

# InterConnections

*linking the ties that bind*

ISSUE NO. 4

MARCH 2007

## State Coordinator's message

It is not over yet, but March has certainly lived up to its promise; it has come in like a LION. But so far, it is a good thing.

First some of you have already noticed that ANCAC is operating again with a two-person staff. It is with great pleasure that I introduce to some and present to others J.J. Hankins. Her tenure with The Network began March 5th and she actually returned everyday that week and has begun week two! J.J. comes to The Network from a Montgomery-based, private sector business where she also served as administrative assistant. I was thrilled to read her resume and was even more elated when she interviewed and then accepted the offer.

J.J. is a Mobile native and is eager to learn all that she can about The Network and the Child Advocacy Center model. Be sure to welcome her when you call or stop-by The Network office.

Along with J.J. providing relief and organization to this office, March has also brought with it the 2007 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature. Of course some battle lines are drawn before the Session even begins, but since March 6th, it seems as if many more lines have already been drawn in the sand. The good news is, so far, The Network seems as safe a Switzerland. There are a lot of new legislators and I am meeting them as quickly as possible. Even with all of the turnover, The Alabama Network has fared well with the changing of the tide.

**Gov. Riley** will sign a proclamation for The Network at 3 p.m. Thursday, April 27th in the State Capitol.

**All Centers are invited.**

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### Just to remind you...

- **Thursday, April 12:** Stats for the 2nd Quarter are due
- **Next ANCAC Board of Directors' Meeting:** 10 a.m. in The Network office, **May 22, 2007**
- Remember to submit information for publication in *InterConnections*
- You can call us toll-free: **1-888-848-3468**



## ***“Protecting Your Child from Online Predators” Rated a Success by Attendees and Sponsors***

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On Wednesday, March 14, approximately 70 parents, grandparents and other concerned adults in the Cullman County area attended an educational seminar providing information about online predators of children and how to prevent computer crimes against children.

Captain William J. Crane of the Birmingham Police Department stressed that the number one ingredient to child safety on the internet is to establish healthy and open communication with your child (ren). Without this children and teens are reluctant to tell parents when or if something is happening online that is making him/her uncomfortable. He also shared a number of ways internet predators establish online relationships with children and adolescents, stating the predator is then one step closer to establishing an “in person” relationship once the child’s trust has been gained. A predator can determine where and who the child is despite the child’s best effort to not give out personally identifying information. He cautioned parents to be aware their children and teens can establish a number of free email addresses, stating that just because a parent closes one address doesn’t mean the minor doesn’t have other addresses of which the parent is unaware.

He shared cases he has worked on, in dozens of states and even international jurisdictions.

Captain Crane also talked about the popularity of web services such as “My Space” among teens and how dangerous use of these services can be if the child/teen is not aware of the risks involved in using this forum for conveying personal information to others, and if the parent is not monitoring the use.

Sponsors of the event were Judge Kim J. Chaney and the Cullman County Children’s Policy Council, Brooks’ Place/The Child Advocacy Center of Cullman, Inc., and concerned citizen Melody Basch. Captain Crane stated that this was the largest number of attendees for a single presentation he has had since he began conducting these informational seminars.

*Contributed: Susan Martin, Executive Director, Brooks’ Place, 256-739-2243*

## **Multi-Site Evaluation of Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs)**

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**Summary:** The Multi-Site Evaluation of CACs, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) was designed to evaluate the impact of CACs on children, families, systems, and communities. Using a quasi-experimental design, data from over 1000 cases were collected from four participating CACs and from communities without CACs.

Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) are endorsed as the “state of the art” intervention for effective, sensitive investigation of allegations of child abuse. The core element of CACs, the multidisciplinary investigation team, is used in hundreds of communities across the country. Those familiar with CACs believe that the centers have a wide array of positive effects, from reducing stress on children and families, to increasing the yield in accuracy and information of investigations, to promoting more effective criminal justice and human service responses. Yet the impact of CACs has never been adequately evaluated, and the research knowledge base about CACs is limited.

