

InterConnections

linking the ties that bind

State Coordinator's message

Well first and foremost, December General Fund checks will be mailed this week!

Like the last issue of *InterConnections*, this one is short, but contains useful information.

The Network Office will be closed beginning December 21. The office will re-open on Tuesday, January 2, 2007.

Meanwhile, I can be reached by cellular telephone: **334-300-5239**. I will not have e-mail access.

The past month has been busy, but not completely unbearable. Minnesota was cold of course, but extremely dreary. The sun did not shine until the last day of the conference. But traveling with Lynn and the rest of the Russell County team was entertaining to say the least! (*Thanks Lynn!*)

The January date for the Network's Board of Directors meeting may change, but Emilyn will let us know in plenty of time. More details of my *Finding Words* experience will be provided during that meeting.

Center Services Reports for the First Quarter are due at the Network Office by the end of the day on Tuesday, January 9. Pilot Project centers must submit service numbers, too.

Well, I am off to Florida to spend Christmas in 80 degree weather.

Have a Merry Christmas and I will see you in the New Year!

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Just to remind you...

- Next ANCAC Board of Directors' Meeting: 10 a.m. at the ANCAC Office, date: TBA
- 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



Davis Appointed to House Ways and Means Committee

BIRMINGHAM - In a move that demonstrates the potential influence of Alabama Democrats in the new majority in the House of Representatives, 7th District U.S. Representative Artur Davis, D-Birmingham, recently received an appointment to the House Committee on Ways and Means - one of the most powerful committees in the institution.

"I appreciate the speaker's confidence in my work and my potential to be an effective member of the Ways and Means Committee," Davis said. "I think that Speaker Pelosi made the correct decision to avoid a prolonged vacancy on this critical committee, and I look forward to serving."

Officially established in its current form in 1802, the Committee on Ways and Means is one of the oldest and most powerful committees in the House. Until 1865, the committee controlled taxes and spending until the Committee on Appropriations was developed that year. Now it bears weight on a number of policy issues that directly impact everyday Americans and the state of Alabama including taxation, trade and tariffs, Medicare, Social Security, as well as programs serving those in need including Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and unemployment compensation.

Davis also recently began his tenure as a member of the Democratic Steering Committee. This body officially vets members for appointments to the various committees and subcommittees in the House. With Democrats assuming the majority, this committee has increased importance within the Democratic Caucus because of the number of vacant committee seats that need to be filled.

Congressman Davis previously served on the Budget Committee and Financial Services Committee.

DOJ Initiative Combats Commercial Child Sexual Exploitation

CHICAGO—The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) today announced a \$1 million award to the Salvation Army and its partners for a new initiative to reduce and eliminate the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the United States. The funding will be used to develop a national, multi-site training and technical assistance program to assist five selected cities in coordinating investigative, prosecutorial and victim service resources. Today's announcement was made at the first meeting of the Commercial Sexual

Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Community Capacity Building Initiative in Chicago, where representatives from federal, state and local organizations gathered to build alliances to combat commercial sexual exploitation of children. "We are coming together to protect our children through a unique partnership," said OJP Assistant Attorney General Regina B. Schofield. "This program draws upon the commitment and expertise of law enforcement, prosecutors, community advocates, and most importantly, the victims themselves. "The two-year cooperative agreement was awarded to the Salvation Army and its primary partners, Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS), Polaris Project, Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition.

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Network Neighborhood News

In the mail– For the first time in a few years, the first installment of the General Fund allocation arrived before December! The check for your center should arrive in your mailbox by **Tuesday, Nov. 14.**

Children's Justice mini-grant applications– were reviewed in November. Most applications were well received. Official notices will be sent to your county's DHR supervisor.

Outreach Coordinator needed– at the Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville. The closing date for this position is **December 27, 2006.** Interested applications apply at the Madison County Courthouse, Personnel Department, Room 753; or download application from:

<http://www.co.madison.al.us/services/jobs.shtml>.

No place like home– Outreach Coordinator Kevin Brown will soon join Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin in Madison. Wisconsin is home for Kevin and his family. Also, Lucile Waller resigned as Director of Children First Foundation. Lucile has returned to the Governor's Mansion.

Seeking counseling employment– Anna Carlisle submitted her resume to the Network Office in an attempt to find employment at a CAC. She graduated from the University of Montevallo this month with 3.8 GPA and a Master's of Education Degree in Marriage and Family Counseling. To contact Anna, call her at **205-812-6262** or e-mail her at annamcarlisle@hotmail.com.

Don't forget this resource - The Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Commission will help fund various expenses. Contact Claims Manager Sandy Perillard for specific information. Her e-mail address is: sandy.perrillard@acvcc.alabama.gov or call her at 334-290-4420. Web site:

<http://www.acvcc.state.al.us/contact.htm>

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

Continuing your education in the workplace

Please visit the following Web sites to learn about upcoming workshops. The topics range from *"Spanish Speaking Forensic Interviewing Training"* and the *"Characteristics of the Highly Effective Board Chair"* to *"Family and Victim Advocacy 101"* and *"Developing the Contemporary Personnel Policy and Employee Handbook."*

www.nationalcac.org

www.nrca.info

DOJ, continued

The five selected cities are Atlantic City, Chicago, Denver, San Diego and Washington, D.C. combating the sexual exploitation of children is a major priority of the Department of Justice. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales announced the Project Safe Childhood initiative. Project Safe Childhood brings together U.S. Attorneys, federal, state and local law enforcement, and non-government organizations to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against our nation's children.

Resources: To obtain further information about Project Safe Childhood, visit,

<http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov>.

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