

InterConnections

linking the ties that bind

Just to remind you...

- **September 10:** Stats for the 4th Quarter are due
- Next Board Meeting: **Sept. 24, 2007**
- Submit info to InterConnections
- Call us toll-free: **1-888-848-3468**

ISSUE NO. 5

AUGUST 2007

Training Chair's message

Fellow Directors,

Helen, Diversity Committee Chair, Tara and I have been working on the upcoming, combined Board of Directors' meeting and Diversity Training to be held on September 24-25, 2007, at the Shelby County 4-H Center. After talking with Emilyn earlier today, she asked that I give you all a "head's up" on the plans for this event, as well as the fall Board meeting. The schedule for the two days is as follows:

Monday, Sept. 24

9 AM/10 AM - 12 noon/1 PM

Executive Committee

(Emilyn will decide exact start time)

2 PM - 4/5 PM

ANCAC Board meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 25

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

"Day of Diversity"

Presentations will include:

- *Hispanic cultural issues,*
- *ADA compliance and legal issues*
- *physical and sensory limitations in the workplace*

A segment during which we will dialogue with representatives of university's with master's-level programs in Alabama to address intern placements at child advocacy centers and our stipends for diverse interns.

Each CAC will be provided one lodging room (2 double beds), along with lunch and dinner on Monday, and breakfast and lunch on Tuesday. Each Center is asked to provide a snack food to put on the table for use over the two days.

Although we do know which presenters will address us in our "Day of Diversity" training, we have not quite gotten the line-up settled as to who will speak when. When we finalize that information we will provide you further details.

We are, however, working on being able to provide LPC and social work continuing education credits for the event, and hope to make the training day available to other members of your staff who might need CEUs or could benefit from the information.

Thanks,

Susan Martin

Chair, Training Committee



Debate on Child Pornography's Link to Molesting

By Julian Sher and Benedict Carey

Experts have often wondered what proportion of men who download explicit sexual images of children also molest them. A new government study of convicted Internet offenders suggests that the number may be startlingly high: 85 percent of the offenders said they had committed acts of sexual abuse against minors, from inappropriate touching to rape.

The study, which has not yet been published, is stirring a vehement debate among psychologists, law enforcement officers and prison officials, who cannot agree on how the findings should be presented or interpreted.

The research, carried out by psychologists at the Federal Bureau of Prisons, is the first in-depth survey of such online offenders' sexual behavior done by prison therapists who were actively performing treatment. Its findings have circulated privately among experts, who say they could have enormous implications for public safety and law enforcement.

Traffic in online child pornography has exploded in recent years, and the new study, some experts say, should be made public as soon as possible, to identify men who claim to be "just looking at pictures" but could, in fact, be predators.

Yet others say that the results, while significant, men unfairly. The findings, based on offenders time who volunteered for the study, do not neces- the large and diverse group of adults who have at downloaded child pornography, and whose behav- able to be captured by a single survey.

Adding to the controversy, the prison bureau in paper withdrawn from a peer-reviewed academic had been accepted for publication, apparently con-

results might be misinterpreted. A spokeswoman for the bureau said the agency was reviewing a study of child pornography offenders but declined to comment further.

Ernie Allen, who leads the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which is mandated to coordinate the nation's efforts to combat child pornography, said he was surprised that the full study had not been released. "This is the kind of research the public needs to know about," Mr. Allen said.

"The results could have tremendous implications for community safety and for individual liberties,"

-Dr. Fred Berlin, founder of the Johns Hopkins Sexual Disorders Clinic.

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Everyone agrees that researchers need to learn more about online consumers of illegal child images. The volume of material seized from computers appears to be doubling each year — the National Center collected more than eight million images of explicit child pornography in the last five years — and Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales made child protection a national priority in 2006.

Those who are arrested on charges of possession or distribution of child pornography generally receive lighter sentences and shorter parole periods than sexual abusers. They do not fit any criminal stereo- type; recent arrests have included politicians, police officers, teachers and businessmen.

"It's crucial to understand the sexual history of all these offenders, because sometimes the crime they were arrested for is the tip of the iceberg, and does not reflect their real patterns and interests," said Jill S. Levenson, an assistant professor of human services at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla., and head of the ethics committee of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers.

See: Link, Page 5

Network Neighborhood News

Welcome - Rev. Jerry Haase to The Network! On Sept. 1 he will begin his duties as the Executive Director of CareHouse. Jerry H. comes to us from Pine Grove Baptist Church where he has served as Pastor of the nearly 600 member congregation.