### **Goals and Objectives**

The Crimes against Children Research Center (CCRC) of the University of New Hampshire has conducted a multi-site evaluation to study how CACs work and in what ways they are effective. The study examined the impact of CACs on children, families, agencies, the court system and communities. Sites consist of a Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) community with a matched comparison non-CAC community. The participating CACs are: Dallas Children’s Advocacy Center, Dallas, TX; The Pittsburgh Child Advocacy Center, Children’s Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA; The Low Country Children’s Center, Charleston, SC; The National Children’s Advocacy Center, Huntsville, AL

*CONTINUED: EVALUATION, Page 4*

## Network Neighborhood News

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**Diversity Stipends** - Are available and ALL interns at an Alabama Network CAC may apply. Three will be awarded this year. Applications must be [RECEIVED by April 15, 2007](#). Should you have any questions, please direct them to Helen: 205-669-3333, Susan: 256-739-2243, or Pam: 205-338-8847. Thanks, the Diversity Committee

**Moving on up** - Well down the hall anyway...Bob Hinds that is. Bob announced during the last CDRS team meeting that he accepted the challenge of directing a new division for the Alabama Department of Public Health: the Alabama Newborn Screening Division. Bob's former position with Child Death Review has not been filled. Stay tuned for more news to come on this issue.

**Reinventing the old** - The Regional CACs and NCA have completed the revision of an old favorite a 12-page booklet that highlights what a CAC is, how CACs began, how to get one in your community, and some of the resources available along the way. It's official name is "Improving Community Response to Child Abuse: Children's Advocacy Centers", though you may have heard us affectionately referring to it as the "pink brochure" or the "quilt brochure". This publication is no longer pink, but we did maintain the quilt theme, as CACs are woven and tied together by community agencies and professionals, and they bring together individual pieces to form a source of comfort for victims and families from beginning to end. It will soon be available to download as a PDF from [www.srcac.org](http://www.srcac.org). To receive a bundle by mail, e-mail Shawn McEniry: [smceniry@nationalcac.org](mailto:smceniry@nationalcac.org) or call her at 1-800-747-8122.

**Tax time** - The Internal Revenue Service offers free resources and information for nonprofits with 501(c)(3) tax status on its Web site. Nonprofit professionals can receive free on-line training in topic areas including: steps to retaining nonprofit status, managing unrelated business income, employment, filing error-free returns, and managing disclosures. The site's resource library also offers important forms and publications that can be downloaded. [www.stayexempt.org](http://www.stayexempt.org)

**Tuition help available** - SRCAC is currently accepting applications for Tuition Assistance. These awards are available to child abuse professionals associated with an existing or developing CAC in the Southern Region. A wide variety of skill-building training sessions are eligible. **Training must take place between May 1 and December 31, 2007.** For accepted applications, SRCAC will reimburse the affiliated CAC up to \$600 of registration costs. Completed applications must be submitted with appropriate attachments by **April 20, 2007**. [www.srcac.org](http://www.srcac.org) for more details.

## ANCAC's Scheduled Meetings, 2007

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Executive Committee meetings begin at 6 p.m. at The Network office unless otherwise stated.

Monday, Oct. 15

Monday, Feb. 12

Monday, May 21

Monday, Sept. 24

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

Tuesday, Oct. 16

Tuesday, Feb. 13

Tuesday, May 22

Tuesday, Sept. 25

## A Tip from Tri-County Center Director, Tim Birt

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The Tri-County Center has purchased used furniture, equipment, and electronics from The Alabama State Agency for Surplus Property (ALSASP). Those wishing to make purchases must pay a \$50 fee and then pay the amount posted on each item.

Tim said he has recently received notice from the Montgomery-based Alabama Surplus Properties announcing that the retailer is expecting to receive mobile homes. "I think mobile homes can make good temporary CAC facilities for satellite offices or multiple-county centers," he said. Tim went on to say that the mobile homes might also be a wonderful option for Pilot Project Centers or any CAC that is looking for discounted furniture or equipment. For more information, call **Shane Bailey at 334-277-5866**.

