



CHILD CARE

Summer 2007

News

2006 - 2007 Board of Directors

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President's Message by Shannon Erickson, SCCCA President



Author Stephen Covey says that "effective people are not problem-minded; they're opportunity-minded. They feed opportunities and starve problems." I hope that

over this, my second year as your SCCCA President, I have been that type of person. We have had (and made opportunities) and I believe "starved" the problems this year. I won't say that our year was not full of issues, trials and tribulations, but we pulled together and effectively communicated our visions and points of view. Within all our functions and committees, I can honestly tell you I've not had a dull moment!

Over the legislative calendar, we have dealt with 4-year-old pre-kindergarten in the C.D.E.P pilot, revisited the proposed Child Care Licensing Fine Regulations, discussed the Judge Cooper ruling, and offered our Association's olive branch to all members of the General Assembly. With the 4-K program, we worked with Representative Bob Walker to fine tune wording, increase per child funding, and re-work the transportation issue. In regards to the proposed Fine Regulations, we have agreed to look at them next year, provided we are allowed to get membership feedback along the way, not just at the end as it was last time. We're still wondering how Judge Cooper's ruling will finally wash out, but are continuing to have folks keep an eye out for anything that could affect us. As for our relationships with legislators, we held our first ever dinner with the House Education sub-committee, had our entire Board in attendance, and presented them all with original child art from various centers around the state.

We held our annual legislative day for the House and the Senate and supplied child-art koozies as thank you gifts to them all. We must have been effective because Dr. Nancy Freeman, when interviewed, was quoted as saying that the SCCCA group had very strong legislative lobbying power. Thank you to our lobbyists Jeff Thordahl & Hope Lanier; Board members Nancy Pryor & Cindy Walton-McCawley, and member, Roger Pryor, for all the hard work and support this year!

Our Professional Education committee hit all kinds of new records with the SCCCA Annual Professional Conference this year. With over 650 participants, we packed our location and will move to a larger site for the 2008 Conference (mark your calendars for February 1 & 2, 2008 at Trinity Baptist Church.) We did our best to cover all educational and developmental levels, caregivers' required needs like Blood-borne pathogen training, as well as an absolutely kickin' music & movement class! A huge thank you goes to Professional Development Chair & Board member, Marie Darstein for her magnanimous work and dedication! Kudos to Tami, Stacy, & John Michael Nix, Carolyn Watt, Cindy Walton-McCawley, Jerry Cook, Nancy Pryor, Becky Croft, Jennifer Dennis, & Cheri Smith for offering their talents as presenters. Special thanks goes to my Hobbit Hill 1, Too, and Cottage ladies for the amazing Make-It, Take-It workshop again this year! We expanded our Conference with an owner/director day and next year we will add on-line class opportunities.

So, another SCCCA year is drawing to a close. We will start all over again in September, so watch out!

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Legislative Update

Summer 2007

Jeffrey N. Thordahl and Hope Lanier



It was another busy year for early childhood issues before the General Assembly and in early childhood circles. It is almost guaranteed that next year will be as busy if not even more so than this year.

4K Kindergarten for at-risk children

The General Assembly, both the House and the Senate spent hours of meeting time debating how to implement full day 4K kindergarten for at-risk children on a permanent basis. While much good discussion was had and progress was made, the General Assembly stopped short of a permanent program and adopted a plan that extends the pilot program one more year with a few practical changes. Of the \$24 million allocated to the program last year, there was \$8 million left over. This year they allocated \$9.3 million to the Department of Education for the public School programs and another \$7.8 million to First Steps for the private sector.

According to the First Steps Web Site, there are now 49 approved private providers in at least 15 counties. To be eligible, a student must be 4-years-old by September 1, 2007; qualify for Medicaid or free or reduced-price lunch; and live in one of the 37 school districts involved in the school funding equity lawsuit. They are: *Abbeville, Allendale, Bamberg 1, Bamberg 2, Barnwell 19, Barnwell 29, Barnwell 45, Berkeley, Chesterfield, Clarendon 1, Clarendon 2, Clarendon 3, Dillon 1, Dillon 2, Dillon 3, Florence 1, Florence 2, Florence 3, Florence 4, Florence 5, Hampton 1, Hampton 2, Jasper, Laurens 55, Laurens 56, Lee, Lexington 4, Marion 1, Marion 2, Marion 7, Marlboro, McCormick, Orangeburg 3, Orangeburg 4, Orangeburg 5, Saluda or Williamsburg.*

Centers enrolling eligible children will qualify for \$3,931 in tuition reimbursement per child, up to \$550 per child for transportation, and materials and

equipment grant funding of up to \$10,000 to equip new classrooms. Interested providers should contact S.C. First Steps or their local First Steps County Partnership Office for more information. Going into the 2008 legislative session you can expect continued debate over making the 4K program permanent and also expanding it statewide. A House bill doing exactly that was debated at length this year and almost passed the House until it got caught up in the controversial Put Parents in Charge issue. The senate Select Committee on Early Childhood Education met several times and heard from experts and discussed how to proceed. Sen. Nikki Setzler introduced a 4K bill at the end of the legislative session that is likely to be debated by the Senate next year.

