

Southern Connections

The Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center Newsletter Spring 2006

The Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center is a project of the National Children's Advocacy Center, funded by a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. We work collaboratively with the other Regional CACs, NCA, and our Chapter organizations to help establish new CACs and strengthen existing ones.

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Knowledge at Your Fingertips

The NCAC Research Library has begun the process of extending access to all those online resources that we want most. The rollout was initiated in April when the 17 chapter offices in the Southern Region were invited to join the digital library network that will eventually serve all CACs and chapters nationally.

Resources for Professionals

The NCAC Research Library established its digital library in January. The digital library is a collection of resources intended primarily for professionals contributing to the battle against child abuse. The collection includes links to resources that are freely accessible to the Internet pertaining to child abuse and welfare, best practices, and a plethora of directories, guides, statistical information, bibliographies on important topics, and even help for writing grant proposals.

The most anticipated resources, though, are the professional journals and databases that provide research and expert discussion of issues critical to our work. Databases like PsycInfo, which can be searched to identify references to publications by topic, and journals like Child Abuse & Neglect, Child Maltreatment, and Journal of Interpersonal Violence, which contain the full-text of the articles themselves. So, for example, if you want to see what research articles have been published on the traumatic effect of parental violence on children, you can search in PsycInfo, pick out articles that appear in journals on our list, and then go directly to the complete articles in the journal collection.

Access for Chapters and CACs

The PsycInfo database and the online journals are available by subscription from publishers, and are copyrighted. So the Research Library had to implement a system to limit access to these resources. That system has now gone through its testing phase and is ready for use.

Chapters and CACs that have attained full or associate accreditation will be eligible for logon privileges to these restricted-access resources. In order to receive their system username and password, Chapters and CACs must sign an agreement to abide copyright restrictions in the use of the system. Chapters in the Southern Region have already received their agreement forms. The first Chapter to complete its registration was Louisiana.

The Rollout Process

CACs throughout the Southern Region will begin receiving their invitation to register in June. The agreement requires each CAC to identify by name the individuals in their organization who will have access, have them sign the agreement, and return it to SRCAC. Once we receive the signed agreement, we will send the username and password, and the CAC will have immediate access to the system.

Take Advantage Early

It is the responsibility of every professional to maintain their knowledge and advance their practice. Training courses can be beneficial, but often just scanning the journals for articles on current issues of importance can be a good way to remain current.

When a problematic issue or question occurs, though, it is good to have access to resources that can provide some answers quickly. The registration process takes some time. It is best to be prepared. Get registered so the system is available to you when you need it.

SOUTHERN HAPPENINGS

Cym Doggett, Project Director

From my conversations with many of you, I know your Spring has been busy with Child Abuse Prevention Month activities, schools winding down for the summer, and your "everyday" heroics in addressing children's needs. The staff at SRCAC recognizes the demands on your time and we want to thank you for partnering together to make the Southern Region a collaborative striving to serve the needs of all its members. While each CAC and state is different and has unique needs, we are all reaching for the same goal of excellence in our work to prevent and respond to child abuse. Working together we can achieve much more than our individual efforts may yield.

The collaborative nature of our partnership was evident at the Southern Regional Chapter Summit held in Virginia Beach, Virginia February 27 through March 1 with 16 states participating. The Summit provided a unique opportunity for dialog between Nancy Chandler, Executive Director of NCA, the state chapter representatives, and SRCAC regarding future chapter standards and the needs of the states. Much of the Summit was spent sharing ideas on common state

level issues and how we can work together to address those needs. Each Chapter representative also began work on the details of his/her state's Training/Technical Assistance Agreement with SRCAC. The weather was a bit cool in Virginia Beach but the work was invigorating. I believe most of us left with a sense of momentum in the collaborative work of all the partners in the Southern Region.

During the Summit, we discussed ways we could better communicate regarding activities in the region and determined that one of the venues for sharing information would be the regular meetings of the state chapters. Already, thanks goes to Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Tennessee for including SRCAC in their chapter meetings. These state meetings have provided great opportunities for meeting the Executive Directors of CACs and for sharing information regarding the work of the regional office. I am looking forward to visiting the other chapters very soon!