## Standards Committee to Make the Rounds

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The Network's Standards Committee will be busy this year making trips to four Centers that are scheduled for site visits.

Bessemer • Tuscaloosa • Montgomery • West Alabama

Ready or not, here they come!

## Evaluation, continued from Page 2

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### Results

Preliminary results suggest that CACs increase coordination of investigations and use of medical examinations, and lead to greater satisfaction among non-offending parents of alleged victims. See below for a link to an executive summary describing the main findings from the project. Papers with more detail on these findings and others are currently being submitted and reviewed by professional journals. If you would like to be added to the email list to receive information about publications from this project as they become available, please email [lisa.jones@unh.edu](mailto:lisa.jones@unh.edu).

During the course of the project, we developed several useful articles and other documents that we are happy to share with you. We ask only that you cite the source in your writings, according to the guidelines of the American Psychological Association's Publication Manual. These documents are provided in the links described below:

A Logic Model which represents a capsule, graphical way to depict the theory underlying CACs. This can help guide evaluation research design, and data analysis;

A draft listing of all Case Data variables we are seeking from client information systems, which we call the Data Dictionary. CACs and investigating agencies already collect in their practice much of the data needed by our study in their client information systems (CIS) or paper files.

A paper-and-pencil survey conducted by the CCRC about the importance of different outcomes in each site area, which we have named the Outcome Survey. This allows us to know in more detail what outcomes each community values from its CAC. A sample size of N=69 has been evaluated and Outcome Survey Results are available below.

In order to keep the CAC community and other interested individuals current on the progress of the Multi-Site Evaluation, we will periodically update this site with information about the evaluation and links to documents that we think might be helpful in understanding the project.

For more information, contact:

Lisa M. Jones, Ph.D.  
Crimes Against Children Research Center  
University of New Hampshire  
10 West Edge Drive, Ste. 106  
Durham, NH 03824  
Phone (603) 862-2515; Fax (603) 862-2899

## ANCAC Member Centers' E-mail Addresses: (as of March 19, 2007)

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Cathy Pinion ([carehouse@bellsouth.net](mailto:carehouse@bellsouth.net))

Chris Newlin ([cnewlin@nationalcac.org](mailto:cnewlin@nationalcac.org))

Debbi Land ([bcacenter@bellsouth.net](mailto:bcacenter@bellsouth.net))

Joe Nabors ([cccnabors@bellsouth.net](mailto:cccnabors@bellsouth.net))

Elizabeth Wheatley ([director@dekalbcac.org](mailto:director@dekalbcac.org));

Emilyn Gipson ([emilynng@yahoo.com](mailto:emilynng@yahoo.com))

Helen Rardin ([sccachelenr@bellsouth.net](mailto:sccachelenr@bellsouth.net))

Jannah Bailey ([bailey@childprotect.org](mailto:bailey@childprotect.org))

Jerry Renno ([bccc@otelco.net](mailto:bccc@otelco.net))

Kathy Smyth ([safeharbor@alaweb.com](mailto:safeharbor@alaweb.com))

Leslie Guthrie ([guthrie@konnekted.com](mailto:guthrie@konnekted.com))

Lori Lumsden ([llumsdencac@tds.net](mailto:llumsdencac@tds.net))

Lynn Hart ([lynnhartcac@bellsouth.net](mailto:lynnhartcac@bellsouth.net))

Mary Murphy ([mary@prescotthouse.org](mailto:mary@prescotthouse.org))

Nancy Green ([pearsongreen@aol.com](mailto:pearsongreen@aol.com))

Pam Hendrick-Kelly ([pkelley@coosahs.net](mailto:pkelley@coosahs.net))

Patrick Guyton ([pguyton@mobilecac.org](mailto:pguyton@mobilecac.org))

Patty Steele ([tuscaloosacc@bellsouth.net](mailto:tuscaloosacc@bellsouth.net))

Paul Young ([wacac@centurytel.net](mailto:wacac@centurytel.net))

Sara Wilhite ([barriecentersw@bellsouth.net](mailto:barriecentersw@bellsouth.net))