Note that the SCCCA was at the table and involved in every aspect of the legislation. (http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3175.htm) Members of the House Education committee really came to see the need to create a program that allowed the private sector to fully participate. Due in large part to the lobbying efforts, including grassroots, the following improvements were made:

- Reimbursement increase from \$3077 per child to \$3931
- Transportation increase from \$180 per child to \$550
- Clarified the definition of At-risk
- Created some flexibility in the program to reach more eligible children
- Added funding for consumables and materials

As a final note on the development of the 4K program, note that on July 12th the presiding Judge over the Equity funding lawsuit ruled that he would not reconsider his ruling from December 2005. It was that ruling that in large part brought early childhood education to the forefront of the minds of the General Assembly. Suddenly a case that had been about school facilities and teacher pay became a ruling that the state was not providing constitutionally minimally adequate education in early childhood. It remains to be seen if his ruling is now appealed.

Task Force on Quality Standards

President Shannon Erickson was appointed to the Quality Standards Task Force and remains on the subcommittee that is carrying on the work. The First Steps web site summarizes where the Task Force is and what they have found thus far. As an association, it is important to note that we continue to make it clear that any Quality Standards that are implemented must have associated with them funding or financial incentives to allow and encourage centers to move up on levels as the center desires. To throw standards without a mechanism for private centers to embrace them is recipe for disaster.

This is the web address for the First Steps summary:
<http://www.scfirststeps.org/docs/TaskForcePrelimExecSumm.pdf>

Fine Regulations

While discussion of developing DSS fine regulations was minimal this year, it is quite possible they will be a topic of discussion later this year and going into next year. The SCCCA will be actively involved in helping develop a useful and appropriate fine schedule most likely through the Child Care Advisory Board. DSS is in need of a way to get the attention of repeat offenders, especially those with serious violations such as operating without a license. This is an area where your critical thinking and active input will help produce a product of which South Carolina can be proud.

Pending legislation

In the SCCCA's ongoing efforts to improve the health and safety of young children and to create a level playing field for all providers of early childhood care, we will be pursuing legislation to clarify the definition of Child Care Facilities. As you all know, there is a growing segment of services to children which are basically providing child care but are not required to be licensed by DSS and meeting the Licensing Regulation requirements. It is time for all children to be protected no matter the setting. Rep. Nikki Haley has introduced legislation to accomplish this hopefully next year. While the legislation will need to be fully debated to perfect it, it is a well-intentioned effort that when finished will be another positive development for young children.

Welcome to our newest members:

Tender Loving Childcare
Ken Poston
905 E. Main Street
Walhalla, SC 29691

Honeytree Preschool
Sue Anne Reedy
2202 First Boulevard
Beaufort, SC 29902

Wyeth Vaccines
Shawn Smith
Post Office Box 1244
Lawrenceville, GA 30046-1244

US Foodservice
120 Longs Pond Road
Lexington, SC 29072
(803) 951-4200

Francis Marion University
Center for the Child
Post Office Box 100547
Florence, SC 29501

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Palmetto Pride



Save the Date...

Saturday, February 2, 2008

Annual Conference

**Trinity Baptist Church
2003 Charleston Highway
Cayce, South Carolina**

Continued from page 1

We will continue to keep the General Assembly in our viewfinder with our focus on promoting licensed, private, early childhood care and education experiences. We know that our members are the best that South Carolina has to offer and I challenge you to recruit other excellent folks like yourselves to be members of our Association! The more of us there are, the more we can accomplish! Remember what Mother Teresa said, "the ocean is made of drops."

Finally, thank you for allowing me to serve you this year! I love traveling around the state visiting your centers and meeting your dedicated staffs. I am honored to be a part of this fine organization and proud to have the SCCCA sticker on the doors of my schools!



