



KFAPA News

Volume 2, Issue 1

July 2009

Connecting the Dots A Huge Success

by Stacey Ulrich

I was trying to decide what my favorite part of the conference was and all I could come up with was the part between Friday night and when it ended on Saturday afternoon. So basically all of it.

On July 11 KFAPA and Kansas Family Advisory Network (KFAN) partnered together to bring you the first annual KFAPA conference at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. The theme for the conference was *Connecting the Dots: Kansas Families and Children*. Participating in this year's conference was a variety of service agencies including SRS, KDHE, KFAN, OJA, KYAC, Keys for Networking and Families Together.

The goal of the conference was to bring together birth families, foster and adoptive families, kinship families, and families new to the child welfare system to share information and exchange ideas. There was a wonderful turnout with approximately 130 attendees. A variety of workshops were offered with topics ranging from SRS investigation to the prevention of abduction and exploitation.

I think everyone will agree that a highlight of the conference were the Keynote Speakers, Judge Webb and Ward Foley. They both moved the audience and hopefully renewed tired souls. I will venture to guarantee that everyone in attendance walked out of the conference having learned something new. We have received very positive feedback. If you were in attendance and have any comments or feedback feel free to email us.



Angel Little of Canton, Kan. wowed the morning opening with her a capella singing of the National Anthem and "Home, Home, Take Me Home" adaptation of the Kansas State Song, "Home on the Range". Angel is the adopted daughter of Larry and Kristine Little of rural Canton.

Home, Home, Take Me Home

(To the Tune of Home On The Range)

Oh give me a home
One where I can belong
And be loved and accepted as me
With a family that cares
And openly shares
Then I know just how happy I'll be.

CHORUS: Home, home, take me home
To a place where I can belong
And be peaceful and free
Take a chance please on me
Then I know just how happy I'll be.

Oh give me a home
Where I won't feel alone
I'll have parents and things that are mine
Where the only thing heard
Are encouraging words
I can't wait for a life that's so fine.

CHORUS: Home, home, take me home
To a place where I can belong
And be peaceful and free
Take a chance please on me
Then I know just how happy I'll be.

Lyrics by Sandra Hiller



Judge Thomas Webb, the noon keynote speaker, overwhelmed the audience with his emotional talk about his childhood, and how simple gestures & attitudes can truly "Make a Difference In The Life of a Child".



Angela Braxton, President of KFAN (Ks Family Advisory Network) introduces the morning keynote speaker, Ward Foley, & holds up a copy of Mr. Foley's book, "Thank My Lucky Scars".

Meet the Board

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KFAPA Board Meeting Schedule

October 17, 2009

Region 4

(teleconferencing available)

see www.KFAPA.org for more information or to view minutes of past board meetings

Governor's Conference Award Nomination

**33rd Annual Governor's Conference for the
Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect**

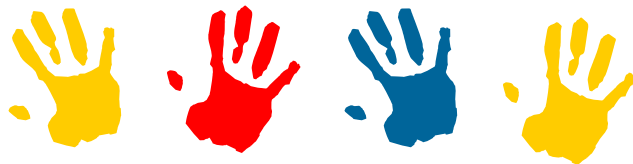
Governor's Conference Award Nomination Criteria

The Governor's Conference Award will once again be bestowed to an individual and organization who have done exemplary work for the benefit of Kansas children. This is a high honor and should go to outstanding crusaders for children and families. We hope to receive many nominations since there are many individuals and groups in the state who work to benefit this population.

The conference planning committee has flexibility in making their choice and may consider such things in evaluating service as impact, length, innovation, and direct child care; also the recipient(s) can work either as volunteers or paid staff members of an organization.

This memo is a call to organizations and individuals to make a nomination for this award. The organization/individual should **prepare some brief information** stating their reasons for nominating an individual or organization. We will be accepting nominations until August 14th, 2009 and will vote on them at the next committee meeting. Send nominations to Pamela Noble, Kansas Children's Service League, PO Box 517, Wichita, KS 67201 or pnoble@kcsl.org.

See page 5 for a list of Past Governor's Award Winners.



KFAPA is a 501 c 3 approved organization.



At NetSmartz411.org you can find answers to all your questions about the online world. View the library for information about topics ranging from social networking, instant messaging, cell phones, cha-

rooms, e-mail, and gaming.

You will learn the potential risks to children and how to help protect them while using certain websites or programs.

Sometimes adults feel like they don't know quite as much as their children do about the Internet. New Internet safety issues are addressed as they emerge so you will have access to the most current information available to help you protect this highly connected generation of children and teens.

If you can't find what you are looking for, use the "Ask and Expert" tab or call 1-888-NETS411 to ask a new question. NetSmartz411 is a premier Internet safety helpdesk and hotline for answering your questions about Internet safety, computers, and the Web. Parents, guardians, teachers—any concerned adults—are welcome to use NetSmartz411 to better understand the opportunities and challenges children face online.

