



# CHILD CARE

Fall 2010

*News*

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## *President's Message* by Vicki Hoover, SCCCA President



Fall is in the air and it is time to set our sights on many political events that can have

profound effects on our industry. As we get closer to the November 2nd date, make sure you know what the candidates' agendas are. We will be electing a new governor and a Superintendent of Education, of which both will have agendas that could impact us greatly. Vote and be informed ....make your vote count!

We also ask that you attend The Governors Advisory Board Meetings for the review of regulations for licensed childcare centers. These meetings take place in Columbia and we will keep you updated as to when they take place. You need to be aware of what this panel is purposing for regulation changes for our industry. These meetings are open to the public, and we need all members to try to attend a meeting or two, so as to be aware of the regulatory process and what takes place here in regards to your business.

The South Carolina Childcare Association exists to help you stay on top of any

legislative or regulation changes that are being purposed that will affect you. The Association provides a state conference with training to enhance our teachers' skills and to help market our industry as the true educators that we are. We have a very knowledgeable lobbyist that works for each of you to protect your business and understands the challenges we face. So with your membership and your support we are and will continue to mold the face of our industry. We need families, legislators and educators to know we do more than babysit children while their parents work. We educate young children and give them a solid foundation to enter the public school system. We teach them social skills, independence and how to build relationships outside of the family unit. I urge you to be an active member of the association through your membership dues, attending meetings, legislative functions and the conference. Last year we had a record number attend the conference and we expect no less this year. I know many of us don't know how we can squeeze one more item on our plates,

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# Legislative Update

## Fall 2010

**Jeffrey N. Thordahl**

With elections on November 2 this year it is almost impossible to ignore covering them at least briefly. With all 124 House of Representatives up for election, there will be roughly 20 new Representatives for the next two year cycle. New faces provide new opportunities to get to know someone early in their career. Look for an opportunity to engage them and invite them to your center.

There will be a new Superintendent of Education as well. Candidate Mick Zais asked to meet with the SCCCA Board which the Board did. I believe what we heard from Zais was the following:

- His focus will be fixing K-12
- Therefore he is looking to stay out of growing pre-K in public schools
- He is an advocate for vouchers in public schools so he understands and supports the ABC voucher system

Also in the education arena, there are a couple of legislative committees meeting during the off-session. One of the committees is the Select Committee on K-12 Education Funding. The other is a Restructuring Government Subcommittee on Education. It is still early in their meeting cycle so we don't know what their conclusions will be yet but certainly the intent is to improve education funding formulas and education itself. There may be opportunities to weigh in on the critical role you play in early childhood education and we are attending and tracking the meetings closely.

It is time to start thinking about legislative initiatives for next session which begins in early January. Certainly we will be pursuing another year of the ratio delay – it is encouraging to note that the Child Care Facilities Regulation Advisory Committee will discuss the ratios at some meeting in the near future. Unfortunately the committee



Continues to struggle with having a quorum present and we are working on some new appointments now.

In addition we will pursue legislation to “level the playing field” among all child care providers. While we are understandably heavily regulated to protect the safety and health of the children, there are any number of settings that have little or no regulations. While the General Assembly generally does not like to add regulatory burdens to businesses, we believe they will understand that a regulation imposed on one sector of a business is not only incredibly unfair to that business but it leaves many children without adequate protection in related/similar businesses.

Finally, we will pursue legislation that seeks to eliminate or reduce the need for a Central Registry Check. The CRC has become costly and unnecessary with both the SLED and FBI fingerprint check also required of all workers.

So our plate is full again next year. There may be other items that frustrate you and need to be addressed as well. If you have any other thoughts or concerns we are glad to hear them. Stay active and stay involved. Reach out to other centers and encourage them to join the SCCCA – more voices are always a good thing in this business.

# In the News.....

Kendra's Law -- The mother of a child shaken to near-death at a Columbia-area day care in 2008 cheered Friday's signing of a law that mandates two hours of training for day care providers.

She called it a small step toward protecting children at in-home day cares but a big encouragement for seeking more change.

"This is something that we hope will inspire others to take up the mantle of change," Michelle Gaddie said with Gov. Mark Sanford at her side. "When they see an injustice they can do something."

Named for Gaddie's now 3-year-old daughter Kendra, the law Sanford signed requires that in-home day care providers complete the training and report it to the Department of Social Services. In-home day cares comprise by far the largest number of day care facilities in the state and are the least regulated. DSS oversees the day care industry.

Sanford characterized the law as a significant step in regulating in-home day care.

Gaddie said she was grateful for the change, but described the new law as "a start." She said she is disappointed the Legislature defeated a provision that would have set a 2-year minimum sentence for any day-care provider convicted of mistreating a child.

Talisha Lavette Smith, who ran the in-home day care where Kendra Gaddie was slapped so hard it caused bleeding on her brain, received five years' probation.

Michelle Gaddie, now living in St. Paul, Minn., said Friday she is very disappointed the minimum-sentence provision was defeated.

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#### **(President's Message Con't from page 1)**

but honestly if we don't, we may not see as many of our centers in business a year from now as we continue to lose children to the public school sector, unlicensed and unregulated afterschool programs and community recreation programs.

So I urge you to be a part of the solution this year as we continue to spread the word. And we, the association, promise to keep you informed of how, where and when you can assist us. Together we can make a difference.

The South Carolina Child Care Association is delighted to announce that Alyson Schafer is the featured speaker for our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference “Raising Responsible and Caring Children” on Saturday, February 5, 2011. Alyson Schafer is a psychotherapist and a leading parenting expert in the United States and Canada. She’s the author of the bestselling “Breaking the Good Mom Myth” (Wiley, 2006) and the new “Honey I Wrecked the Kids” (Wiley, 2009). Her popular TV call-in show *The Parenting Show* is now in its fourth season. Ms Schafer will present the Keynote “Child Guidance – The Democratic Way.” She will also present the following two-hour breakout sessions:

- Why Do My Kids Keep Doing That?
- Power Struggles: Who is in charge here anyway?



# Mark your calendars...

*SCCCA Annual Conference*  
*Saturday, February 5, 2010*

**Alyson Schafer**  
**Keynote Speaker**

**Trinity Baptist Church**  
**2003 Charleston Highway**  
**Cayce, South Carolina 29033**





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**References Available Upon Request**



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