Enforcement noted that she was very brave and that her cooperation was instrumental in their ability to identify and charge the suspect.

Once the suspect's identity was confirmed, agents maintained constant surveillance on him as they obtained a federal search warrant for his residence, ensuring that he had no further contact with the child. The suspect was arrested at 7:30 pm that very evening on charges stemming from his sexual abuse of the child. The federal investigation into his enticement of the child continues, and if indicted, the suspect will face those charges separately. The suspect was determined to have a prior conviction for a child related crime.

This article was taken from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's "CyberTipline Success Stories" October 2008

More Tech News

We are continuing to adjust and add new features to the ANCAC-Online system.

Recently we set up a new secure online message board for the directors to use. Currently this is in beta-testing and might still have some bugs, but feel free to begin using the online forum. You will find the forum option on the main menu when you log into the ANCAC-Online system. Please let us know if you have any problems or recommendations with the message board. In the future we plan to open it up to some/all MDT members.

Also, please remember your center's next quarterly report is due online no later than January 10 after the holidays.

Escambia County Child Advocacy Center honors founder Kathy Hill

By Lisa Tindell - news editor



More than 40 citizens gathered on the lawn of the Escambia County Regional Child Advocacy Center Monday to witness the unveiling of the facilities new identity.

Signage at the Evergreen Avenue center now shows the center as being known as the [Kathy Hill Child Advocacy Center](#).

"Kathy was always willing to help children," Center Director Stephanie Jackson said during the dedication service. "She had a strong commitment to children, had a passion for children, provided strong guidance with regard to children and was full of wisdom with regard to the protection of children."

Hill, along with other members of the community, founded the Center in 2002 in an effort to facilitate and support the multi-disciplinary team approach to the investigation and prosecution of child sexual abuse, severe physical abuse and neglect, Jackson said.

"Words cannot express how grateful we are for the endless hours of wonderful work of Kathy Hill," Jackson said. "We are here to share this public testimony of Kathy's tireless efforts of advocacy for the safety and protection of children."

Among those in attendance at the celebration and dedication were more than 20 family members and officials from Hope Place, the Escambia County District Attorney's office and members of the staff at the new [Kathy Hill Child Advocacy Center](#).

"We had a wonderful representation of citizens, family and friends for this special ceremony," Jackson said. "Kathy would have been pleased."

The Escambia County Regional Child Advocacy Center works to ensure that victims of sexual and physical abuse receive the medical and legal services needed to enable them to recover. The center also works with area mental health agencies, medical officials and support groups to help victims receive immediate and long-term care. Center officials will also aid area law enforcement agencies and prosecutors to make sure abusers are punished and don't commit additional offenses.

Currently Scheduled Peer Review Dates

Birmingham, AL:

Forensic Interviewer Peer Review

Friday, January 9, 2009

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Host CAC: Prescott House

Please RSVP by provided e-mail to Debbie Land - Birmingham Area Contact
bcacenter@bellsouth.net

Huntsville, AL:

Forensic Interviewer Peer Review

Facilitated by Linda Cordisco-Steele

Monday, February 9, 2009

8:30 am - 12:00 pm

(can be continued into the afternoon if needed)

Clinical Peer Review

Facilitated by Jane Orton

Monday, February 9, 2009

1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Both FI and Clinical peer reviews will be held at the NCAC

Please RSVP by provided e-mail to Jane Orton - Huntsville Area Contact

Let her know if you will be attending one or both of the peer reviews offered that day jorton@nationalcac.org

Let Jane know if you will be bringing a recorded interview and/or a clinical case for review.

Jane also said, "If people want to bring their lunch they are welcome to do so. But there will be time to go out and pick up something up. Or we could do a Steak-out order for delivery. After we have the first of these

sessions, we can get an idea of what people prefer to do about lunch."

Let Jana Conlee know if there are any questions and the information for Montgomery and South Alabama

FI Peer Reviews is on its way soon!

jmconlee@childprotect.org



Together we make a difference!

Congratulations Palmer Place

Each year different non-profits that receive funds from United Way's in the Honda catchment area are invited to participate in the Honda Manufacturing Company's United Way Kick-Off. Nancy and Amanda from Palmer Place participated in the two day event in October. Several thousand employees of Honda are reached by non-profits through this event.



From left: Amanda Thomas and Nancy Greene of Palmer Place

Unicel in Talladega recognized Palmer Place, Talladega County's Child Advocacy Center, with the "2008 Hometown Hero" award. The award recognizes people and organizations that make towns and cities better places to live and "demonstrate courage, community spirit, caring and strength by putting themselves at risk for the sake of others." Pictured, from the left, are Latoya Dates and Daphne Keith from Unicel, Amanda Thomas from Palmer Place, and Christie Curry from Unicel. Unicel also made a \$200 donation to Palmer Place.