We have hosted two recent trainings in Huntsville to strengthen the work of CACs. Multidisciplinary Team Facilitator Training was held March 28 – 30 and was lead by John Alderson and Cathy Crabtree. The small class was very engaged in training activities. It was very successful, and the participants left armed to better facilitate teams at home. The Introduction to CAC Management class was held May 9 – 11 and was also very successful. Topics included "Overview of NCA Standards and Accreditation" provided by Nancy Chandler, "Strategic Planning for CACs" provided by Chris Newlin, "Legal Issues for CACs" provided by Agnew Agatston and 12 other sessions pertaining to the work common to all executive directors of CACs. These trainings are not only educational resources but they also serve as foundational support networks for participants.

The staff of SRCAC appreciates the work you do and we want to hear from you regarding ways we may be able to assist your CAC. We have a large region to cover, and we are trying to be creative in how we can reach out to serve you. Please always feel free to contact Darlene, Kevin, Shawn or me with your questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Tuition Assistance Available Through SRCAC

This spring, SRCAC rolled out the first installment of our Scholarship Program. SRCAC matched 27 participants from 20 CACs with approximately \$12,000 in tuition assistance. These scholarships will assist participants attending a wide variety of trainings, including APSAC's Colloquium, NCA's Leadership Conference, the NCAC Forensic Interviewing of Children, and others.

A second batch of scholarships is now available. As a child abuse professional, you may apply for tuition assistance to attend a variety of skill-building training sessions. These scholarships are on a reimbursement basis with the affiliated CAC and are capped at \$600. Scholarship applications must be submitted by June 23. You may download the application and additional details at the SRCAC Services Website. For more information, you may also email smceniry@nationalcac.org.

SRCAC Debuts On-Line Atlas of CACs

The Southern Regional CAC serves sixteen states and the District of Columbia. Within the region, there are 273 CAC with Associate and Accredited membership with the National Children's Alliance. Through a collaborative partnership with the Chapters in the region, a searchable database of these CAC is now available on-line.

With this atlas, it is easy to locate a CAC in or near your city. In addition to the contact information, you can also look up information regarding the services provided by the CAC and the areas that they serve.

For multidisciplinary team members and CAC staff members, the benefits of this atlas reach a bit further. In instances where a client's family is relocating to another town, the atlas can be a useful tool in connecting that child with similar services near their new home. Also, CAC directors and board members can utilize the data held in the atlas to capture mission statements, funding profiles, interdisciplinary relationships, and more.

Initial work on the survey began in the summer of 2005. SRCAC would like thank all participating CACs. The Southern Region Chapters played an instrumental role in making this happen, in particular, the Florida Network of CACs. We are excited to debut this useful tool to the general community and the CAC world.

For more information on how to get your CAC listed or how to update your CACs information, please email Shawn McEniry at smceniry@nationalcac.org. Visit the SRCAC atlas at www.nationalcac.org/professionals/srcac/atlas/

Miracle in Mississippi: CAC Back in Business

Spring, nature's season of renewal and rebirth, is bringing new life to the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse (aka "The Child Advocacy Agency of South Mississippi"). Eight months after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, the Center's staff and board members have made great progress in their efforts to recover, rebuild, and renew their agency, their lives, and the lives of the children and families they serve.

The Center is pleased to announce that they have moved back into their storm-damaged CAC buildings and resumed operations in three of the Mississippi communities hardest hit by Katrina. The facility in Pascagoula, which was a total loss after being deluged with six feet of water, has made a miraculous recovery. It was refurbished and replenished with donated office furniture and equipment, and the CAC was offering services again in March. The Hattiesburg and Gulfport houses, both of which sustained moderate damage during the hurricane, have also been repaired, and forensic interviews and MDT coordination of cases resumed in mid-April in both locations.

In Waveland, the Center relocated its program office in March into a building that used to be a bakery and is currently offering a variety of services, including parenting classes, marriage enrichment seminars, child victim support, and case management. The agency has also recently hired a new executive director, Michelle Shows. The staff and board of the Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse would like to relay the following message to the many caring volunteers from the CAC world and elsewhere who provided assistance and support to the agency in their time of great need:

"We cannot thank you enough for your continuing support of our agency and its mission, and for your belief in us. We have all had a very difficult row to hoe on many fronts, in both our personal and professional lives. With your help, like the tulips in spring, we are in blossom and making a difference in the lives of South Mississippi's children and families. We are proud to call you friend and have you as a member of the Center's family. Have a great spring and a wonderful summer."