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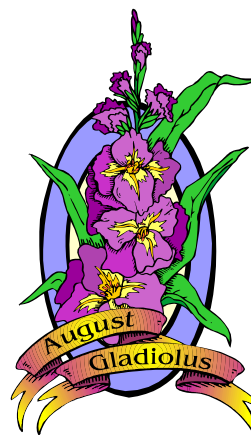
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Ashley Amber Price, the daughter of Cheri Smith (Director, Sunshine House Center 89), was involved a very critical car accident. Amber, through the grace of God and many prayers, is going to be fine. She is now at home and attending therapy daily. Through this process, Cheri has incurred a phenomenal amount of medical bills. An account has been opened to offset some of the financial burden. The account information is above. If you would like to contribute, it would be much appreciated.



August is the month to renew your membership with the SCCCA. Watch your mailbox for your renewal information. Don't miss out on another year of important legislative advisories and updates. The SCCCA has many professional development and networking opportunities planned for 2007-2008. We look forward to serving you!



The Silver Linings of the Carolina Child Care Associa



Members of the South Carolina Child Care Association are dedicated to promoting physical, emotional, social and intellectual growth in child care programs in South Carolina. Many of these members have literally dedicated their entire lives to positively affecting the children in South Carolina. The South Carolina Child Care Association is proud to announce the following members who have at least 25 years of service in the child care industry.

Patricia Andrews (25 years), Robbin Archie (26 years), Velda Bailey (38 years), Nancy Baker (33 years), Shirley Bennett (26 years), Margie Bishop (27 years), Trish Booker (34 years), Betty Bostick (31 years), Barbara Brown (33 years), Mary Ann Buncum (30 years), Frances Campsen (28 years), Rubyliene Cassady (44 years), Mary Chisholm (27 years), Barbara Clark (51 years), Mody Clark (51 years), Wanda Denizard (27 years), Dennis Drew (32 years), Roseann Drew (32 years), Karen Evjue (31 years), Betty Farris (43 years), Lilly Fleming (32 years), Allene Geatter (43 years), Rebecca Simmons Green (35 years), Jannie Grober (35 years), Mary Hall (35 years), Hattie Hicks (47 years), Olivia Holland (26 years), Janice Jaco (25 years), Annette Jones (30 years), Lorraine Kirksey (25 years), Eldora Knox (30 years), Ramonia Lindler (45 years), Jean Lydia (30

years), Gina Manos (29 years), Diane Moore (26 years), Victoria Nelson (27 years), Elizabeth Norris (26 years), Eileen Pate (26 years), Mildred Pinckney (35 years), Yvonne Purifoy (25 years), Sue Ramey (26 years), Mildred Riley (35 years), Paulene Scott (42 years), Estelle Smalls (26 years), Geneva Smalls (25 years), Micky Styslinger (27 years), Nina Suber (39 years), Clovia Swaynham (28 years), Nancy Thomas (32 years), Beth Totherow (26 years), Carolyn Tumolo (27 years), Deborah Walker (26 years), Dorothy Washington (29 years), Patricia Washington (33 years), Harriet Wells (30 years), Magnolia White (39 years), LaMona Wilder (30 years), Ella Wilkins (30 years), Joyce Wilson (25 years), Sandra Wilson (35 years) and Kristy Wood (29 years).

The above individuals contribute their knowledge and wisdom to the many centers associated with the South Carolina Child Care Association. More importantly, however, they donate their time and love to South Carolina's most valuable resource – our children. It is because of their dedication and commitment to the children of our State that we honor them. The South Carolina Child Care Association is proud to be associated with such devoted people. They are our Silver Linings!

We Need Your Help!

As many of you are aware, the SC Law Enforcement Division's online background check system, known as SLED "Catch System" does not meet the requirement for a state fingerprint review. You must submit a fingerprint card and the transmittal form known as DSS Form 2647 with your payment to SC Department of Social Services **AND** receive a favorable state fingerprint review **BEFORE** you may hire an individual to work in a licensed child care facility. Many of our members

have expressed concerns that the turnaround time on receiving the results of the required background check is going to place a burden on their programs. We are asking all of our members for their assistance in mailing the fingerprint card and DSS Form 2647 certified, return receipt. This will help us track the turnaround time for the background checks.

Please keep records of your turnaround time for the next few months.



Hanging Mat System - This is constructed of PVC piping with hooks to hang 20 nap time mats. (Mats not included). It is on wheels so it can be moved easily from classroom to classroom. A picture is available in the Kaplan Early Learning catalog 2007 edition on page 33. \$75 and buyer pays shipping. Melodie @ (803) 366-3016.



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Questions of the Quarter...