From left to right: Latoya Dates, Daphne Keith both from Unicel, Amanda Thomas, from Palmer Place, and Christie Curry from Unicel.

Alabama Legislators and Family Visit NCAC

The spouses, children and grandchildren of numerous Alabama State Legislators visited the National Children's Advocacy Center campus in Huntsville on Saturday, November 22, 2008, to learn more about the mission of the NCAC and CACs throughout the State of Alabama. This coincided with a full weekend of activities in Huntsville/Madison County for legislators and their families. Information regarding the location and role of ANCAC

members was provided to all of the attendees, and several of the legislator's spouses commented that this visit to the NCAC was the most valuable activity of the entire weekend.



First Annual Forensic Interviewer Meeting Huge Success



On October 24, 2008, more than forty forensic interviewers from all over the state met together in Clanton to discuss the future of peer review in the state. The meeting was organized and hosted by Child Protect, Children's Advocacy Center. Experience of the interviewers there ranged from just being trained to conduct interviews to almost 15

years of forensic interviewing experience. There were sixteen advocacy centers represented.

Linda Cordisco-Steele, senior trainer at the NCAC, was the guest speaker and stressed the importance of ongoing feedback in the form of peer review being necessary to maintain the quality of forensic interviews. Mrs. Steele also facilitated a group discussion in which all participants were given the opportunity to express their opinions, ideas, and wishes in regards to peer review for forensic interviewers.

At the end of the first annual meeting, it was the consensus of all that the forensic interviewers all meet together once a year and that regional quarterly peer reviews be available throughout the year. The availability of regular peer review in the state will be beneficial in so many ways. It will provide a way for forensic interviewers to network and give and receive

constructive feedback in a safe environment. The regular peer review meetings will also provide an avenue to discuss new and existing research in the field. As forensic interviewers working in the child advocacy field, we owe it to the children to do our jobs in the most optimal way possible - it is vital that we "get it right" and peer review will help forensic interviewers maintain and further develop their skills.

Each quarter, every CAC will be receiving information about the quarterly peer review meetings. If there are any questions, or you are not receiving the information for some reason, please feel free to call Jana Conlee at 334-262-1220.

Jana Conlee

Child Protect, Children's Advocacy Center

Brooks' Place and the Network Welcome Kim Bevis

Kim Bevis received an undergraduate degree in social work from the University of North Alabama/Florence in 1988, and a graduate degree in Social Work from Alabama A & M University/Normal in 1999. She has worked in a variety of professional settings including Mental Health, Public Health, Department of Human Resources, and most recently she was the Program Manager for Alabama Mentor, a private, for-profit agency that provided Therapeutic Foster Care to children in Alabama.

Kim has been with Brooks' Place as the Executive



Director for little over two months now. Prior to that she worked with Alabama Mentor for 9 years, and she established one of the largest therapeutic foster care programs in the state. Kim is a licensed social worker in Alabama, she also an experienced G PS and Deciding Together certified trainer for foster parents.

She is married with two children, and lives in Decatur, AL.

An Introduction From Mrs. Cleone Brock

Cleone began her tenure at the CAC of East Alabama as a therapist in August of 2006. She is also the family advocate and piloted a program called PEP TALK (Parents Encouraging Parents). This is a psycho educational and support group for non-offending parents and caregivers. Cleone helps to facilitate the Incredible Years adult group and has supervised practicum and intern students at the CAC.

"I graduated from Auburn University with a BA in Psychology in 1976. In 1992 I got my Master's in Human Development and Agency Counseling at Troy State Montgomery. I worked at the Alabama Council on Child Abuse for two years while getting my LPC. I then went into private practice. We moved to Florida for my husband's job and stayed there for just a year. We moved back to Alabama in 1996 and I worked at the Auburn Early Education Center as a school counselor. I went back into private practice. In August of 2006 I became the therapist at the CACEA. I have been very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Emilyn. I had a very hard act to follow but I will do my best. My husband's name is Butch and he owns a wireless internet company named Aerowire. My only child is Amelia who is 17 and a senior at Auburn High School

If you noticed a big gap in my education, I worked in the jewelry business for 15 years and became a Certified Gemologist."



Our mission is possible...

The Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers promotes the multidisciplinary process in fostering an abuse-free society for Alabama's children and supports the development of the children's advocacy center model through public awareness, training and networking.

Adopted by the ANCAC Board of Directors on May 2nd, 1997