

InterConnections

linking the ties that bind

Issue No. 11
August
2008

State Coordinator's Message

August has been a less hectic month than the rest of the summer. Dr. Davy and I have completed our annual round of site visits to assess Standards Compliance and it was truly a joy to be out in the field visiting member CACs to learn more about our Network as a whole. The majority of our work activity this month has been focused on the activities that are planned for September and beyond.

JJ and I have been busy preparing for the upcoming 4th Quarter ANCAC Board of Directors meeting in Phenix City, to be followed the next day by our 2008 Day of Diversity Training. At the Board meeting, we will welcome a new and incoming Executive Committee and thank our outgoing Executive Committee lineup for their dedicated service during the last two years. More importantly, the NCA Chapter Accreditation site reviewer, Ms. Julie Pape, will be attending our meeting from Washington, DC to speak with many of you about the activities of the Network and to observe. State chapter accreditation through NCA is a new process, so we are all looking forward to the site visit.

The Diversity retreat this year focuses on the topic of age across the spectrum and we have secured four distinguished and informative speakers for the program. Details about the Strategic Planning retreat, which is currently scheduled for the first week in November, will be provided to the retreat participants at the Board meeting. Please forward any additional comments, ideas and/or suggestions regarding issues to consider at the retreat to Long-Range Planning Committee Co-Chairs Tim Burt and Jerry Renno prior to the Sept. 22 Board meeting. See you in Phenix City!

— Amy Hinton

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Reminders...

- **Sept. 22-23: 4th quarter ANCAC Board meeting & Diversity Training in Phenix City, AL**
- **Sept. 30-Oct. 1: SRCAC State Chapter Summit in Atlanta, GA**



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. EASTERN STANDARD TIME***

***Tuesday, September 22, 2008 at 1 p.m.
EASTERN STANDARD TIME***

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

State Legislative Update — August 2008

With the possibility of a special legislative session to consider Jefferson County's dire financial situation seemingly of the table, state lawmakers have used the end of the summer to focus on the national Presidential campaign and various campaigns for a slate of state and local races that will also be on the November ballot. Also, lawmakers have been watching the trial of state Rep. Sue Schmitz (D-Toney), who is defending herself against charges that she accepted over \$170,000 in salary for little to no work as the public relations director of a program, funded through the two-year college system. Former system director Roy Johnson has already pleaded guilty to charges that he defrauded the state and used his position for personal gain by securing jobs and bogus contracts within the system for family members and friends. Schmitz is the first of a handful of lawmakers who are currently under investigation for improper employment contracts and positions on the system. Her trial is expected to conclude sometime in September and its outcome will have major implications for the upcoming legislative session.



Alabama Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

ANCAC has been invited to participate in an important new policy initiative, the Alabama Alliance for Drug Endangered Children. This new program is being developed by Mr. Kent Hunt, Associate Commissioner of the Substance Abuse Services Division at the Alabama Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation. The focus of the initiative is for project participants to assist the state DMHMR in developing and implementing a statewide plan to address the needs of drug endangered children in Alabama. The first meeting was held at the DMHMR Central Office on 28 August 2008 at 10 a.m.

The project defines "drug endangered children" as those who: are exposed to second-hand tobacco smoke; lives with a parent or caretaker who has a substance use or abuse disorder; lives with a parent or caretaker who grows or manufactures drugs within the home; has pre-natal exposure to alcohol, tobacco or illicit drug use; lives in communities with high risk factors and/or limited protective factors relative to substance abuse; are misinformed and/or have parents or caretakers who are misinformed about the problems associated with substance use and/or abuse; have parents or caretakers who cannot access treatment for a substance use or related disorder; and those who use alcohol, tobacco and/or illicit drugs themselves.

ANCAC is honored to be invited to participate in such a significant and important undertaking. The state office will keep members apprised of the progress of the Alabama Alliance for Drug Endangered Children.