CAC Dream Comes True in Martinsburg, West Virginia

On April 24, the Safe Haven Child Advocacy Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia, celebrated its grand opening with a festive House Warming and Dedication ceremony. The center, which serves Jefferson, Berkeley, and Morgan counties in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, was very proud to welcome Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito as its distinguished guest of honor/ribbon cutter. Awards were presented to seven individuals, companies, and agencies that helped make the dream of a CAC a reality. Over 150 community members attended the six-hour house-warming, enjoying food lovingly prepared by volunteers from a local church.

Safe Haven, an umbrella agency of Children's Home Society of West Virginia, has been in development since 2003. The National Children's Alliance awarded the CAC a Non-Member Program Development Grant in 2004, and it became an Associate Member of the NCA in September 2005. The new center is housed in the historic "Pink House", an 1850's Federal-style building. Safe Haven partnered with the local Senior Services Agency to renovate the facility, a collaborative effort that also received the support of the construction industry, the faith community, and several community "angels."

The first interviews in the newly refurbished building were conducted in February 2006. To date, over 30 interviews have been completed, utilizing staff from all three of the counties the CAC serves. The Safe Haven Advisory and Steering Committees continue to work toward meeting all of the NCA standards and achieving Full Membership. In February, with the help of the Southern Regional CAC, the CAC trained 23 new local Forensic Interviewers (the number of qualified child interviewers had dwindled to less than 10).



US Representative Shelly Moore Capito joins CAC Director Rusty Holland at the ribbon-cutting for the new Martinsburg CAC.

Partnering with several community agencies, Safe Haven has already accomplished a great deal in a short amount of time. It has developed outreach programs designed to strengthen its MDTs, train new Forensic Interviewers, conduct workshops for the medical community, and provide necessary Mental Health interventions for the children and families it serves. Rusty Holland, Safe Haven Director, reports, "Without the continuing support of the Southern Regional office and their staff, none of this would have become a reality." For more information about Safe Haven, please contact Rusty Holland at (304) 596-2002 or safehavencac@adelphia.net.

CHAPTER NEWS

The role of the Chapters in the Southern Region States is a important part of the evolution of the CAC movement. Below are a few spotlights from various states throughout the region:

Alabama: Alabama CAC Network has new website and new url. Come visit our new home on the Internet at www.alabamacacs.org. It is a work-in-progress, but we are enjoying it already. The web site includes member centers and links to their web sites, along with links to related agencies and other resources for members and the public. This is one effort to fulfill the public awareness portion of the Network's mission.

The "News Bits" page of the site will feature member centers, and the happenings in those respective service areas. The site was designed by Montgomery-based company, Quasar Technologies Consulting Group.

Kentucky: To raise awareness about the number of children being sexually abused in Kentucky, the Kentucky Association of Children's Advocacy Center's created and coordinated a statewide visual display of pinwheels called Pinwheels for Prevention. The project demonstrated the prevalence and seriousness of child sexual abuse. Each participating Children's Advocacy Center displayed one pinwheels for every case of child sexual abuse reported in their region. The pinwheels were displayed during the month of April. The project was a great success for the Association!

Florida: The Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Centers is celebrating its 10th "birthday" this year, and it hosted a "birthday party" for legislators and other state officials during the first week of legislative session in March. The focus of the Network this year is on building new partnerships and strengthening existing ones, resource development, and increasing statewide accountability.

The Network's annual training conference is scheduled for June 7 - 9 in Orlando, and they are anticipating a record turnout for the event.

North Carolina: CACNC held its 2nd Annual Board Retreat at Camp Caraway Conference Center, April 27 and 28. Costs for the retreat were supported by a grant from the SRCAC. CACNC Executive Directors and Coordinators received training concerning employment law and human resource issues. In addition, CACNC was able to draft and review new amendments to its By-Laws that will enable the organization to modernize its Board of Directors. The amendments will be presented to the full membership for approval at its September meeting. Plans were also discussed for the second annual CACNC Day at the State Capitol in Raleigh on May 17, 2006. Plans are nearly complete for the 12th Annual CACNC Symposium on Child Abuse and Neglect that will be held at Lake Junaluska September 19-21, 2006. CACNC is working with the Trinity Children's Foundation to plan a "Charity Ride for Children" that will take place in late August. Motorcycle riders from around the state will ride from Kure Beach to eastern Tennessee. Local CAC's are locating riders and sponsorships. All proceeds from the event will support local CAC's from throughout North Carolina.

