

CCN at 33rd Annual NACAC Conference - Tampa, Florida

Parents as advocates was a recurring theme at this year's conference, and the Community Champions Network coalition members who attended were strong representatives. From the first hours through to the closing ceremony, parents and professionals continually applied their knowledge and networking skills to their plans for creating, expanding, and sustaining post adoption support services across North America. Coalition members from five sites attended a CCN luncheon to discuss challenges and successes, as well as to strategize for the coming months. A number of our colleagues are now working on their own workshop proposals for next year's conference in Ottawa, Canada.



Site Updates

Los Angeles County

The Los Angeles County coalition sent four members to the parent liaison training held in Minnesota in June, and two members also attended the conference in Tampa. Plans are moving forward to launch a liaison program throughout the county, with the APSS Region post-adoption centers. These liaisons will be able to more effectively serve the children and

Consider a NACAC membership. It offers many benefits for a small investment. Go to www.nacac.org and follow the link to "About NACAC" for more information

families of Los Angeles County. NACAC staff will present at the statewide coalition conference in October.

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

As reported in the spring newsletter, the Eau Claire coalition has launched a youth advocacy team. In August they held a day-long team building event at Beaver Creek Reserve. The group has stirred interest across Wisconsin and hopes to expand over the coming months. A subcommittee of the CCN coalition is working with other adoption advocates in Wisconsin on improving the mental health system.

Ontario

As reported in the spring newsletter, a Parent Leadership Training was held in Toronto. Thirty-four parents from across Canada participated; half of them members of the Ontario CCN coalition. The energy and activity created by this event was quite inspirational. A nationwide coalition has formed that is working on a campaign to establish equitable parent leave for adoptive parents. In October NACAC staff will present at the Adoption Resource Exchange conference and will train managers and liaisons in the MN ASAP parent liaison model.

Kansas City, Missouri

Congratulations to Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association! The Missouri legislature has awarded a start-up allocation of \$300,000 for Post-Adoption Resource Centers in Kansas City and St. Louis. MFCAA provides services in Kansas City, while another parent group in the east - Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition - provide services in St. Louis. Having attended the parent liaison training in Minneapolis this June, our Kansas City leaders are in an excellent position to mentor St. Louis. NACAC staff will

provide a luncheon keynote and workshop at the upcoming regional conference.

North Carolina

Through the legislative advocacy work of foster and adoptive parents, allocations have been made in the most recent session to increase tax credits for adoptive families by \$5,000 and to provide an additional \$5,000 in higher education funding for children 12 and older adopted out of foster care. Continued advocacy is needed to ensure consistency across the state in this county-run system. Currently, post-adoption funding has been allocated for private agencies, but parent involvement in service delivery needs to be increased.

Washington, D.C.

The District's post adoption contract was awarded this spring and the Post Permanency Family Center is up and running, serving children adopted out of the D.C. system in both the District and Prince Georges County, Maryland. This marks an unprecedented change for cross-jurisdictional cooperation. Among the services offered at the Center are support groups for children, youth and adults; topical, short-term groups for youth; training for parents and professionals; 24/7 emergency coverage; social events; and more. Next steps include creating a respite-share program and parent liaisons.

Rhode Island

Extensive survey distribution in Rhode Island resulted in a remarkable 15% return (experts say that 10% is a good goal) from parents, youth and DCFS workers. There were some clear trends revealed which have been shared with those who are able to effect positive change. Not surprisingly, some of the "most effective" supports included support groups, parent training and education, and strong community re-

sources. Stay tuned to hear about the first Kids & Judges Day for the CCN program, to be held in Rhode Island this fall.

Orlando, Florida

Agency and parent representatives participated in the parent liaison training and have taken their knowledge home to push for improved and expanded services. The agency is looking to establish parent-driven supports, while our partner has already begun reaching out to other regions for expansion and replication. Having the conference in Orlando's backyard this summer certainly helped spread the word.



Steal Shamelessly

It's an expression that has been used a lot in child welfare of late - and for good reason. There are people and programs that are making a positive difference for our children and families. And we know that, in childhood, time is of the essence. Our kids don't have time for us to figure everything out for ourselves. Below are some programs, people, and contact information for replicable ideas.

Parent Liaison Model

This model of parent to parent support has been effective in Minnesota since 1999 in helping kids stay safely at home.

Ginny Blade, NACAC
ginnyblade@nacac.org 651-644-3036
www.mnasap.org

Kids & Judges Day

This program, created by Deborah Cave, NACAC Board member, is an excellent model to helping the courts understand our kids and our kids understand the process.

Kim Stevens 508-690-1867
kimstevens@nacac.org

Together as Adoptive Parents (TAP link)

Web-based information and referral for Pennsylvania; this model is being replicated with the assistance of:

Phyllis Stevens 215-256-0669
taplink@comcast.net
<http://www.taplink.org/>

Coming of Age Groups

Short-term, gender-specific groups for girls and boys entering adolescence.

Reena Vogt, Post Permanency Family Center
rvogt@adoptionstogether.org 202-526-4802
www.centerforadoptivefamilies.org



Mark Your Calendars! 34th Annual Conference

Ottawa, Ontario
July 31 – August 2, 2008
Pre-Conference Sessions
on July 30

Please check www.nacac.org
and follow link to
"Conference" for more
information and to submit
workshop proposals.



On Line Technical Assistance

As you move forward in seeking funding and approval for the community-specific models, it is certain you will be asked for a "logic model" by any potential funder. There is a

great resource for helping to build a logic model at:

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/developing/toolkit/>

While there, be sure to check out all the other fantastic resources!



Post-Adoption Certificate Programs

The issue of adoption competent providers has come up in each of the CCN sites, as well as in child welfare conversations across North America. Below are some certificate programs that are available for professionals to increase their knowledge and skills. Please contact Kim Stevens with any other programs you are aware of so that we can share this information with all.

Kinship Center (California)

www.kinshipcenter.org

Portland State University (Oregon)

<http://www.ceed.pdx.edu/adoption/program.shtml>

Rutgers University School of Social Work (New Jersey)

<http://www.nrcadoption.org/resources/prac/NewJerseyPostAdoptionProgram.pdf>

Hunter College School of Social Work (City University of New York)

<http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/adoptiontherapy/>

TAPE Educational Services, St. Michael's College (Toronto)

<http://www.tapestudies.org>

(Follow link to Core Certificate Programs / Adoption Studies)