

InterConnections

linking the ties that bind

Issue No. 10

July
2008

State Coordinator's Message

This month, Dr. Richard Davy and I completed all of the remaining CAC site visits for standards review for 2008. I have really enjoyed getting out in the field and seeing how each CAC is similar and how each is unique. One common thread, however, is the lasting impact the services provided by ANCAC member CACs have on the lives of child victims and their families. I think the most interesting thing for me about the site visit process has been seeing how each CAC has its own way of allowing the children to leave their "mark" on each CAC. Some centers have handprints, either in artwork or directly on the wall, the represents a child served; others have framed drawings and/or testimonials. These lasting impressions should serve as an everyday reminder of just how critical CAC services are to many families in Alabama.

During July, JJ and I have been preparing for the NCA Chapter Accreditation site review, which has been scheduled for September 22. We are currently working on reviewing our files to make sure all required documentation is in place for each CAC. Please do not be alarmed if we contact you to ask for documentation we may be missing.

Finally, growth in the Network is always exciting. At the most recent 3rd quarter Board of Directors meeting on July 22, the Board voted unanimously to move Morgan County CAC from Pilot Project membership status to Associate Member status on Oct. 1, 2008. Congratulations to Teresa Young and the staff of the Morgan County CAC!!!

— Amy Hinton

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Reminders...

- **Aug. 26-29: 9th Annual Conference on Child Abuse in New Orleans, LA**
- **Sept. 22-23: 4th quarter ANCAC Board meeting & Diversity Training in Phenix City, AL**



ANCAC Board Meetings 2008

Executive Committee meetings begin at 3 p.m. at The Network office unless otherwise stated.

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

Tuesday, September 22, 2008 at 10 a.m.

Tuesday, September 22, 2008 at 1 p.m.

**Note: The 2008 Diversity Training will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 23*

State Legislative Update — July 2008

In July, disappointed economic development officials learned that Volkswagen had passed over Limestone County as the next site for its North American manufacturing plant, opting instead to locate in Chattanooga, TN. A major factor in the selection was said to be that Chattanooga already had a prepared site for the prospective plant, while Alabama's location still needed to be developed. Economic development officials and lawmakers noted that Alabama would still likely benefit from the "overflow," of affiliated automotive suppliers that may opt to locate their plants in north Alabama. Now, however, there is no need for Gov. Riley to convene a special session to pass economic development incentives for the German automaker. However, there has been some discussion of Riley being lobbied by officials in Jefferson County to call a special legislative session to deal with the county's substantial financial problems — namely the enormous budget deficit created by financial mismanagement of the sewer system. Riley is said to be considering this, provided the state will not be asked to financially rescue Jefferson County.



Site Visit: Southeast Alabama CAC

Dr. Richard Davy and JJ Moody visited Southeast Alabama CAC in Dothan for a site visit on the afternoon of July 14. (Amy Hinton was summoned for federal jury duty on that day). The site visit began with a short meeting between Dr. Davy and Southeast Alabama CAC Board members and MDT members regarding the overall operations and governance of the CAC. Dr. Davy also discussed clinical operations with the new Clinical Director and with CAC Director Sherryl Walker. After hearing about the various programs operated by Southeast Alabama CAC and being briefed on the status of current programs and services offered, Dr. Davy and JJ Moody toured the facility. Southeast Alabama CAC is a large facility with 11 staff members who have their own individual office and therapy space — there are even 11 bathrooms! Dr. Davy and JJ Moody completed the site visit with an observation tour of the CAC to assess standards compliance.



Network News, Activities and Events

ANCAC submitted the following reports or applications to various entities in the past month:

Verizon Foundation grant: To fund a NetSmartz “Ultimate Trainer” seminar program with the Alabama Dept. of Public Safety ICAC staff, **submitted July 29 (due by Aug. 1).**

Southern Regional CAC Training Grant progress report: **submitted July 29, due July 31.**

Recent ANCAC activities and meetings:

Southeast Alabama CAC site visit: Dr. Richard Davy & JJ Moody, **July 14**

Walker County MDT Training (Jasper): Lisa McSwain, Leann White & JJ Moody, **July 15**

State Child Death Review Team 3rd Quarter meeting (Birmingham): Amy Hinton, **July 16**

Calhoun-Cleburne CAC site visit (Anniston): Amy Hinton & Dr. Richard Davy, **July 18**

