

InterConnections

linking the ties that bind

Issue No. 6
November
2007

State Office Message

Well, I must say that my head has finally stopped spinning, with report due dates, service statistics, budget requests, for which year, what office, and where am I again? Yes, I believe I feel sane again. I want to thank all of you for your assistance, compassion, and patience as we made it through another year!

This issue of *InterConnections* is my first, but felt it important to keep with the flow of things. I urge you to please, take a few minutes to browse this publication to see just what has been happening within the Network. There are many important reminders within this issue as well as fun and exciting news from various centers. So between all the multitasking you all do, take a moment and read over this lengthy publication. Once your done you might had it off to your assistant, just for fun.

A message from the Ad-Hoc Committee: Please review the suggested by-laws revision prior to the December 3rd called meeting. You may want to jump start the meeting by participating in a group email dialogue regarding your thoughts.

If anyone does not have a copy of this document please let me know, and I will forward one to you immediately.

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Just to remind you...

- Next ANCAC Board of Directors' Called Meeting: 10 a.m. **December 3, 2007** at the ANCAC office (By-Laws revision)
- 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



ANCAC Board Meetings 2007

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

Monday, Jan. 14

Monday, April 21

Monday, July 22

Monday, Sept. 22

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

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Tuesday, April 22

Tuesday, July 23

Tuesday, Sept. 23

By-Laws Revision CALLED Meeting DEC. 3rd

I'm sure you are all aware of this meeting, I am just offering a gently reminder to be reviewing the proposed revisions. The purpose of this meeting is to review, debate, and discuss the proposed by-laws revision. The plan is to come away from that meeting with the agreed upon changes in place so the Board of Directors can formally vote on them at the regular scheduled meeting in January.

At our September meeting all Directors were asked to engage in emailed ("reply all") dialogue and discussion about the current proposed changes. To date, the committee has not seen nor received any such correspondence.

Please take some time out of your immensely busy schedules to share your thoughts on what our Ad-Hoc Committee has dedicated their time to in hopes to update our By-Laws to coincide with the times.

Ad-Hoc Committee

Continuing Your Education in the Workplace

SAVE THE DATE

SRCAC 2008 Core Training Calendar

Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend training that addresses issues for CAC directors, CAC staff and the multidisciplinary team.

- **LEADERSHIP and MANAGEMENT**

Accreditation Boot Camp, **Feb. 19-20**

Intro to CAC Management, **April 8-9**

- **MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM PROFESSIONALS**

Team Facilitator, **July 15-17**

MDT Development, **Oct. 6-9; Nov. 3-6**

Basic Medical, **Nov. 16-18**

- **SOUTHERN REGIONAL CAC**

Training and Technical Assistance for Communities ESTABLISHING and STRENGTHENING Children's Advocacy Centers

More information is available online at www.srcac.org, click on training.

Network Neighborhood News

Children First Trust Fund – Well, as you all know, this allocation is not set to arrive until early second quarter...hold on to your pennies!

Children's Justice mini-grant applications– are due from Multidisciplinary Teams to the CJTF no later than **Nov. 26, 2007**. Please contact your county DHR for more information.

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

Southern Regional CAC: Chapter Training and Technical Assistance Grant application (2008), **Oct. 19**

Chapter Survey, **Oct. 31**

Children's First Plan of Investment: Budgeted Service Statistics (Fiscal Year 2008), **Oct. 26**

DHR / CFTF 4th Quarter Report (and Final), **Oct. 15**

DHR / CFTF 1st Quarter Request for Funds, **Oct. 15**

Executive Budget Office: Budget Request (Fiscal Year 2009), **Nov. 1**

SMART Office: 4th Quarter Performance Statistics, **Oct. 30**

SMART Final Report FY 06-07, **Oct. 30**

Operations Plan (Fiscal Year 2008), **Oct. 16**

Budget Request (Fiscal Year 2009), **Nov. 1**

National Children's Alliance: Chapter Support Grant Application (Fiscal Year 2008), **Oct. 02**

Chapter Survey, **Oct. 29**

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs: 4th Quarter Report, **Oct. 15**

September Request for Funds, **Oct. 11**

Recent activities and meetings:

Department of Human Resources: Margaret Bonham, meeting

Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs: Curtis Harris, monitoring visit (informal)

Russell County CAC: Lynn Hart, meeting

The Grant Application is Finished, I Just Haven't Written it Yet: Bob Zeanah, workshop (NRCA)

A Day for Celebration!



The Morgan County Child Advocacy Center recently celebrated the [one-year anniversary](#) of its first child interview on September 5, 2007. The CAC held an Open House and Volunteer Recognition Day.

State Senator Arthur Orr attended the event as well as the Decatur Mayor Don Kyle, County Commission Chairman John Glasscock, District Attorney Bob Burrell, and other local government officials.

The CAC recognized members of the Country Garden Club and the 2007 Motorcycle Rally planning committee for their support of the program.

James and Mary Jo Garrett were also recognized for their individual volunteer contributions to the CAC.

Contributed: Teresa Young, Executive Director, Morgan Co. CAC, 256-355-1908

Palmer Place *trick or treat*

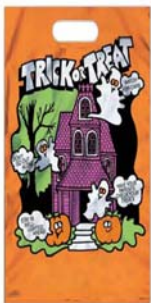
Palmer Place Participated in Trick or Treat on the Square in Talladega on Halloween night. Partnering with the First Family Service Center, over 300 identity kits were complete on children of our community.

