

# The ADVISOR

North Carolina Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

## Letter from the President

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What an exciting two years it has been in the life of NCPSAC!

- We have held two successful professional training events: "Nearly Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Physical Abuse." conducted by Dr. Randell Alexander in Charlotte and "What a Prosecutor Needs to Win a Conviction in a Child Sexual Abuse Case" conducted by NCP-SAC Board Members Nancy Lamb and George Ryan in Castle Hayne. We are going to be having new training for you this fall.
- We collaborated with our colleagues at Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina for the 25th state child abuse conference by serving on their conference planning committee, providing faculty for the workshops and by providing a very successful pre-conference hospitality reception.
- In addition to recognizing the work that you all do, we gave special recognition to our Kimberly Crews Award recipient for exemplary service to our field went to Bonnie Ferrell, a child welfare social worker at Orange County DSS. Congratulations Bonnie!
- We have again worked with the Child Advocacy Centers of North Carolina by providing APSAC members as faculty for two state conferences at Lake Junaluska and will be assisting again this fall.
- We also teamed with the Gaston County



Prevent Child Abuse Council in their training on "Munchausen's By Proxy: A Collaborative Approach to Assessment, Investigation and Treatment" and hope to partner with them again.

- We have increased our membership after several years of budget restraints and continue to provide opportunities for professionals to join our organization.
- We have seen APSAC become stronger with new leadership and are actively working with other state chapters to create a state listserv as well as our own website and listserv.
- We have mourned with our APSAC colleagues who lost their homes and businesses in the Gulf from

Hurricane Katrina and helped provide some financial aid to them.

- We have celebrated the downward trend of child abuse and neglect reports in our state as well as a downward trend in child deaths.
- We have worked extensively with the state legislators in making NC a safer place for families and children to live. In fact in the short session of the General Assembly, Senate Bill S1289, increasing protection for teens in the Graduated Driver's License period by preventing talking on cell phones while driving will become law this year. Many

- thanks to Senators Bingham, Purcell and Allran for their outspoken efforts to get this passed, and to our other Senate members for their support!
- We can celebrate passage of the child restraint law that now includes the use of booster seats for children between the ages of four and eight, and less than 80 pounds; the passage of the ATV legislation; the continued efforts of the safe surrender act to save newborn children; the continued funding of the NC Health Choice Children's Health Insurance Program; Funding for the NC Birth Defects Monitoring Program; and the enormous work of the March of Dimes and their efforts regarding healthy prenatal care which has helped decrease our infant mortality rates.
- The NC Child Fatality Task Force, with our input, will be again asking the entire NC congressional delegation for sup-

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# NCPSAC presents the 2006 Annual Training & General Membership Seminar

The North Carolina Professional Society on the Abuse of Children will hold its 2006 Annual General Membership Meeting and Training Seminar, "The Crawford Decision" on Monday, October 30th, 2006 from 10:00-3:00 in Apex, North Carolina at the Carey C. Jones Building. Presenting will be Professor Jessica Smith (JD, Assistant Professor, UNC-CH School of Government). The training will focus on: What is "Crawford" and how does it impact investigations on child maltreatment? The training will also cover modifying rulings that have come "post-Crawford" and recommendations for each discipline to deal with Crawford implications.

NCPSAC will offer 3 scholarships to the October 30th General Membership Meeting and Training. Anyone interested in applying for a scholarship will need to send the following information to NCPSAC including their name, current occupation, how long they've been in that position, how they think this conference will help them in the performance of their job duties, and their contact information. They will also need to send a statement from their supervisor stating that if they receive this scholarship they will be given the time off of work to attend. The scholarship only covers the cost of the registration and not the cost of hotel, meals or travel. NCPSAC is also offering a multi-disciplinary group discount that includes the fifth registration **free** for multi-disciplinary groups of 5 or more. This offer is good for any group of professionals that meet in an interdisciplinary format (even if it is not a "formal" MDT) as long as there are 4 different disciplines represented. Send applications by October 15th to:

Joyce Moore  
UNC Department of Pediatrics, CB #3415  
208 N. Columbia  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3415  
Email: [jkm@med.unc.edu](mailto:jkm@med.unc.edu)