The center is not new to Jerry H. because for the past nine years he has served as a counselor to CAC clients and he helped develop a program called Solutions designed to aid adolescent sex offenders.

ANCAC Discretionary Funds– Are decided upon annually by the ANCAC Board of Directors following recommendations of the current Finance Committee members of each respective fiscal year.

National Children's Alliance - is seeking a **Membership Specialist** to work with staff and a team of volunteer peer reviewers in the evaluation of Children's Advocacy Centers and will require extensive interaction with child abuse agency administrators. Candidates should be highly organized, able to track multiple tasks, and be proficient in MS Office. **Must have:** A Bachelor's degree. Knowledge of the child welfare field is preferred. This position will work from NCA's Washington, DC headquarters. NCA offers a competitive salary structure and excellent benefits. Persons from minority cultures are encouraged to apply.

Interested parties should send a cover letter, resume and references to: Benjamin Murray
NCA, 516 C Street NE, Washington, DC 20002, 202-548-0099 fax or apply@nca-online.org. EOE

NCA— is also seeking a **Grants Management Specialist** to assist in the oversight of federally funded programs serving Children's Advocacy Centers. Tasks include: providing technical assistance to grant applicants/recipients over the phone, monitoring & reviewing pre & post award grant requirements, and working in a grants management database. **Must have:** A Bachelor's degree; excellent verbal, writing, technical and organizational skills; and be detail-oriented. E-mail: cover letter, resume, and salary requirements to employment@nca-online.org. EOE. Questions regarding this position, contact: Director of Grants Management, [Angela Bafile](#) at 202-548-0090, ext: 107.

You may want - to apply for the 2007 Advanced Management Seminar in Tucson, AZ from Nov. 13 – 16th. This training is designed for those who are interested in advanced topics related to management issues with three or more years of experience as a CAC Director or Chapter with staff. For more information on applying as well as reviewing the eligibility requirements please go to our website at www.nca-online.org and click on the link located on the home page. *Application due to our office no later than **August 17th, 2007***. Please note that all applications must be submitted using the NCA online system. The link is located in the RFP.

Would you like to - host a free training session in your area? If so, please contact VOICES for Alabama's Children at vfac@alavoices.org and type Advocacy Training Information in the subject line.

Therapist Gets 45 years, 8 months in patient abuse

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Respiratory therapist Wayne Albert Bleyle was in New York state on a wintry day when investigators called him about allegations he had molested patients too sick to defend themselves.

When they asked how many children he molested, investigators said, he looked out his window and asked, "How many snowflakes are there out there?"

On Wednesday, Bleyle didn't turn to look as a succession of parents and family members of victims spoke at his sentencing hearing. Some wept; others shook with anger.

As part of a plea deal, Bleyle, 56, was sentenced to 45 years and eight months in prison for molesting five of his young, disabled patients and for taking pornographic photographs of others. Prosecutors said he targeted those who were comatose, brain-damaged or too disabled to talk.

"You have violated the trust of your patients, you trust of your employer, and you have inflicted in- on your victims and their families," Superior Court So told Bleyle.

Bleyle, who told investigators he molested as children he treated in his 10 years working in the at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego, stared straight ahead or cast his eyes down at the table in front of him as victims' relatives spoke.

"You have violated the trust of your patients, you have violated the trust of your employer, and you have inflicted indescribable anguish on your victims and their families."

Superior Court Judge Kenneth K. So

have violated the describable anguish Judge Kenneth K.

many as half the convalescent ward

"I just want you to know it doesn't matter what you say or how many years you spend in jail — it's not going to be enough," Lillian Godfrey, whose daughter is now dead, told Bleyle. "I don't think you have a soul. You're just an empty human shell."

Prosecutors said the extent of Bleyle's molestation will never be known because he targeted patients who were comatose, brain-damaged or too disabled to speak.

He was arrested last year after investigators tracing pornography through the Internet found tens of thousands of pornographic images on his computer, including photographs he took of himself abusing his patients.

He allegedly confessed to investigators in March 2006 when they reached him by phone in New York state, where he was visiting relatives. When he was arrested, he was living in a trailer in a casino parking lot because his wife had kicked him out of the house.