If you or your children encounter anything online that makes you feel uncomfortable or could be illegal, please contact NCMEC's Congressionally mandated CyberTipline. If you ever feel a child is in immediate danger, contact local law enforcement. **Reports may be made 24 hours per day, 7 days per week on line at www.cybertipline.com or 1-800-843-5678.**

Remember...

- If it's posted online, it's not private.
- Once an image is online, you can't get it back.



~ATTENTION READERS~

Our newsletter will now include a regular column from the Office of Judicial Administration and/or from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. If you have specific topics of interest that you would like either of these agencies to address, please let us know and we will try to include them in future issues of *KFAPA News*.



News from KDHE

Summer is in full swing and schedules for many of us are packed with fun and exciting activities in addition to our typical routine. With such busy schedules, it is sometimes difficult to stay informed about keeping children and ourselves healthy and safe.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) issues important safety recalls of toys, cribs, and other consumer products when there is an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death associated with a particular item. On July 2, 2009, about 4 million baby floats sold since 2002 were recalled due to incidents of straps in the seat that have torn, resulting in children unexpectedly falling into or under the water. Additional information about the recall, as well as pictures of the baby floats can be viewed on the CPSC website at the following link: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09261.html>.



According to the CPSC, "Each year, nearly 300 children under the age of five drown in residential and public pools and spas. Submersion incidents requiring emergency-room treatment or hospitalization number in the thousands and many victims experience permanent disability, including brain damage." In May, 2009 CPSC launched a new website, <http://www.poolsafety.gov/> dedicated to pool safety. The Safe Kids Kansas website, <http://www.safekidskansas.org/>, also has water safety information, as well as a Water Watcher card and checklists for adults and children.



The CPSC website is a valuable resource for safety information related to numerous products and activities. There are fact sheets, flyers, posters and brochures with a focus on safety, as well as information about recalled products, such as the recently updated alert regarding recalls of numerous Simplicity nursery products. At least 13 children have tragically died in one of these cribs or

Continued on Page 4

News from KDHE (continued)

names like Graco and Fisher Price. It is quick and easy to sign up to receive recall and safety alerts from CPSC by email, on their Home Page at www.cpsc.gov.

Camping and hiking are some other favorite summer activities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers safety tips for these and other outdoor activities on their website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/>. The camping health and safety checklist offers tips on food safety, fire safety, how to be protected from the sun, bug bites, temperature-related illness and more. There is even a handy packing checklist.

Kansas regulations for licensing family foster homes for children provide the foundational standards which give support and guidance to foster parents in providing activities, supervision, and care to children in healthy and safe environments. With children out of school and all of the activities summer brings, this might be a good time to refresh your memory regarding the requirements for topics such as self-care for children in foster care, and safety procedures for swimming pools, wading pools, and off-premises swimming and wading activities. Your family's licensing worker can help with answering any questions you might have.

Wishing all of you a wonderful summer; safe, healthy, and full of fun and adventure!

Attention Adoptive Couples

If you have adopted a child from the public child welfare system
YOU ARE INVITED to the Strong Couples Retreat

The Adoptive Couples Retreat is a two day relationship education program that will help you remember why you married! It's a chance to have fun **without** the kids in a beautiful hotel. The meals will be catered and your hotel room will be provided for Friday and Saturday evenings. A \$100 stipend for child care or other expenses will be given to families when both spouses attend the entire workshop.

Kansas University and a partnership of child welfare agencies received a federal grant to offer retreats to adoptive parents. Parenting is hard work, and we wanted to help adoptive couples renew their marriage and focus on each other.

Friday, November 13 at 5:00 pm to 3:00 pm **Sunday November 15**

Homewood Suites, 1550 Waterfront Pkwy, Wichita, KS

Or

Friday, October 9th at 5:00 pm to **Sunday, October 11th**

The Barn, 14910 Bluemound Road, Valley Falls, KS

CALL OR EMAIL Bethany Roberts as soon as possible.

We have a VERY limited number of slots, but when slots fill up you will be put on a waiting list for the next retreat.

Links to Check Out

www.nfpaonline.org

National Foster Parent Association website

www.KFAPA.org

Kansas Foster & Adoptive Parent Association website

www.kfapatalk.blogspot.com

Our newly developed blog site provides educational and informative postings . Take a look!

www.usa.safekids.org

Does your child know the sound of the smoke alarm?

www.take25.org

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children—Take time to talk about child safety



KFAPA

PO Box 273
Canton, KS 67428



Protect Your Identity and Legal Rights

As a benefit of your membership with KFAPA we are happy to make the following protection available you.