## - REGISTRATION FORM -

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Position \_\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ *Verification of registration will be sent via email only.*

Payment Enclosed:     \$25.00 (APSAC members)     \$30.00 (MDT Member/1 of 5)     \$35.00 (Non-member)

Make checks payable and mail to:

**NCPSAC**  
**c/o Community Coalition Against Family Violence**  
**Attn: Sheri Rettew**  
**P.O. Box 1285**  
**New Bern, NC 28563-1285**

The tax identification number for NCPSAC is #56-1869945. There will be no refunds, however your registration may be transferred to another person. Contact Sheri Rettew with questions or for information at [sheri@sarc.us](mailto:sheri@sarc.us) or (252) 636-3381.

*A full-color brochure can be downloaded at NCPSAC's new website: <http://www.ncpsac.org>*

## Children's Advocacy Centers of NC to hold 12th Annual Symposium on Child Abuse and Neglect

The Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina is holding its Twelfth Annual Symposium on Child Abuse and Neglect, Reflections XII, on September 19-21, 2006 at Lake Junaluska in Haywood County. This multi-disciplinary conference will feature speakers from various disciplines with a special emphasis this year on the multi-disciplinary team. NCPSAC is sponsoring the registration for 3 attendees. Full coverage will be included in the Winter edition of *The Advisor*.

## NC Connection to APSAC Forensic Institutes in Tampa

The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children offers forensic institutes for law enforcement, Department of Social Services investigators, district attorneys, medical professionals, mental health professionals, and many others. These institutes are driven by current research and extensive experience by active practitioners in the field. The APSAC Forensic Institutes offer cutting edge education to a national and international audience.

The North Carolina Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (NCPSAC) has contributed to APSAC Forensic Institutes in Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia in 2004 and 2005. Along with additional institutes arranged with the Florida Department of Health for the forensic interviewers for their Child Protection Teams (CPT). Regular contributors include many NCPSAC (current) board members, APSAC members from North Carolina, and outstanding educators from our incredible state. These contributors have played the role of educators and practicum leaders during the course of the Forensic Institutes. Past and current contributors include the following people:

- Nancy Berson, MSW, LCSW
- Mark Everson, Ph. D
- Nancy Lamb, JD
- Chris Ragsdale, MSW, LCSW
- George Ryan

The most recent Forensic Institute in Tampa, Florida occurred from February 20-24, 2006. There were 47 Child Protection Team interviewers present for a week of intensive learning that included instruction from top professionals in the field, video-taped practice interviews that are critiqued by peers and professionals, as well as, a mock court based on the interviews that occurred during the week of the institute.

Dr. Mike Haney, APSAC's vice-president, and Division Director for Prevention Services and Interventions, Children's Medical Services, Florida Department of Health, and his amazing team including Bernice Gremer, Stephanie Gordy, and Lynda Davies

helped arrange the institute. Dr. Haney speaks of Florida's association with APSAC, "We value our relationship with APSAC and the quality training that is provided during the Forensic Institutes. It is essential that we have skilled trained interviewers who work with children who are alleged to be abused."

Chris Ragsdale, MSW, LCSW, vice-president for NCPSAC says, "The APSAC Forensic Institutes provide a great learning opportunity. Few programs offer intensive education combined with interview practice experience. The learning described previously combined with the mock court experience further drives the point home about our need to provide services that withstand the scrutiny of the court."

The faculty for the Tampa conference included the following professionals:

Toni Cardenos, LCSW

*Child Protection Coordinator, Bellvue Hospital Center - New York, NY*

Lynda Davies

*Child Protection Team of Palm Beach, Inc.*

Michael Haney, Ph. D.

*Division Director for Prevention and Interventions in the Florida Department of Health, Children's Medical Services*

McFarlane, MSW

*Consultant, Trainer, Writer - San Diego, CA*

Melissa McDermott-Lane, LCSW

*University of Maryland School of Social Work, Center for Families*

Alan Mizrahi, J. D.

*Assistant State Attorney, 4th Judicial Circuit, FL*

Caridad Moreno, Ph. D

*Clinical Director, Regional Child Abuse Diagnostic and Treatment Center at Children's Hospital, Newark Beth Israel Medical Center*

Christopher T. Ragsdale, MSW, LCSW

*Pat's Place Children's Advocacy Center, Carolinas Medical Center - Charlotte, NC*

Laura Rogers, J. D.