Contributed: Nancy Green, Executive Director, Palmer Place, 256-315-2662

*Nancy Green and Amanda
McGrady at Trick of Treat on the
Square*



More Halloween Safety



Stephanie Jackson, Director, Jill Edwards, Victim Advocate and Adam Johnson, Escambia county Sheriff's Office Investigator from the Escambia County Child Advocacy Center purchased and presented Reflective Trick-or-Treat Bags with Halloween Safety Tips to every Kindergarten student in Escambia County on Wednesday, October 24 and Thursday, October 25, 2007.

Contributed: Stephanie Jackson, Executive Director, Escambia Co. Regional, 251-809-2906

NCA Fifth National Chapter Summit

Many thanks to my fellow Board members for affording me the opportunity to represent ANCAC at the National Children's Alliance State Chapter Summit in Cincinnati on October 23-24. Typically, our State Coordinator represents us at the national and regional summits, but this gave me the opportunity to experience first-hand the invaluable chance to network with other state chapter directors, learning of triumphs and struggles experienced by child advocacy centers and chapter boards all across our nation. Many of us shared that, despite the differences in structure, personnel, titles, funding, etc..., we all are sharing, or have experienced in the past, similar issues.

I spent time with the Utah Attorney General's Program Coordinator and one of their Chapter Advisory Committee members (also a center director). In Utah, the state network is under the umbrella of the AG's Office. I shared our past discussions of possibly moving under the umbrella of a state agency. They quickly pointed out the pros and cons of this situation. Many of their thoughts were exactly the considerations we've all shared when discussing this possibility. Many other centers shared that during the current fiscal year they had received legislated funding *for the first time*. I thought to myself how we often simply take our state funding for granted.

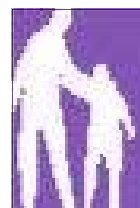
I could and am willing to share more about this conference as asked, but realize that's for another day. One thing I will mention is that the National Children's Alliance, with input from the Regional Children's Advocacy Centers (of which ANCAC is a member and took part) has now developed standards for state chapter accreditation, similar to the accreditation process used for individual center accreditation. The three primary standards for state chapters, each with essential and rated criteria, are as follows: Organization Capacity, Membership, Training/Technical Assistance. The NCA Board along with the state chapter representatives developed these standards over the past two years during meetings and chapter summits. As the standards and criteria were reviewed I tried to mentally rate how I thought ANCAC would do on each one. It's a good thing I did because ANCAC is slated for accreditation review in 2008!

I've shared this all with Emilyn, our Board President, and I'm sure as a Board we will be discussing this matter in the coming weeks. However, I wanted to give you a brief overview of the Summit itself and thank you again for honoring me with the opportunity to attend. It opened my eyes to the much bigger picture of which we are a part.

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

Federal Legislative Update

November 1, 2007 members of the U.S. Senate passed the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (CHIPRA) which would extend the SCHIP program. The bill passed with a vote of 64 to 30 and will now make its way to the President's desk. We will continue to keep you up to date as the battle over children's health insurance continues.



Email update from Melanie Bridgeforth, Voices for Alabama's Children

Mobile News Release

The Child Advocacy Center of Mobile will hold a news conference on: Monday, November 5th at 10:00 a.m. at the Child Advocacy Center (1351 Springhill Ave) to announce the kick-off of a major capital funds drive to raise over a half-million dollars to construct a new much needed addition onto the present facility and a storage facility next door.

The Officers and Board of Directors of the Child Advocacy Center, along with the Center's Advisory Board will join center staff and supervisors in announcing a new 2,000 square foot major expansion project that will cost \$400,000. Mr. Robert Weber, a local Mobile architect, will be on hand to present plans and drawings of the new addition. Also explained will be the need to raise \$125,000 to remodel our current facility and \$25,000 for parking and to remodel a house being used for storage.

Following the official announcement and the presentations of the proposed plans outside, the news conference will move inside so that members of the local news media can see first hand the various officers where child abuse professionals from 7 different agencies who work as a team are currently jammed up and forced to share small office space while trying to conduct confidential work.

Finally, the news conference will conclude at the rear of the center where the addition will be built.

Contributed: Pat Guyton, Executive Director, CAC of Mobile, 251-432-1101

News from Shelby Co.

The Shelby Co. MDT hosted a 3 day free training Oct. 23, 24, 25 at the Shelby County Law Enforcement Training Facility. Here is the lineup:

Pre-Interview Preparation & the Vital Role of the Non-Offending Caregiver, Ray Joiner & Ingrid Warren (both Social Workers, Ray is a CA/N supervisor @ DHR, Ingrid is the Shelby Co. Family Advocate)

Interviewing Child Victims; Tools & Techniques, Cindy Greer (CA/N Supervisor, DHR)

Prosecuting Offenders and Tips for Testifying, Gregg Lowery & Allison Boyd (both are special prosecutors, Crime Against Children, in Shelby Co.)

Therapy for Child Victims, Amy Flowers and Jennifer Birch (both Owens House Counselors – LPCs & RPTs)

Case Study Presentation, Cindy Greer

Medical Evidence in Child Abuse Cases, David Bernard, M.D., Melissa Peters, M.D. (CHIPS Clinic)

Documentation, Assessment, & Validation, Cindy Greer



"The Wizard of OZ" at Owens House on Oct. 31—Helen was the TORNADO...The kids LOVED IT

Contributed: Helen Rardin, Executive Director, Shelby Co., 205-669-3333

2008 ANCAC Committee Placements

Executive Committee

Emilyn Gipson, *President*
Chris Newlin, *Vice President*
Pam Hendrick-Kelley, *Secretary*
Lynn Hart, *Treasurer*
Susan Martin, *Immediate Past Pres.*
Mary English, *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
Nancy Green
Debbie Land
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
Mona Watson
Jerry Reno
Joe Nabors
Jessica Hope

Standards

Sarah Wilhite
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
Tim Birt
Jessica Hope



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