Foster Family Life Event Legal Plan

While identity theft coverage is very important, it is equally important to have access to legal council for everyday and unexpected life event legal needs

Preventive Legal Services:

- Unlimited Phone Consultations on Unlimited Matters
- Unlimited Letters Written on members Behalf (one per issue)
- Unlimited Contract/Document Review (ten pages or less per document)
- Will Preparation & Durable Power of Attorney (including yearly updates)



Additional Legal Services:

- Motor Vehicle Legal Services Representation
- Uncontested Separation, Uncontested Divorce, Uncontested Adoption, and Uncontested Name Change
- Trial Defense Services (Pre-Trial and Trial Representation)
- IRS Audit Services (Pre-Trial and Trial Representation)
- Preferred Member Discount on issues not covered in plan including pre-existing

Legal Shield:

- 24-hour toll-free access to legal assistance in the event of an arrest, detainment or questioning by a law enforcement officer.

Identity Theft Shield

Covers all 5 areas of identity theft: Financial, Social Security, Medical, Driver's License and Character/Criminal

Evaluation of your current credit standing with detailed analysis

- An up-to-date credit report (looking for accounts you may not be aware of etc...)
- A personal credit score



Continuous (Daily) Credit Monitoring looking for:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| New accounts opened in your name | Public Records | Change of address requests |
| Derogatory notations | Inquiries made | (updates with Post Office daily) |

Complete Identity Restoration:

- Trained Experts will take the steps to restore your good name and credit for you
- No out of pocket expenses and time spent away from work
- Fraud alert notifications will be sent on your behalf

Applicable follow ups will be done with affected agencies and institutions, including:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Credit card companies | Financial institutions | All three credit repositories |
| Social Security Administration | Federal Trade Commission | Department of Motor Vehicles |
| Law enforcement | US Postal Service, etc... | |

Proactive searches after a theft occurs:

- Proactive searches of applicable local and national databases will be made on your behalf.



Cost and Coverage

Your policy is only \$25.90 a month for Identity Theft Shield and Legal Plan Coverage.

Please contact:

Mary Ann Griffin at 512.917.1593 email mgriffin2016@austin.rr.com if you would like to enroll or have any questions about the plan.

With our Condolences

It is with much sadness that we pass on to you that Jim McKenna (regional president to NFPA) has informed us of the passing of his wife. Jim has been instrumental in the development and support of regional organizations. Please keep Jim and his family in thought and prayer.

Past Governor's Award Winners

2008

Gene Balloun
Delta Dental

2007

Joyce Allegrucci
The 3 Public Broadcasting Stations
in Kansas

2006

SuEllen Fried
Helen Swan
Joe Pierron
Douglas County Friends of Children
in Foster Care Foundation

2005

Carolyn Weinhold
Kansas Professional Photographer's
Association

2004

Curtis Hartenberger

2003

Junetta Everett

2002

Joyce Ann Hibler

2001

Julie Reid

2000

Mike Hoar
Susan Voorhees

1999

Timothy Byers

Cell phone safety tips

[From ConnectSafely.org](http://ConnectSafely.org)

Mobile safety in general. Just as in chat rooms and social sites, kids need to think about who they text and talk with. They should never text/talk about sex with strangers. Phones should only be used to communicate with people they know in the real world.

Bullying by phone. Since young people's social lives increasingly fold in cell phones as well as the Web, cyberbullying and harassment have gone mobile too. Talk with your kids about how the same manners and ethics you've always taught them apply on phones and the Web as in "real life."

Mobile social networking. Many social sites have a feature that allows users to check their profiles and post comments from their phones. That means some teens can do social networking literally anywhere, in which case any filter you may have installed on a home computer does nothing to block social networking. Talk with your teens about where they're accessing their profiles or blogs from and whether they're using the same good sense about how they're social networking on their phones.

Social mapping. More and more cell phones have GPS technology installed, which means teens who have these phones can pinpoint their friends' physical location - or be pinpointed by their friends. Talk with your kids about using such technology and advise them to use it only with friends they know in person.

Media-sharing by phone. Most mobile phones we use today have cameras, some videocams - and teens love to share media with friends on all types of mobile devices. There is both a personal-reputation and -safety aspect to this. Talk with your teens about never letting other people photograph or film them in embarrassing or inappropriate situations (and vice versa). They need to understand their own and others' privacy rights in sharing photos and videos via cell phones.

'Smart phones.' We've already been over many smart- or 3G-phone features above, but remember they usually include the Web. That means more and more people can access all that the Web offers, appropriate or not, on their phones as well as computers. Mobile carriers are beginning to offer filtering for the content available on their services, but they have no control over what's on the Web. Parents of younger kids might want to consider turning off Web access and turning on filtering if they're concerned about access to adult content.

Text messaging costs. On some mobile services, a single text message can cost 15 cents to send and a couple of cents to receive. Check to see if your carrier has flat-rate texting that can be included in your child's or family's service plan; otherwise your teens could be using up their entire college fund.

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A Publication of the Kansas Foster & Adoptive Parent Association