*Director, National Institute for Training Child Abuse Professionals*

Bradley Russ

*Director, Internet Crimes Against Children Training & Technical Assistance Program, University of New Hampshire*

Terrence (Terry) Thomas

*Special Agent, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Crimes Against Children Unit*

Patti Toth, J.D.

*Program Manager, Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission - Seattle, WA*

*For more information about upcoming Forensic Institutes check out the information at APSAC.org.*

# NCPSAC Helps with Prevent Child Abuse NC's 25th Statewide Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect in Durham

On March 21st and 22nd, 500 professionals from across the state attended the 25th Statewide Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect sponsored by Prevent Child Abuse NC. This year's conference focused on working with families during pregnancy and the early years of childhood. The NC Institute of Medicine's Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention identified these developmental stages as critical periods for prevention and intervention efforts. These developmental periods offer tremendous windows of opportunity in which to help parents adopt nurturing, healthy behaviors, and the conference included keynotes and workshops that focused on issues related to these developmental stages.

Dr. Sharon Cooper, a Developmental and Forensic Pediatrician and a board member of the NC Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, was the Keynote Speaker for the Prevention Network & NCPSAC Luncheon on March 21st.

Her presentation reviewed the immense strides that have been made in the U.S. in the recognition and prevention of child maltreatment. She exposed new challenges of serving children in the fight against child abuse



*Cindy Stewart, a board member and past president of NCPSAC, helps with the NCPSAC Conference Exhibit.*

including the dangers of the internet. Dr. Cooper has recently authored a textbook on Child Sexual Exploitation and is working to ensure that internet crimes against children and exploitation through prostitution are recognized as an important aspect of child abuse.



*Dr. Sharon Cooper gives the keynote speech for the Prevention Network & NCPSAC Luncheon at Prevent Child Abuse NC's Statewide Conference in March.*

Dr. Cooper, who has worked in the field of child maltreatment for nearly three decades with the Armed Forces, also presented at one of the afternoon workshops entitled, "Family Injury Prevention in a Time of War." Her workshop featured a discussion of the emotional stages of deployment to war and the recent research regarding factors that increase the risk for family violence in the military family.

Another NCPSAC board member, Dr. Elaine Cabinum-Foeller, was the presenter at two workshops at the state-wide conference. "Pediatric Patterned Injuries" and "Primer on Sexual Abuse" were trainings designed for physicians and medical providers who are involved in the evaluation of children for alleged physical and sexual abuse. Dr. Cabinum-Foeller was elected to the NCPSAC board of directors this year.

## Letter from the President (continued from page 1)

port for legislation that would allow "read only" online access to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) databases and the Interstate Identification Index by state and/or county social service agencies in order to carry out criminal history records checks of individuals who are: seeking guardianship of children and the subject of an investigation relating to an incident of abuse or neglect of a minor and if that is not enough -

- We have a diverse board of directors representing all regions in NC as well as a myriad of professions to help guide and direct NCPSAC into the next two years.

We have three board vacancies and would love for you to be nominated, if you are interested in serving, please contact one of the board members for details.

It is in my humble opinion that we have done well to further the mission of APSAC. We recognize the work that all of you do on a daily basis to fight this horrible epidemic of child abuse while still developing and embracing new programs to prevent child maltreatment and to nurture healthy families. Carry on! and watch for new and exciting information about upcoming training events, about task force groups studying shaken baby syndrome and new prevention efforts for parents about the PURPLE crying period, and looking into more effective means to protect victims of domestic violence

and to restrain convicted sex offenders to protect our children. It has been my honor to have served as your president. Thank you.