South Carolina: The SC Network of CAC's sponsored its third annual "Joining Hands to Protect Children" workshop and luncheon on April 20 with Dr. Walter Lambert, Associate Professor of Pediatrics at The University of Miami School of Medicine. Dr. Lambert's well-received topic for the workshop was "Assessing Child Maltreatment in Multicultural Populations" and his keynote for the luncheon was on "Preventing Child Abuse in 2006". During the luncheon, awards were presented to the Aiken County Sheriff's Department for their outstanding support in the development and growth of the Aiken CAC and to Charles Phipps, formerly with the University of South Carolina School of Law for his support and guidance to law enforcement and legal professionals working with CAC's and his development of SC Finding Words. South Carolina welcomes its newest NCA associate member, the Sumter County CAC.

Virginia: The growth of Children's Advocacy Centers in Virginia continues, reports Kay Kovacs, Coordinator for CACVA, as two new CACs opened recently, bringing the total number to twelve. The Foothills CAC serving Charlottesville and Albemarle County opened March 23, providing forensic interviewing, crisis intervention, MDT team investigations, and case management services with Project Coordinator Megan Oliviero. On May 4, the Lynchburg Child Interview Center, operating within the Department of Social Services, officially opened to provide forensic interviewing, MDT case review, and coordination of victim services for Lynchburg and surrounding counties. The Center's child-friendly space was organized by Lisa Parks, Multidisciplinary Team/Child Interview Center Coordinator.

ACCREDITATION BOOTCAMP

Accreditation Bootcamp is available to all CACs who plan to submit a National Children's Alliance Accreditation/Re-Accreditation application the in the fall or later.

This tuition-free Bootcamp will focus on understanding the accreditation process, acceptable variations of the national standards, preparing the accreditation packet, preparing for the site visit, and understanding what the site visitors will be looking for. There will also be an opportunity for centers to have materials that they have already prepared reviewed by Bootcamp faculty. Opportunities for additional writing and review will be provided.

Southern Regional CAC, in partnership with Northeast Regional CAC, will host this two -day training July 19-20, 2006, in Huntsville, Alabama. You can find more details and registration information online at: www.nationalcac.org/professionals/srcac/training_calendar.html

BASIC MEDICAL TRAINING

The Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center and Midwest Regional Children's Advocacy Center are partnering to present Basic Medical Training for the health care providers in the Southern Region. This training is designed specifically for health care providers who have the responsibility for providing the medical evaluation for children who are suspected victims of child abuse, i.e. physicians, nurse practitioners, SANE nurses, or other registered nurses with advanced training, and physician's assistants with less than 2 years of experience in this area of health care. This training is not intended for nurses or other health care providers whose role is to assist an examiner.

This training is limited to twenty (20) health care providers. You can find more details and registration information online at: www.nationalcac.org/professionals/srcac/training_calendar.html

Congratulations to these New NCA Associate Member CACs:

Associate:

Matthews, VA
Roanoke, VA
Sumter, SC
Tupelo, MS
Wheeling, WV

TRAINING IN THE SOUTHERN REGION

ADVANCED FORENSIC INTERVIEWING: ISSUES IN INTERVIEWING ADOLESCENTS

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Dates: May 22 - 25, 2006; November 13 - 16, 2006
Location: Huntsville, AL
Contact Information: www.nationalcac.org

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

TEXAS ALLIANCE FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN/BETTY FORD CENTER

Dates: May 26, 2006
Location: San Antonio, TX
Contact Information www.texasdec.org

INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD FATALITIES AND PHYSICAL ABUSE

AMERICAN PROSECUTORS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Dates: June 5-9, 2006
Location: San Antonio, TX
Contact Information: www.ndaa-apri.org

3RD ANNUAL MULTIDISCIPLINARY TRAINING CONFERENCE

FLORIDA NETWORK OF CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS, FL DEPT. OF HEALTH, FL DEPT. OF LW, PREVENT CHILD ABUSE FL

Dates: June 7-9, 2006
Location: Caribe Royale - Orlando
Contact Information: amandafncac@gtcom.net

BASIC MEDICAL EVALUATION OF CHILD/ADOLESCENT SEXUAL ABUSE CHILD PROTECTION CENTER, CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE OF ATLANTA

