

InterConnections

linking the ties that bind

Issue No. 8
April-May
2008

State Coordinator's Message



Greetings! I decided to combine the April and May issues of Interconnections due to a flurry of activity here in the State Office. JJ and I have been working diligently on several projects, most importantly ANCAC's application for NCA Accreditation for the State Chapter. We worked closely with folks at Southern Regional CAC and kept in contact with Benjamin Murray at NCA during the preparation of our narrative. We submitted our application to NCA on 13 May and are waiting to hear back from NCA regarding their site visit.

Chapter accreditation is an important step for ANCAC as the Network continues to grow and evolve. Further professionalizing the Network can only assist both the State Office and member CACs when applying for sources of funding beyond the General Fund appropriation we receive each year. However, accreditation tells all of our funding sources — especially taxpayer — that we deserve their continued support.

In this issue, we have provided information on the activities ANCAC staff has completed during April and May. Hopefully, this will give member CAC Directors a better idea of what JJ and I are doing to benefit both individual CACs and the Network as a whole. Also, please be sure to review the information about the changes that are coming soon to the ANCAC website. JJ and I are confident that the website will continue to be a source of general information for those new to the CAC model, but will also become an invaluable resource for our member CACs. Take care!

— Amy Hinton

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Reminders...

- **July 10: ANCAC Quarterly Reports are due**
- **July 23: ANCAC Board meeting**

ANCAC Board Meetings 2008

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

Monday, July 22*

Monday, Sept. 22

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

Tuesday, July 23*

Tuesday, Sept. 23

State Legislative Update — May 2008

Fortunately for ANCAC, as one of three non-state agencies receiving allocations from the General Fund, the General Fund budget was passed out of the House of Representatives and also out of the Senate. However, the 2008 regular session is widely seen as a failure due to the inability of the Senate to pass the state education budget on the final legislative day. The stalemate was the result of a “showdown” between the competing interests of higher education, which was originally slated for a 25% cut to prevent more serious cuts in K-12 that could possibly have forced the state into proration.

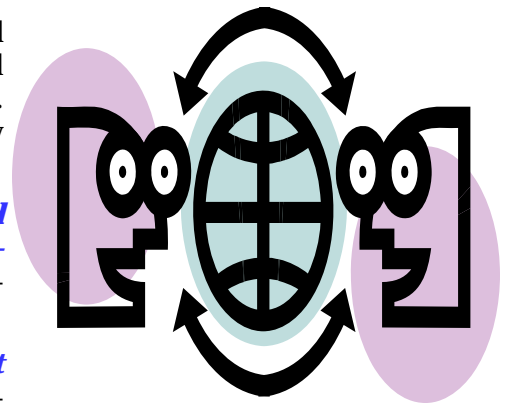


Higher education was slated for higher cuts because the Governor and other lawmakers felt the colleges and universities to make up the difference by raising tuition — an option not available to K-12 public schools. Gov. Bob Riley is expected to call a special session very soon, but he has stated that he hopes the competing interests will work out their differences before the special session clock starts ticking. A very short five-day session will cost taxpayers approximately \$100,000. The Legislature did convene in a five-day session immediately after the regular session adjourned. The Education budget passed during the special session. Higher education was “punished” by having \$5 million deducted from the higher education budget and reallocated to the K-12 operating budget to offset increased fuel costs for school bus transportation.

Continuing Your Education in the Workplace

Continuing Education Credits may be available for nurses, social workers, law enforcement professionals, attorneys and mental health treatment professionals at the upcoming following events. Please use the contact information below for registration and any additional information you need:

- **9th National Conference on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention in New Orleans, LA (Aug. 26-28, 2008)** — This conference is sponsored by NCAC and information is currently online.
- **National CAC Training Center MDT Development Training** — This training is tuition-free and is specifically designed for professionals from various disciplines who participate in a CAC multidisciplinary team and wish to develop and enhance team skills and relationships. You can visit the NCAC website at <http://www.nationalcac.org> for more information. ***Please refer to the guidelines from the ANCAC State Office regarding requesting letters of support for tuition assistance applications. If you do not have a copy of these guidelines, please contact the ANCAC State Office.*



Network News, Activities and Events

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

Target Stores Community Grant Application: JJ Moody, submitted [May. 19](#)

Central Alabama Community Foundation Technical Assistance Grant Application: JJ Moody, submitted [May. 20](#)