Bleyle worked at the renowned Rady hospital for 25 years, the last 10 at the convalescent home, where the most disabled patients live. The 59-bed convalescent hospital treated 176 patients during Bleyle's 10 years working there.

"He wishes to apologize to all the victims and their families," said his attorney, Casey Donovan, who noted that Bleyle himself had been sexually abused as a boy. "He knows he can never make amends for what he has done." **See: Therapist, Page 5**

Link *(continued)*

Previous studies, based on surveys of criminal records, estimated that 30 percent to 40 percent of those arrested for possessing child pornography also had molested children.

The psychologists who conducted the new study, Andres E. Hernandez and Michael L. Bourke, focused on 155 male inmates who had volunteered to be treated at the Federal Correctional Institution in Butner, N.C., according to a draft of the paper obtained by The New York Times from outside experts who want the study published.

The Butner clinic is the only residential program devoted to the treatment of sexual offenders in the federal prison system. The inmates in the study were all serving sentences for possession or distribution of child pornography.

Ernie Allen, who leads the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, which is mandated to coordinate the nation's efforts to combat child pornography, said he was surprised that the full study had not been released. "This is the kind of research the public needs to know about," Mr. Allen said. Others agreed that the report should be published but were more cautious about the findings. "The results could have tremendous implications for community safety and for individual liberties," said Dr. Fred Berlin, founder of the Johns Hopkins Sexual Disorders Clinic. "If people we thought were not dangerous are more so, then we need to know that and we should treat them that way. But if we're wrong, then their liberties aren't going to be fairly addressed." **See: Link, Page 7**

Therapist *(continued)*

Investigators identified just four of Bleyle's victims: three girls and a boy who were all younger than 14 when the molestations took place. Two of the children have since died. Investigators were never able to put a name to one of the victims, a 2-year-old girl found in pictures.

Janice Frost, whose 10-year-old daughter died in June 2006, three months after investigators discovered her image on Bleyle's home computer, called it a "parent's worst nightmare."

Frost said her daughter was under Bleyle's care from the time she entered the long-term facility as a 10-day-old newborn suffering a brain condition.

"During her dying moments, I told her I would see this through," Frost said outside the courtroom, as she clutched one of her three older daughters.

Bleyle faced up to 165 years if he had been convicted on all counts in a jury trial. Prosecutors said they made a deal in part because they were anxious to spare one of Bleyle's victims, a teenage girl who claimed Bleyle inappropriately touched her buttocks while she recovered from a stroke, the strain of testifying before a jury.

Bleyle's arrest prompted the hospital to ban cell phones in patient treatment areas, including rooms, and require doors and curtains around patients be left open most of the time, said hospital spokesman Ben Metcalf.

In court, Pandora Johnson said she had asked her son, who cannot speak because of a breathing device in his throat, whether he had been abused.

"He didn't give his usual yes or no sign. He just looked afraid," Johnson said. "And when I said, 'Wayne will never do this to you again,' he gave me a big smile. That smile broke my heart."

Reprinted From the Associated Press July 26, 2007

Continuing Your Education in the Workplace

Advocacy Training Workshop— Tuesday, August 21st from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

WHERE: Albertville, AL

SPONSORED BY: Hospice of Marshall County and VOICES for Alabama's Children

COST: FREE, seating is limited

FEATURING: Mr. James Dupree, Lobbyist and Licensed Social Worker

1. How does the legislative process work?
2. Who has the most power and why does it matter?
3. What do committees do and why are they important?
4. How is a bill passed?
5. How do you get your voice heard?
6. When talking to a legislator, when is a YES really a YES?

REGISTRATION and Information: Dot Burke at 256-582-3787 or email dircaja@bellsouth.net

NOTE: CEUs will be offered.

- **REFLECTIONS X111: The 13th annual symposium on child abuse and neglect** — Tuesday, Sept. 11– Thursday, Sept. 13, 2007

WHERE: Lake Junaluska Assembly, Haywood County, North Carolina

SPONSORED BY: Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina

COST: \$75 for one day, \$150 for two days and \$175 for entire conference. CEUs and CLEs available for additional cost

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: [August 24, 2007](#) *CONTACT & INFO:* Angie Brown: [336-886-4589](tel:336-886-4589) or E-mail her at angie@cacnc.org or www.cacnc.org

- **2007 Gulf Coast Conference on Drug and Alcohol Abuse** — Thurs., Nov. 1st - Friday, Nov. 2nd

WHERE: Perdido Beach Resort, Orange Beach, Alabama

FEATURING: Robert Ackerman, Ph.D.; Jill Hastings-Storer, Ph.D.; Judge Edmond Naman; Jerry Moe, MA; and Cardwell C. Nuckols, Ph.D. This year's theme is "Building Healthy Families" and topics will focus on strategies and techniques to assist children and families with the recovery process.