Network News, Activities and Events

Recent ANCAC activities and meetings:

Pike Regional CAC site visit for ANCAC New Director Mentoring Program (Troy, AL): Amy Hinton, Mona Watson & Nekia Moore, **August 5 @ 1 p.m.**

General business meeting (Montgomery, AL): Amy Hinton, Emilyn Gipson & Jannah Bailey, **August 6 @ 10 a.m.**

Called meeting of ANCAC Finance Committee (via conference call): Amy Hinton, JJ Moody, Lynn Hart, Mary English, Teresa Young, Sherryl Walker, and Leslie Guthrie, **August 18 @ 10 a.m.**

Speaking engagement — Montgomery Public Library Speaker of the Month Club (Montgomery, AL): Amy Hinton, **August 20 @ 10 a.m.**

SRCAC State Chapter conference call (Montgomery, AL): Amy Hinton and other state chapter coordinators, as well as Darlene Woodard, Cym Doggett and Karen Hangartner of SRCAC, **August 21 @ 9 a.m.**

Lunch meeting (Montgomery, AL): Amy Hinton & Sen. Wendell Mitchell, **August 22 @ noon**

9th Annual Conference on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention (New Orleans, LA): Amy Hinton, Jerry Haase, Mona Watson, Stephanie Jackson, Mary English & Chris Newlin (among others!), **August 25-28**

ANCAC Establishes Formal Mentoring Program

CARCAC Director Nekia Moore and Pike Regional CAC Director Mona Watson have agreed to be “guinea pigs” for ANCAC’s newly established mentoring program. Pike Regional became a full member of ANCAC in 2007 and CARCAC is currently one of ANCAC’s two pilot project’s. NCA Chapter Accreditation standards indicate that State Chapters need to have a formal mentoring program in place that matches new and emerging CAC Directors with established Directors for guidance and networking assistance. State Coordinator Amy Hinton felt this would be a productive mentoring relationship as Nekia works to reestablish the CAC in Selma. Nekia has already been to Pike Regional for a site visit and a brainstorming session with staff regarding outreach, board development and physical location considerations. The pair will meet periodically over the next 12 months and will write a formal policy review of the ANCAC mentoring program for the Board to review.



ANCAC Fundraising Training Announced

The Network has scheduled its final training program funded through the Southern Regional CAC Training Grant for 2008. The training will be a Grant Writing and Fundraising Workshop that will help new CAC

Directors learn how to diversify their funding streams, implement a strategic development plan for their center and lobby elected officials for assistance. The workshop will be moderated by Amy Hinton (Grant Writing Basics), James Dupree (Lobbying & Outreach) and Pike Regional CAC Director Mona Watson (Fundraising and Development Planning for young CAC s). **The training will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2008 at the State Chapter office in Montgomery.**

Lunch will be provided to pre-registered participants. This training is free. This workshop will be provided to ANCAC member CACs courtesy of the 2008 Training Grant from Southern Regional CAC.



ANCAC Diversity Intern: Abraham White

Abraham White is working on his Master’s Degree in Community Counseling and Development at Auburn University Montgomery. He will be continuing his internship at Child Protect in Montgomery through the summer of 2008. During his internship, he has been able to counsel child victims of abuse. It has been apparent with the children and their families alike that Abraham has made a difference in the lives of these children. One little boy was sick and could not attend a session and his dad called to tell Abraham how upset the child was that he couldn’t see Mr. Abraham that week.



Abraham was also the recipient of one of the two Alabama Network of Child Advocacy Centers Intern Stipend awards for 2008. After graduation, Abraham wants to continue working with sexually abused children. He certainly has the heart for it!

NCA Chapter Accreditation Site Review

If your name appears below, you will be asked to speak about your experiences and/or activities directly with the NCA Chapter Accreditation site reviewer at the 4th Quarter Board of Directors meeting in Phenix City. A PDF copy of the NCA standards and ANCAC's response (submitted in early May) is attached to the e-mail containing this issue of *Interconnections* for your convenience. Please contact Emilyn Gipson at 334.705.0770 or Amy Hinton at 334.834.3468 if you have any questions or concerns.