National Children's Alliance Chapter accreditation application: Amy Hinton, JJ Moody, Executive Committee, submitted [May 13](#)

ADECA second quarter report: JJ Moody, submitted [April 14](#)

DHR / CFTF second quarter report: JJ Moody, submitted [April 18](#)

SMART second quarter report (state report): JJ Moody, submitted [April 18](#)

Human Trafficking Training: JJ Moody, Amy Hinton, attended [April, 24](#)

Recent ANCAC activities and meetings:

State Sen. Arthur Orr (R-Decatur): Amy Hinton, Emilyn Gipson, James Dupree, [Apr. 2](#)

State Child Death Review Team meeting: Amy Hinton, [Apr. 17 @ 1 p.m.](#)

Governor's Proclamation Day Signing, State Capitol: Amy Hinton, JJ Moody, Jannah Bailey & staff, Mona Watson & staff, Sen. Wendell Mitchell (D-Luverne) and Rep. Alan Boothe (D-Troy), [Apr. 17 @ 3 p.m.](#)

State Sen. Myron Penn (D-Union Springs): Amy Hinton & James Dupree, [Apr. 22](#)

Children's Justice Task Force meeting: Amy Hinton, [Apr. 23](#)

Escambia County CAC Board of Directors training: Stephanie Jackson & Escambia Co. CAC Board members, Amy Hinton & Yvette Kubik, [Apr. 25](#)

United Voices: meeting, [Apr. 8](#), [Apr. 22](#), [May 20](#)

Child Protect MDT Agreement Signing event: Jannah Bailey & staff, Child Protect MDT team members, Child Protect Board members, local media, Amy Hinton, [Apr. 30](#)

Lee County VOICES Seminar: Junior League of Lee County members, VOICES staff, Amy Hinton, [May 8](#)

ANCAC Orientation & Child Protect Tour for State Department visitor: Liza Garcia and State Department tour guide, Amy Hinton, JJ Moody, and Child Protect staff, [May 12](#)

Alabama Council Against Domestic Violence: Save Haven committee members, Amy Hinton, [May 13](#)

Mobile CAC site visit: Pat Guyton, Dr. Richard Davy, Amy Hinton, [May 29](#)

Care House (Baldwin County) CAC site visit: Jerry Haase, Dr. Richard Davy, Amy Hinton, [May 30](#)

Pilot Project News: Central Alabama Regional CAC



Here is an update on the activities of Central Alabama Regional CAC in Selma. The new Executive Director, Ms. Nekia Moore has been very busy trying to re-establish a physical location for the CAC and working out of DA Michael Jackson's office in Selma's historic courthouse. Nekia attended her very first ANCAC Board of Directors meeting on April 14, 2008 at the (new) ANCAC State Office location and met other CAC Directors in attendance. Nekia reports that she is working diligently to secure space for the CAC and has been having difficulty securing appropriate space. However, Nekia has been reaching out for

MDT team members and child welfare officials in every county in her service delivery area to build relationships with them in preparation for the CAC reopening. Additionally, Selma is hosting one of the two MDT Trainings ANCAC is coordinating for unserved/underserved areas, courtesy of a grant from SRCAC. The Selma MDT Training will be held on July 21 from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm.

May Site Visit: Child Advocacy Center, Inc. in Mobile

On May 29, Amy Hinton and Dr. Richard Davy conducted the annual site visit for the Child Advocacy Center of Mobile. It was the first visit to the Mobile CAC for both Dr. Davy and for Amy Hinton. The facility is full of CAC staff and also, interestingly, provides permanent office space for members of the Multidisciplinary Team. The CAC is a large, older home on Springhill Avenue in Midtown Mobile and is very well maintained and attractively decorated both inside and out. The site visitors were able to meet members of the CAC staff who all work diligently to further the mission of child advocacy. CAC Executive Director Pat Guyton is truly fortunate to have a large staff that is both loyal and dedicated, as well as a very active and involved Board of Directors. Mr. Guyton also shared his plans for expansion to provide more office space for the MDT Team members that work out of the CAC and to enhance the efficiency of the CAC floor plan and layout. The site reviewers are very pleased that the city of Mobile recognizes this organization as being a valuable resource to both the community and to Mobile County.