St. Clair County CAC site visit (Pell City): Amy Hinton & Dr. Richard Davy, **July 18**

Dallas County MDT Training (Jasper): Susan Martin, Lisa McSwain, & Leann White, **July 21**

ANCAC 3rd Quarter Executive Committee meeting (Montgomery): Amy Hinton, JJ Moody, James Dupree, ANCAC Executive Committee, **July 22 @ 10 a.m.**

ANCAC 3rd Quarter Board of Directors meeting (Montgomery): Amy Hinton, JJ Moody, James Dupree, ANCAC Board, **July 22 @ 1 p.m.**

General ANCAC business meeting (Montgomery): Amy Hinton, Emilyn Gipson & Jannah Bailey, **July 23**

Southern Regional CAC State Chapter conference call: Amy Hinton, Darlene Woodard, Karen Hangartner, SRCAC state chapter directors, **July 24 @ 9 a.m.**

Speaking engagement, Statewide Emergency Medical Technicians conference (Troy): Amy Hinton, **July 24 @ 1 p.m.**

Pike Regional CAC drop-in (Troy): Amy Hinton & Mona Watson, **July 24 @ 2 p.m.**

Verizon Foundation grant application review: Amy Hinton, JJ Moody & Joe Nabors, **July 28**

Site visit: Calhoun-Cleburne CAC in Anniston

Dr. Richard Davy and Amy Hinton conducted a standards site visit at Calhoun-Cleburne CAC in Anniston on the morning of July 18. The CAC is located on a tree-lined street in a quiet residential neighborhood. The facility is a beautiful old two-story house with spacious offices and rooms. The therapeutic and interview spaces are beautifully decorated and the upstairs conference room, where MDT meetings are held, has an expansive view of the trees and neighborhood from the bay window. The facility is easy to find, yet very private and secluded with ample parking. Dr. Davy interviewed the Assistant DA and the CAC Board President before he and Amy toured the facility.



Site Visit: St. Clair County CAC in Pell City

Dr. Richard Davy and Amy Hinton also conducted a standards site visit at St. Clair County CAC in Pell City on the afternoon July 18. The CAC is in a huge two-story home located off of a county highway. The long and winding driveway is very welcoming and the home features playground equipment and a fenced in play area to the rear of the house. The kitchen area leads into a large, well-appointed conference room. Upstairs, the CAC staff has office space as well as therapeutic areas. Dr. Davy met with two CAC Board members and two Assistant DAs regarding CAC operations and MDT meetings. Then, he and Amy Hinton toured the facility. This site visit concludes the annual site visit process for 2008.



i-SAFE Internet Safety Training Workshops Offered

The United States Attorney's Office, Northern District of Alabama and National Children's Advocacy Center in collaboration with i-SAFE, Inc., is offering i-SAFE Program Internet safety training.

Training workshops will be held at the National Children's Advocacy Center, Huntsville, Alabama on Tuesday, September 09, 2008 and the Hoover Public Safety Complex, Hoover, Alabama on Wednesday, September 10, 2008. The training is presented by i-SAFE, Inc., a nonprofit foundation and worldwide leader in Internet safety education, dedicated to protecting the online experiences of youth everywhere. The training includes an evaluated and researched-based Internet safety program that offers comprehensive education on today's Internet safety issues. The program involves a variety of components with different community members such as law enforcement, prosecutors, educators, youth and parents delivering Internet safety information to the participants.

Please call Beth Jackson at 256-327-3776 for registration information.

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

Testimonials from the Field

This letter is to let the staff at Palmer Place know how much they are appreciated. I am very thankful that we have an organization that is very dedicated and willing to help abused children and their families. I never really thought that my child and my family could be going through what we are going through now. You know you read about it in the papers and see it on TV and your heart goes out to the victims, but it's a different story when it's your family going through it.

I would not have known where to start or what all to do nor what to expect had it not been for the staff at Palmer Place. They have been there for us and will be there until the end. They are very professional and represent this organization well. I encourage anyone whose child has gone through abuse or is going through it now to please contact Palmer Place. It won't change things, but these people are wonderful and they will help you and your family get through it.

Thanks again for all you have done for me and my family during this hard time.

Sincerely,

A Parent

Thanks to Nancy Green, Executive Director of Palmer Place CAC in Talladega, for submitting this testimonial.