STANDARD ONE

Criteria A: Debbi Land & Patty Steele

Criteria B: Debbi Land & Patty Steele

Criteria C: Lynn Hart

Criteria D: Amy Hinton, Jerry Renno & Tim Burt

Criteria E: Amy Hinton & JJ Moody

Criteria F: Emilyn Gipson, Susan Martin, Sherryl Walker & Jerry Renno

Criteria G: Susan Martin & Amy Hinton

Criteria H: Emilyn Gipson, Susan Martin, Amy Hinton & Jerry Renno

Criteria I: Lynn Hart, Jerry Renno, Tim Burt & Amy Hinton

Criteria J: Amy Hinton & JJ Moody

Criteria K: Chris Newlin & James Dupree

Criteria L: N/A

STANDARD TWO

Criteria A: Debbi Land & Patty Steele

Criteria B: Debbi Land & Patty Steele

Criteria C: Lynn Hart

Criteria D: Amy Hinton, Jerry Renno & Tim Burt

Criteria E: JJ Moody & Amy Hinton

Criteria F: Emilyn Gipson, Susan Martin, Sherryl Walker & Jerry Renno

Criteria G: Susan Martin & Amy Hinton

Criteria H: Emilyn Gipson, Susan Martin, Amy Hinton & Jerry Renno

Criteria I: Lynn Hart, Jerry Renno, Tim Burt & Amy Hinton

Criteria J: Amy Hinton & JJ Moody

Criteria K: Chris Newlin & James Dupree

Criteria L: N/A

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ANCAC Strategic Planning Retreat Scheduled

The ANCAC Strategic Planning retreat has been scheduled for Nov. 13-14, 2008 at the Drury Inn & Suites Hotel in Montgomery. The retreat is being generously funded through a grant from the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation. The grant was written to include approximately ten participants comprised of members of the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC), Executive Committee and state office staff. Southern Regional CAC is providing a facilitator to ANCAC for the retreat at no cost to the Network. The facilitator will be Ms. Julie Pape, who has a great deal of familiarity and expertise with the CAC model and with both NCA state chapter and individual CAC accreditation standards. Registration information will be disseminated at the 4th Quarter ANCAC Board of Directors meeting in Phenix City. At the retreat, Ms. Pape will assist the Committees and the state office staff in producing a revised set of Bylaws for ANCAC, a Network policies & procedures manual and a five-year strategic plan for the Network to include funding and development, marketing and programming. The retreat will bring the work that the LRPC has already completed to fruition. The work produced at the retreat should be ready for initial draft dissemination and review no later than February 2009. Comments and feedback will be incorporated into the drafts and revisions will be circulated for review prior to the 2009 2nd Quarter ANCAC Board meeting. The final project deliverables must be completed and approved by the end of the grant funding year, which is May 31, 2009. If you have any comments or perspectives about this process that you have not previously



NCA Chapter Accreditation Site Review (continued)

STANDARD THREE

Criteria A: Amy Hinton, JJ Moody, Susan Martin, Nekia Moore & Stephanie Jackson

Criteria B: Nekia Moore, Stephanie Jackson, Susan Martin & Amy Hinton

Criteria C: Susan Martin

Criteria D: Amy Hinton, Mona Watson & Nekia Moore

Criteria E: Susan Martin, Amy Hinton, Tim Burt & Jerry Renno

Criteria F: Nekia Moore, Stephanie Jackson & Jerry Haase

Criteria G: Susan Martin



shared, please e-mail LRPC Co-Chairs Tim Burt (birtt@tri-co-cac.org)

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

Sometimes, the best testimonials don't mince any words or beat around the bush. When the call went out recently for testimonials for the August newsletter, Stephanie Jackson of the Escambia County Children's Advocacy Center submitted the shortest (and sweetest) parent testimonial thus far:

Mrs. Jackson

Thank you for talking to me about every thing It felt really good I really appreciate it. Thank you for being so nice about it.

Regardless of the length or detail contained in our client testimonials, we should remember that they serve an important purpose in reminding us of the focus of our collective work.