May Site Visit: Care House, Inc.—Baldwin County CAC in Bay Minette

On May 30, Dr. Davy and Amy Hinton conducted their second site visit in South Alabama on behalf of the Standards Committee. The site review team visited Care House in Bay Minette and met with CAC Executive Director Jerry Haase and two Care House Board members. The Bay Minette CAC is a small, older home in a residential area that is also beautifully decorated on the inside with beach scene murals and overstuffed furniture. The therapy rooms are warm and inviting and the layout of the CAC makes it easy to provide child-centered services to clients while maintaining sufficient privacy for staff to work. Care House also operates a satellite on Highway 59 in the southern part of Baldwin County, where a substantial number of cases originate. Geographically, Baldwin County is larger than the state of Maine, so having a satellite to serve clients in other parts of the county is important. The site reviewers enjoyed seeing Care House and touring its beautiful grounds.



ANCAC Staff Hosts State Dept. Visitor from Philippines

On May 12, ANCAC hosted Ms. Liza Garcia, who was touring select cities in the United States through the International Visitor Leadership Program. Coordinated through the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, the program is one of its premier professional and cultural exchange programs. ILVP participants meet with professional counterparts from various United States public and private sector programs and organizations that relate in some way to the visitor's project theme. The ILVP is designed to build mutual understanding between the US and other countries through carefully designed visits that reflect the participants' professional interests and further US foreign policy goals. Selected by American embassies abroad, ILVP participants come to the US to meet and confer with their professional counterparts and to gain an appreciation of the ethnic, cultural, political and socio-economic diversity of the United States. The ILVP is carried out through close collaboration with eight non-profit program agencies in Washington DC and over 90 community based organizations across the US whose members arrange professional meetings, cultural activities and/or home hospitality for ILVP visitors.

Ms. Garcia is the Executive Director of a nonprofit organization in the Philippines that assists female Filipino migrant workers and their Filipino-Japanese children, who are frequently ostracized in Filipino society. Her organization provides social service referrals and personal and career counseling for these women and their children. She was very interested in the organizational structure of ANCAC and was very intrigued by the CAC model. We shared the history and evolution of the Network and answered questions about direct services provided by the CACs and the concept of the multidisciplinary team. Following her meeting at ANCAC, staff from Child Protect were kind enough to accommodate a last minute request for a tour. The Network Office in Montgomery is so close to Child Protect that Ms. Garcia was able to quickly receive an in-depth tour from Child Protect Forensic Interviewer and Therapist Emily Hutchison. Overall, Ms. Garcia said she was very impressed with the wide array of services offered to child victims and to non-offending family members through the Network's member CACs.



Pictured L to R:

JJ Moody and Amy Hinton (ANCAC), Liza Garcia (ILVP program participant) and Emily Hutchison (Child Protect Forensic Interviewer and Therapist) in front of one of the many pieces of art created by children that decorate the wall at Child Protect. Each handprint represents one child who received services through the CAC.

Technology Update: ANCAC Website

As some of you already know, the ANCAC has been working diligently to make everyone's job easier by revising the quarterly reporting protocol. We are gearing up to go live with our online only reporting system for you or your respective employees to submit quarterly reports to the state office. We are excited to announce Beta testing will begin this week (06.16.08).

Beginning July 1, 2008 you will no longer mail, fax, or email your quarterly reports. You will be given a user name and password (one per center). Which you will use to log into the "Members Only" section of the ANCAC website, you will then be able to pull up your report and enter statistical and financial information for the current quarter. The goal is to make it as easy as possible, you will be able to save the report and resume later, however please be mindful of the deadline. Once you 'submit' the report, it automatically uploads into the Cumulative Services Report that is submitted to the state. You will be able to print a hard copy of your CACs report for your files, view previously submitted reports, and other documents. However you will not be able to make changes once the report has been submitted, so please check your data. Many of you already submit information this way to other agencies, my hope is the transition will be seamless.

Please note that this is the new reporting format, you will no longer be able to use the old ANCAC reporting forms. All data now is collected and stored online. Which you will have access to viewing 24/7 via your username and password. The reporting deadline will remain the same—within ten days after the quarter ends. Reports will open on the first and close on the tenth, you must log on and submit your report during that time. Otherwise, your center will be locked out of the system. Please, please be mindful of this important deadline, as our office also has many reports due on behalf of our organization, and we must have your data in the system in order to submit these reports. As always, if anyone needs technical assistance please contact me.

—JJ Moody

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