SPONSORED BY: University of South Alabama Center for Continuing Education and the Mobile Drug Education Council for the

TO REGISTER: www.usacontinuinged.com *REGISTRATION:* If completed before [September 1](#), save \$50 on the registration cost!

CONTACT: For a conference brochure, call [251-431-6536](tel:251-431-6536) or download it from www.usacontinuinged.com

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The Butner clinic is the only residential program devoted to the treatment of sexual offenders in the federal prison system. The inmates in the study were all serving sentences for possession or distribution of child pornography.

About every six months as part of an 18-month treatment program, they filled out a record of their sexual history, including a "victims list" tallying their previous victims of abuse. Therapists encouraged the men to be honest as part of their treatment, and the sexual histories were anonymous, according to the paper.

The psychologists compared these confessions with the men's criminal sexual histories at the time of sentencing. More than 85 percent admitted to abusing at least one child, they found, compared with 26 percent who were known to have committed any "hands on" offenses at sentencing. The researchers also counted many more total victims: 1,777, a more than 20-fold increase from the 75 identified when the men were sentenced.

Dr. Hernandez and Dr. Bourke concluded in the paper that "many Internet child pornography offenders may be undetected child molesters." But they also cautioned that offenders who volunteer for treatment may differ in their behavior from those who do not seek treatment.

They submitted the paper to The Journal of Family Violence, a widely read peer-reviewed publication in the field, and it was accepted.

But in a letter obtained by The Times, dated April 3, Judi Garrett, an official of the Bureau of Prisons, requested that the editors of the journal withdraw the study, because it did not meet "agency approval." Editors at The Journal of Family Violence did not respond to phone or e-mail messages asking about the withdrawal.

See: Link, Page 8

Dr. Hernandez mentioned the research briefly during testimony before a Senate committee last year. But the bureau blocked Dr. Hernandez and Dr. Bourke from attending some law enforcement conferences to speak about the findings, said two prosecutors who did not want to be identified because they have a continuing work relationship with the bureau.

"We believe it unwise to generalize from limited observations gained in treatment or in records review to the broader population of persons who engage in such behavior," a bureau official wrote to the organizers of a recent law enforcement conference, in a letter dated May 2 and given to The Times by an expert who is hoping the study will be published.

Some prosecutors say they could use the study to argue for stiffer sentences. While some outside researchers agreed that the risk of over-generalizing the study's results was real, almost all the experts interviewed also said that the study should still be made public.

Dr. Peter Collins, who leads the Forensic Psychiatry Unit of the Ontario Provincial Police, called the findings "cutting-edge stuff."

"We're really on the cusp of learning more about these individuals and studies should be encouraged, not quashed," Dr. Collins said.

Understanding the relationship between looking at child pornography and sexually assaulting children is central to developing effective treatment, psychologists say.

It is not at all clear when, or in whom, the viewing spurs action or activates a latent, unconscious desire; or whether such images have little or no effect on the offender's subsequent behavior. But the relationship probably varies widely.

"My concern is about sensationalism, about the way something like this is handled in the media," said Michael Miner, an associate professor in the department of family medicine at the University of Minnesota who treats sex offenders. "The public perception is that all of these guys will re-offend, and we know that just isn't true."

At least some men convicted of sexual abuse say that child pornography from the Internet fueled their urges. In a recent interview, one convicted pedophile serving a 14-year sentence in a Canadian federal prison said that looking at images online certainly gave him no release from his desires — exactly the opposite.

"Because there is no way I can look at a picture of a child on a video screen and not get turned on by that and want to do something about it," he said. "I knew that in my mind. I knew that in my heart. I didn't want it to happen, but it was going to happen."

How many offenders does he speak for? The study may help answer that question, some say.

"The penalties we seek, the vigor with which we prosecute — the very importance we give to child pornography cases — all of these things are affected by what we know about the offenders," said Leura G. Canary, the United States attorney for Middle Alabama who also leads the Attorney General's Working Group on Child Exploitation and Obscenity. "And right now we know very little."

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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*