Sherryl Walker ([sdpwalker@comcast.net](mailto:sdpwalker@comcast.net))

Susan Martain ([smartin@cullmancac.org](mailto:smartin@cullmancac.org))

Timothy Birt ([birtt@tri-co-cac.org](mailto:birtt@tri-co-cac.org))

Jessica Hope ([jessica@susannah.co.uk](mailto:jessica@susannah.co.uk))

Kathy Hill ([kathryn11h@aol.com](mailto:kathryn11h@aol.com))

Mary English ([ccrcac@tds.net](mailto:ccrcac@tds.net))

Mona Watson ([prcac@troycable.net](mailto:prcac@troycable.net))

Teresa Young ([tyoung@morgancountycac.org](mailto:tyoung@morgancountycac.org))

The Cramer Children's Center ([cramercac@bellsouth.net](mailto:cramercac@bellsouth.net))

The Alabama Network of CACs, Inc.: [jhankins@alabamacacs.org](mailto:jhankins@alabamacacs.org) and [tjohnson@alabamacacs.org](mailto:tjohnson@alabamacacs.org)

## Continuing Your Education in the Workplace

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- **Major Issues of Minor Clients** — 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Friday, April 20, 2007

*WHERE:* The Bailey Center at Wallace State Community College, Hanceville, AL

*FEATURING:* Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb and ANCAC's very own, Dr. Richard Davy and others.

*SPONSORED BY:* BROOKS' PLACE: The Child Advocacy Center of Cullman, Inc. & Wallace State Community College Human Services and Psychology Department

*COST:* \$50/person (includes conference, breaks, lunch, CEUs)/ WSCC Faculty & Students: \$10/person

*CEUs:* 6.5 CEUs awarded to Social Workers, Nurses, and Counselors

*REGISTRATION DEADLINE:* [APRIL 10, 2007](#) Make checks payable and mail with registration to: *BROOKS' PLACE* P.O. Box 1252 Cullman, AL 35056. PARTICIPANTS MUST PRE-REGISTER BY MAIL WITH PAYMENT INCLUDED. To obtain a registration form, call [256-739-2243](#).

- **Partnering for Excellence: A Summit for Best Practices in Investigation, Intervention & Advocacy for Children** — Wednesday, May 2

*WHERE:* Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

*FEATURING:* This one-day summit includes a continental breakfast, plenary session featuring 11 Alive news anchor Ted Hall, concurrent workshops and a luncheon with Victor Vieth.

*SPONSORED BY:* Children's Advocacy Centers of Georgia, Kennesaw State University and the Department of Health and Human Services, National Children's Alliance, Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia

*TO REGISTER:* [www.cacga.org](http://www.cacga.org) *REGISTRATION DEADLINE:* [APRIL 18, 2007](#)

*LODGING:* Holiday Inn Express—Town Center Mall, [800-HOLIDAY](#) or [770-427-5210](#) by [April 2, 2007](#)

- **Equal Justice for Children: Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse** — May 7-11, 2007

*WHERE:* Sparks, Nevada (just outside of Reno)

*FEATURING:* The course covers sexual abuse, physical abuse, and computer facilitated crimes against children. Specialized training is offered for prosecutors, social workers, forensic interviewers, and law enforcement officers. The course will include training on several "hot topics" and emerging areas in the field.

*SPONSORED BY:* National District Attorney's Association

*CEUs:* The State of Nevada Board of Examiners of Social Workers has approved this conference for 30.0 hours of CEUs including 1 hour of ethics credit. The Nevada CLE Board has approved this course for 26 hours of CLE credit including 1 hour of ethics credit.

*MORE INFORMATION:* [angelica.hoskin@ndaa.org](mailto:angelica.hoskin@ndaa.org) or [www.ndaa.org](http://www.ndaa.org)

- **Beyond Finding Words: Emerging Issues in Forensic Interviewing** — August 27 -30, 2007

*WHERE:* Atlantic City, New Jersey

*FEATURING:* This conference expands the concepts taught at *Finding Words: Interviewing Children and Preparing for Court* by addressing current and merging issues in the field of forensic interviewing. Each *Beyond Finding Words* conference is unique and features experts from all over the United States.

