



BACW NEWS



Thi is Our
elect

Inauguration Day: January 20, 2009 Where Will You Be When History is Being Made?

Black Administrators in Child Welfare, Inc.

Volume 1, Issue 4

Washington, DC. The nations capitol is expecting over 4 million people on the Inauguration of our first African-American president of the United States. Washington D.C restaurant and bar owners have extended their hours of operation to 4 am to accommodate the large crowds coming to the area. In addition, Metro will be operating rush hour service for 17 consecutive hours (4 a.m.– 9p.m) and staying open two extra hours (until 2 a.m.).

Here are a few events that may be of interest to you during Inauguration Weekend:

Friday, January 16

The Welcome to Washington Black Tie Gala at Union Station Thunder Grill(50 Mass Ave NW)

Saturday– January 17

Radio One Inaugural Celebration 2009 Presented by Cathy Hughes and Alfred Liggins– Hosted by Tom Joyner at the Historic Lincoln Theater, Washington, DC.

Sunday-January 18,2009

The Official Maryland Inaugural Ball at the Mayflower Hotel(1127 Conn. Ave. NW) tickets are \$125. <https://orchidforchange.com/md/ht/d/MakeDonation/donationtype/1236552>

“Dreams From My Father”-American Scholars Ball Inaugural Ball– Four Seasons Hotel, Washington, DC

<https://www.americanscholarsball.org>

Monday, January 19

HBCU Inaugural Gala Ball at Sequoia’s at the Washington Harbor (3000 K St. NW)

Tuesday, January 20 (INAUGRATION DAY!!)

Concerned Black Men and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Gala at Bobby Van’s (1201 New York Ave NW)

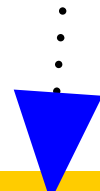
Obama’s Health Team to Include Daschle at HHS

Washington, DC. On December 11th, President-Elect Obama officially announced U.S. Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota as the new Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this role Mr. Daschle would oversee Medicare, Medicaid, Food and Drug Administration, and the Administration on Children and Families. This will also include many child welfare and children’s programs such as : TANF, Social Services Block Grant, Child Care, and Head Start. In addition, especially important to those in the child welfare community, Daschle sponsored legislation to allowed tribal governments to apply for direct control over Title IV-E foster care and adoption incentive programs. Daschle is also the author of the a new book, called *Critical: What We Can do About the Health Care Crisis*.

Obama also has appointed Jeanne Lambrew to serve as Deputy Director of the White House Office on Health Reform. Lambrew is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC., and an Associate Professor of Public Affairs at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. Lambrew played a central role in creating the State Children’s Health Insurance Program and is an expert on Medicaid and the plight of the uninsured.

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Are you a member of BACW ?

Benefits of Membership

Individual

- A list and descriptions of BACW committees.
- A newsletter.
- A copy of all BACW position papers and publications.

Agency

- All individual membership and services.
- 10% reduction in conference fees.



Health Care Needs for Foster Children



As a student intern with BACW, I spent this semester studying how healthcare is provided in the child welfare system. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services, many children in foster care do not receive adequate health care services. In 2005, only one state met federal standards for health and mental health services delivery to children involved with the child welfare system. In more than 30 percent of cases, child welfare agencies fail to provide adequate services. What has been consistently clear is that the differences in the responses to the needs of children of color is more evident as the age of the child and the length of time in care increases. A critical response that must be addressed is the inadequacy of physical and mental health services, particularly for African American youth. States should supply more information on how to address this problem. In the time I spent observing children's health services at a local child welfare agency, it became clear that there are multiple problems in administering good health care. Among the issues related to unstable health care for African American children in foster care is the lack of initial health information at the time of placement; foster parents who are not educated about how to address their foster children's health needs; mental and medical issues African American children bring into foster care often are not handled appropriately within the services of foster care system and the health care providers are not able to track the children as they move from foster home to foster home. Connections for Kids mentioned that child welfare and drug treatment professionals have little understanding of each other's expertise. Sharing experiences and knowledge between the disciplines will help the professionals better serve children coming from drug affected environments understand their interrelation. Most foster care agencies do not have a substance abuse component; the collaboration between them would help preserve families through helping parents with their substance issues. After my work in this area of foster care, I am convinced that this is truly an area where social workers need to focus on behalf of children coming into the foster care system.

Donald Clark, MSW Student, Howard University

HHS Issues Guidance to States on Fostering Connections to Success Act

December 24, 2008 The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has released initial critical instructions to help states implement the kinship section of the new Fostering Connections to Success Act. HHS's Administration for Children and Families has issued a preprinted plan states can use to make amendments to their own plans. Tribes will be eligible for the kinship provisions on October 1, 2009 as long as the child and the state meet the eligibility requirements. This includes that the guardian has been approved as meeting the license requirements and that the child has been placed in the home for 6 months. The Program Instruction also reads that kinship placements can be made up to the age of 21. However, this option will not be granted until October 1, 2010 when the extension of the foster care age to 21 is implemented.

The Program Instruction does not answer all outstanding issues regarding the new law or the kinship provisions. However, many organizations have collaborated to analyze the law and its recent provisions in hopes to get clarity. A burning issue in particular is notifying relatives when a child comes into care. The kinship care provisions is a great first step! Since it is a state option, states now have to decide if their budgets can support an expansion in Kinship care programs. For more information [www.http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/)

Nominations Needed: Black Administrator of the Year Award



Long Beach, CA. BACW is now accepting nominations for our 2009 Valeria Bullard, Black Administrator of the Year Award. This award will be presented to an outstanding individual (s) who has made substantial contributions to improving the lives of children in the child welfare system. ***The following criteria should be considered when nominating a candidate:***

- The individual has had agency, program, or project oversight and administrative responsibility for a significant period of time.
- The individual has demonstrated extraordinary leadership, talent, and knowledge in the child welfare system.
- The individual may have taken an unpopular stand against a policy or practice that adversely affects the lives of African American children and families.
- The individual has developed and implemented a program, policy or best practice model that has improved the quality of services for at-risk families and children.

For more information please refer to our website:

http://www.blackadministrators.org/conf_awards.cfm





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

For More Information See Our [New Website](#)