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An Immunization Update

*by Susan A. Smith, MN, RN, Immunization Nurse Consultant,
SC DHEC Bureau of Disease Control*

Beginning with the 2007-2008 School Year, age-appropriate pneumococcal conjugate vaccination (Prevnar® [PCV7]) will be required for all children less than six years of age who attend a licensed public or private child care facility, a registered church or religious child day care facility, or child development program for K4 and younger.

In accordance with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, infants and young children should receive a total of four doses of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine at ages 2, 4, 6, and 12-15 months.

What is pneumococcal disease?

Pneumococcal refers to the bacteria *Streptococcus pneumoniae* which cause pneumonia, meningitis (an infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord), ear infections, blood infections (bacteremia), and other diseases. Invasive pneumococcal disease is an infection that can cause life-threatening illnesses and occurs most commonly in children younger than 5 years of age.

How can a young child catch pneumococcal disease? This disease can be spread from person to person through the air by breathing, sneezing, or coughing. Children can carry the bacteria in the throat and often spread to others, commonly occurring in group child care settings.

What serious health problems may result from pneumococcal disease? Hearing loss, permanent brain damage, pneumonia, and infections of the bones, joints, and soft tissues.

Additional questions may be directed to the Regional Immunization Program Manager for each SC Public Health Region as displayed on the SC DHEC Immunization webpage "contacts" tab @

<http://www.scdhec.net/health/disease/immunization/docs/contacts.pdf> or to Susan A. Smith, Nurse Consultant, DHEC's Immunization Division in Columbia at 803-898-0869 or 1-800-277-4687 (1-800-27-SHOTS).

Minimum Immunization Requirements for Day Care Attendance **Section 44-29-180: South Carolina State Law**

- **Four (4) doses of any combination of DTP, DT, DTP-Hib, or DTaP vaccine**
- **Three (3) doses of any combination of oral or inactivated Polio vaccine**
- **Three (3) doses of Hepatitis B vaccine**
- **Current, age appropriate Haemophilus influenzae type b conjugate vaccination according to the currently published immunization schedule**
- **One (1) dose of Rubeola (Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday**
- **One (1) dose of Rubella (German Measles) vaccine received on or after the first birthday.**
- **One (1) dose of Mumps vaccine received on or after the first birthday**
- **One (1) dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine received on or after the first birthday or positive history of disease**
- **Current, age-appropriate Pneumococcal vaccination according to the currently published immunization schedule**



How do Owners/Directors retain good employees? Recently, many of you have stated that a longtime employee left for employment elsewhere. Basically, the benefits were better or "the grass was greener." AFLAC policies may be the extra benefit to offer to retain those valuable employees. AFLAC policies cover just about any need, including:

- [Accident*](#)
- [Cancer/Specified Disease](#)
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- [Hospital Confinement Sickness Indemnity](#)
- [Hospital Intensive Care](#)
- [Life](#)
- [Long-Term Care](#)
- [Short-Term Disability*](#)
- [Specified Health Event](#)
- [Vision](#)

The Cancer/Specified Disease and Short-Term and Long-Term Disability policies are exceptional. These policies could be given to tenured employees or just made available to others.

Contact Karen Boyce, Executive Director, SC Child Care Association at (803) 227-2262 or at kboyce@mgclaw.com for more information.

Also, the Membership Committee is working on liability and workers' compensation policies presently. This information will be available to you in the next couple of weeks. The savings will be substantial. Membership in the SCCCA has its benefits!



Preschoolers Dance to Grant Wishes

On April 20th, La Petite Academy of Goose Creek hosted their first annual "Make-A-Wish" Prom for the Early Preschool, Preschool and Pre-K children. La Petite Academy has been a partner with the Make-A-Wish Foundation since 2003. Each of the La Petite locations nationwide host two Make-A-Wish® fundraising events during the year - a Spring Fling and a Fall Festival. Children, parents, teachers and staff all participate to help raise money for this very worthwhile organization.

Ernie Davis, director of La Petite in Goose Creek, gives full credit for the prom to her teachers. "The Pre-K and Preschool teachers came up with the idea after graduation last year. In addition to raising money for this great organization, we feel that it is very important to let the parents and children know how much we love and appreciate them."

Once the event was announced to the parents, the fun (and fundraising) really began. The children who raised the most in donations were named the "King" and "Queen" of the Prom. The competition was fierce, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation was the true winner. By the end of the evening, the Goose Creek academy had raised \$2,000 for the non-profit organization that grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope.

"The biggest impact that the Prom had on our staff and parents was to assure our parents that we go beyond what is expected of us," Davis said. "We take pride in what we do everyday ... and our hearts and minds always want to do so much more."



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