– Kathy D. Johnson  
Clinical Instructor  
Jordan Institute for Families  
UNC School of Social Work

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## Kimberly F. Crews Memorial Award Presented

The North Carolina Professional Society on the Abuse of Children presents the Kimberly F. Crews Memorial Award to an individual who provides outstanding direct service in the field of child physical or sexual abuse and exemplifies a high standard of professionalism in the Child Abuse field. This prestigious award is in memory of Kimberly Crews, who helped establish the Child Sexual Abuse Team at Wake Med in Raleigh. On August 8, 1990 Kimberly Crews was murdered when she left work. The Kimberly Crews Award is a memorial to her life and work and also honors the work of North Carolina child abuse Professionals. Past recipients include Dr. Barbara Boat, Dr. Sara Sinal, Nancy Berson, MSW, Dr. Marcia Herman-Giddens, Linda Ellis, Dr. Denise Everett, Nancy Lamb, J.D., Dr. Sharon Cooper, Dr. Cindy Brown, Mark Everson, PhD, Barry Cook, and Mike and Darlene Hartwig in 2004. On March 22nd, Dr. Denise Everett presented the Kimberly Crews Award to Bonnie Ferrell.

This year's Kimberly Crews Memorial Award, Bonnie graduated from St. Andrews Presbyterian College in 1968 in Human Relations and didn't waste any time starting her career as a DSS social work trainee in Craven County as an eligibility and services worker. When she left to move to Scotland County DSS, she told her supervisor that she still didn't know what a social worker does. She learned quickly enough while in Scotland County, when her advocacy work with children caused the KKK to try, unsuccessfully, and run her out of town.

Bonnie worked a short while in Washington, DC with their department of human services when her husband was drafted.

Having enough of the world of families with severe drug problems, she decided to stay home to raise her own children who are able to be with us today. In 1980 she started again at Wake County Human Services, working with day care placements. On September 11, 1984 she took a position with Orange County DSS as a day care investigator and investigated in her own words, "far too many reports of abused children in child care". In 1994 Bonnie became their parent educator. To this day, she continues to mentor and coach parents. Bonnie's colleagues speak extensively about how she empowers her clients and how she teams terrifically with families and professionals alike.



She is often the liaison between families and "the system." One of her colleagues described how she worked with a family involving a seriously developmentally delayed mother and father. She talked with them on a level that was meaningful to them and gave them the tools to successfully care for and protect their preemie children. Family centered practice has always been her motto.

Bonnie Ferrell is so incredibly humble and nurturing to any and everyone who has ever come in contact with her, that when called to inform her that she would be given this award, she so typically responded, "Oh no... not me, there are so many people who are more deserving than I am of this award." We disagree; there are few who are more deserving than our friend and colleague, Bonnie Ferrell.

Bonnie, all of us at NCPSAC are proud to give you the Kimberly Crews Memorial Award for your child welfare expertise, your unsurpassable skills and for the way that you have epitomized true timeless social work values for the last 30 years. And we bet you have learned what it is to be a social worker, and are teaching us!

## NCPSAC Sponsors Conference Reception

On Monday night March 20th, The NC Professional Society on the Abuse of Children along with Prevent Child Abuse



*Entertainment was donated by Robert White of Fun Times.*

NC and Authentic Voices hosted a Pre-conference Reception to celebrate the 25th Statewide Conference on Child Abuse and

Neglect. Delicious hors d'oeuvres and entertainment were offered at this special reception to celebrate the spirit of prevention with colleagues across the state.

Professionals around the state in the field of child abuse prevention unwind and enjoy line dancing at the pre-conference reception..

Carliss Parson, a registered nurse from Fayetteville who came to the conference by herself, reported that the food was great and that the reception helped her meet people while reducing her stress from work. She said this was the first time she had ever been to a conference with a reception like this and recommended doing this again. Sheryl Ewing and Gevon Wall of the Family Support Network of Southeastern NC in Wilmington said the DJ was incredible and the reception offered great networking in an informal atmosphere. They both wished more people had known about the reception and hoped next time that it would be better advertised.



*NCPSAC President, Kathy Johnson, and Treasurer, Chris Jernigan, "boogie down" to the music, as the crowd livens up.*



*Child abuse professionals from around the state unwind and enjoy line dancing at the pre-conference reception.*



*Those attending the reception enjoyed the delicious hors d'oeuvres.*

## Authentic Voices Heard in NC

At this year's Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina Statewide Conference, Authentic Voices of North Carolina held a networking session from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on the opening day of the conference. Survivors, along with professionals in the field of child abuse, learned how Authentic Voices, adult survivors of child abuse, can use their experiences to be a voice for children. Karen Cox, Authentic Voices International Board Member and NCPSAC Board Member, was the facilitator. Michael Woods, a survivor of priest abuse who has spoken publicly, shared his story and told how breaking his silence has empowered him. Other survivors shared their stories, and participants discussed the various ways Authentic Voices could contribute to the fight against child abuse in North Carolina.