*SPONSORED BY:* National District Attorney's Association

*CEUs:* NDAA will apply for credits with the National Association of Social Workers.

*MORE INFORMATION:* [angelica.hoskin@ndaa.org](mailto:angelica.hoskin@ndaa.org) or [www.ndaa.org](http://www.ndaa.org) or [507-457-2890](#)



## 2007 Committee placements (as of March 19, 2007)

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**Concerned with the following information, contact President Emilyn Gipson: 334-705-0770.**

### **Executive Committee**

Emilyn Gipson, *President*  
Cathy Pinion, *Vice President*  
Lori Lumsden, *Secretary*  
Lynn Hart, *Treasurer*  
Susan Martin, *Immediate Past Pres.*  
Patti Steele, *Director-at-Large*

### **Legislative Committee**

Chris Newlin, *Chair*  
Jannah Bailey  
Joe Nabors  
Sarah Wilhite  
Mary English  
Pamela Hendrick-Kelly  
Helen Rardin  
Teresa Young

### **Training Committee**

Susan Martin, *Chair*  
Leslie Guthrie  
Sherryl Walker  
Mona Watson  
Kathy Hill  
Nancy Green  
Kathy Smyth  
Debbie Land  
Cathy Pinion  
Monica Haddock

### **Long-Range Planning**

Tim Birt, *Chair*  
Mary Murphy  
Paul Young  
Chris Newlin  
Elizabeth Wheatley  
Patrick Guyton

### **Public Relations and Awareness**

Sherryl Walker, *Chair*  
Patrick Guyton  
Mary English  
Cathy Pinion  
Mona Watson  
Jerry Reno  
Joe Nabors  
Jessica Hope

### **Standards**

Elizabeth Wheatley, *Chair*  
Sarah Wilhite  
Kathy Hill  
Lori Lumsden  
Patti Steele  
Debbi Land  
Paul Young  
Mary Murphy  
Nancy Green

### **Finance**

Lynn Hart, *Chair*  
Sherryl Walker  
Jannah Bailey  
Leslie Guthrie  
Teresa Young

### **Diversity**

Helen Rardin, *Chair*  
Susan Martin  
Pamela Hendrick-Kelly  
Kathy Smyth  
Tim Birt  
Jessica Hope

## VOICES for Alabama's Children 2007 Legislative Agenda

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VOICES for Alabama's Children, its members, and friends has called upon the Alabama Legislature to take the following steps to improve child well-being in our state during the Regular Session of 2007.

- Expansion of state funded quality pre-k programs
- Establishment of Fetal Infant Mortality Review teams and other supports to address increase in Alabama's infant mortality rate
- Increased levels of immunization for Alabama's youth
- More adequate funding of child care for low-income working families
- Increased funding for establishment of Family Resource Centers
- Increase in foster care payments
- Improvement in teen driver's licensing law

*Adapted from [www.alavoices.org](http://www.alavoices.org)*

## A Doll of a Fundraiser: A Note from Emilyn the President

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Emilyn would like to remind all of you of a fund-raising activity that you may want to try in your service area.

East Alabama resident Olene Stoker has a unique way of sharing her time and talents with her community...She makes Guardian Angel Rag Dolls. About ten years ago she was asked to begin making the dolls for the then named Opelika Child Advocacy Center. She later founded Angels of Liberty Ministries where she and volunteers from her church make the dolls and then pray over them before they are distributed to children who are suffering for various reasons.

Emilyn says Mrs. Stoker makes regular, cute dolls, but can also make dolls that resemble people, like your district attorney, your mayor, or some other well-known person in your service area. After having a doll made to this fashion, Emilyn says the dolls make wonderful items to auction and will attract your community to place bids with the profits benefits your CAC.

For more information on this doll of a fundraiser, contact Emilyn: [emilynng@yahoo.com](mailto:emilynng@yahoo.com).



### 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*