Dates: June 15 & 16, 2006; October 5 & 6, 2006
Location: Atlanta, GA
Contact Information: cpctraining@choa.org

FORENSIC EVALUATION TRAINING

THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Dates: June 19 - 21, 2006
Location: Huntsville, AL
Contact Information: www.nationalcac.org

22ND ANNUAL TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE GEORGIA

Dates: July 9 - 11, 2006
Location: Atlanta, GA
Contact Information: Jeanette Meyer, 404.870.6588

SPANISH SPEAKING FORENSIC INTERVIEWING THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Dates: July 17 - 21, 2006
Location: Arlington, VA
Contact Information: www.nationalcac.org

ACCREDITATION BOOT CAMP

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Dates: July 19 - 20, 2006
Location: Huntsville, AL
Contact Information: www.nationalcac.org/professionals/srcac/training_calendar.html

VICTIM ADVOCACY 101: WORKING WITH CHILD VICTIMS AND WITNESSES**THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

Dates: July 24 - 26, 2006
 Location: Huntsville, AL
 Contact Information: www.nationalcac.org

INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CHILD ABUSE**AMERICAN PROSECUTORS RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

Dates: July 24-28, 2006
 Location: Clearwater, FL
 Contact Information: www.ndaa-apri.org

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM DEVELOPMENT**SOUTHERN REGIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

Dates: July 31 - August 3, 2006; September 25 - 28, 2006
 Location: Huntsville, AL
 Contact Information: www.nationalcac.org/professionals/srcac/training_calendar.html

7th NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION**THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

Dates: August 9 - 11, 2006
 Location: Florence, AL
 Contact Information: www.nationalcac.org

INVESTIGATING CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE 101: A COURSE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

Dates: August 14 - 18, 2006
 Location: Huntsville, AL
 Contact Information: www.nationalcac.org

FORENSIC INTERVIEW TRAINING (BASIC)**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS OF GEORGIA**

Dates: August 21 - 23, 2006
 Location: TBA
 Contact Information: cacga@cacga.org

18TH ANNUAL CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN CONFERENCE**DALLAS CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER AND THE DALLAS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Dates: August 21-24, 2006
 Location: Dallas, TX
 Contact Information: www.dcac.org

PREVENTION INSTITUTE**THE NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

Dates: September 11 - 15, 2006
 Location: Huntsville, AL
 Contact Information: www.nationalcac.org

12th ANNUAL REFLECTIONS SYMPOSIUM ON CHILD ABUSE**NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER**

Dates: September 19 - 21, 2006
 Location: Lake Junaluska, NC
 Contact Information: cpurvis@northstate.net

MEDICAL SOCIAL WORK ASSESSMENT**CHILD PROTECTION CENTER, CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE OF ATLANTA**

Dates: September 19, 2006
 Location: Atlanta, GA
 Contact Information: cpctraining@choa.org

THE ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE ON CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT**MARYLAND CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE, INC.**

Dates: October 3-6, 2006
 Location: Ocean City, Maryland - The Princess Royale Hotel
 Contact Information: www.mdcha.org/MidAtlantic.htm

FORENSIC EVALUATION OF CHILD MALTREATMENT**CHILD PROTECTION CENTER, CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE OF ATLANTA**

Dates: October 11, 2006
 Location: Atlanta, GA
 Contact Information: cpctraining@choa.org

FORENSIC INTERVIEW TRAINING (ADVANCED)**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS OF GEORGIA**

Dates: October 16 - 18, 2006
 Location: TBA
 Contact Information: cacga@cacga.org

SOUTHERN REGION BASIC MEDICAL TRAINING**SOUTHERN REGIONAL CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

Dates: November 5 - 7, 2006
 Location: Huntsville, AL
 Contact Information: www.nationalcac.org/professionals/srcac/training_calendar.html

ADVANCED MEDICAL EVALUATION OF CHILD/ADOLESCENT SEXUAL ABUSE**CHILD PROTECTION CENTER, CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE OF ATLANTA**

Dates: December 7 & 8, 2006
 Location: Atlanta, GA
 Contact Information: cpctraining@choa.org

Note: Some restrictions may apply to the trainings listed. Contact the host organization for additional information.

If you have a training occurring this summer that you would like to have published in the next edition of the Southern Connections, send your information to dwoodard@nationalcac.org by August 1st.

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