## Welcome to Our Newest NCPSAC Board Members

**Dr. Jeanne Cummings**  
**Clinical Psychologist**  
**Carolina Mountain Psychiatry**  
**Asheville, NC**

Dr. Jeanne Cummings obtained her doctoral degree from UNC-Greensboro in 1985 and subsequently taught in the Psychology Department at Auburn University. She returned to North Carolina in 1988 to become the psychologist for the Child/Adolescent Unit at Appalachian Hall, a psychiatric hospital. In 1994, she founded a therapeutic after-school program for high-risk children. She is currently in private practice and has participated for many years in the Child Mental Health Evaluation/Child Forensic Evaluation Program, assisting local DSS agencies in cases of suspected abuse and neglect.

**Sheri Rettew**  
**Executive Director/Victim Services Coordinator**  
**Community Coalition Against Family Violence**  
**New Bern, NC**

In addition to a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Sheri has received numerous certifications and awards for specialized training and research in crisis intervention, trauma counseling, grief counseling, critical incident stress debriefing, sexual assault response, child abuse response, and crisis pregnancy services. She has worked in victim services for 4 years and currently serves as Executive Director and Victim Services Coordinator for the Community Coalition Against Family Violence in New Bern, North Carolina. Sheri recently began her graduate degree in human services. Not content to watch communities succumb to increasing incidents of family violence, Sheri has long been interested in being a part of the solution... not only responding to family violence, but by helping to prevent future generations from suffering the same fate. It is this larger focus that enables her to respond to victims with concern for assessing immediate needs, but also in following up afterward to find out where current social systems may be lacking. It is here where new programs and services can be designed, funded and implemented to the benefit of the communities. Sheri maintains a strong belief in restoring victims' lives as much as possible to one of thriver, rather than just survivor.

**Dr. Elaine Cabinum-Foeller**  
**Department of Pediatrics**  
**ECU Brody School of Medicine**  
**Greenville, NC**

Dr. Cabinum-Foeller received her medical degree from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and then completed her pediatrics residency at University Hospital and Clinics in Columbia, Missouri and her child abuse pediatrics fellowship in Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and the Medical Director of TEDI BEAR: Children's Advocacy Center in Greenville, North Carolina. She is an active member of the North Carolina Pediatric Society, serves on the North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force, and is a member of various committees and teams. In addition to her teaching duties at Brody School of Medicine, she has taught law enforcement, social workers and other professionals in the state and region.

## NCPSAC New Logo Vote: We'd like your input!

NCPSAC is updating its image with the announcement of the new website at <http://www.ncpsac.org>. Below is the existing logo alongside the proposed logo. We would love to get your input. *Please send your vote to [sheri@sarc.us](mailto:sheri@sarc.us), indicating whether you would prefer to keep the logo as is or use the new logo.*

Current Logo



Proposed Logo



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## **Save the Date: Upcoming Meetings & Training Opportunities**

### **September 19-21, 2006**

#### **NC-CAC 12th Annual Conference**

The Children's Advocacy Centers of NC will hold its annual conference in Lake Junaluska this fall. For more information, contact Cathy Purvis at [cpurvis@northstate.net](mailto:cpurvis@northstate.net) or check out the NC-CAC's website at [www.cacnc.org](http://www.cacnc.org).

### **October 30, 2006**

#### **NCPSAC Training Seminar and General Membership Meeting**

Jessica Smith from the UNC School of Government will be doing a presentation on the Crawford Decision and the implications for child abuse professionals. See page 2 of this newsletter for complete details and to register.

### **March 28, 2007**

#### **Abuse and Neglect of Children with Disabilities in Gaston County, NC**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Sharon Cooper

Sponsored by the Gaston County CAP Council. Email [tedjwill@bellsouth.net](mailto:tedjwill@bellsouth.net) for more information.

#### **NCPSAC**

c/o Sheri Rettew

P.O. Box 1285

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