



BACW NEWS



Black Administrators in Child Welfare, Inc.

BACW's 2009 Conference "Bridging the Gap for Our Children Our Legacy"



Long Beach, CA. The 2009 conference will be a landmark conference, as BACW builds a bridge from the east coast to the west coast. As child welfare professionals, we are acutely aware that children languish in the system and experience poor outcomes due to 'gaps' in the system. Children in foster care are touched by multiple systems- Education, Health, Mental Health, and Criminal Justice are some primary ones. Many times, these systems do not work together to ensure that children achieve good outcomes. This lack of systems integration often results in poor outcomes for children – particularly African American children, who are gravely overrepresented in foster care. We must keep our children from falling through the cracks by 'bridging' the gaps in the system on their behalf.

Special highlights of the conference include:

- Village Celebration featuring Tanya Hart of Hollywood "Live"
- Awards Luncheon Speaker: Author Sil Lai Abrams
- Plenary Speaker- Rev. T Larry Kirkland
- Plenary speaker Jeff Penix, Founder WE foundation who will discuss, " Building Strategic Alliance between Corporate America and Non-Profits"
- Featured Musical Selections Include: Crenshaw High School Elite Choir and The Strachan Sisters.

And many informative workshops. See you in Long Beach!!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: TRIBUTE TO BLACK ADMINISTRATORS

BACW would like to commend all the black administrators and leaders who have devoted their careers to serving underprivileged children and families. Your commitment to the profession and your strong desire to be a leader for those who wish to follow your footsteps is remarkable. We honor your sacrifices and applaud your efforts during this extremely important year in Black history.



A Tribute to Dr. Sharlynn Bobo: A Champion for Children

At the age of 61, Dr. Sharlynn Bobo lost her battle with pancreatic cancer on January 24, 2009.

A native Washingtonian, Dr. Bobo served her community as the former Director of Child and Family Services for a number of years. Many of her colleagues described her as someone who was dedicated to the continued improvement of the agency. She was extremely instrumental in developing programs to license foster homes, independent living, and group homes. In a recent Washington Post article, Interim Director, Dr. Roque Gerald said,

"She inspired us to live up to high values....Sharlynn was a teacher. Each of us learned something worthwhile from her, and we will greatly miss her."

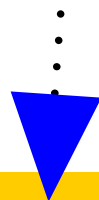
She will be greatly missed my friends, family, and colleagues.

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March Newsletter

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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.

CHILD NEGLECT CASES MULTIPLY AS ECONOMY WORSENS



Washington, DC. In the Washington, DC metropolitan area and across the country there has been an alarming increase in the number of child neglect cases. Many cases existing as a result from families living without heat or electricity or failing to get their children medical care. In Fairfax County, Virginia there was a 23 percent jump in abuse and neglect cases. Montgomery County increased by 29 percent and Arlington County followed with 38 percent overall. Historically, there has always been an association between poverty and child abuse. This however has many child advocates concerned that the country still might see a rise in cases as the recession continues. In a recent Washington Post article, Linda Spears, Vice President of Child Welfare League of America states, "History and experience tell us when the economy is bad and unemployment rises, children don't do well... there are so many unknowns but I would venture to guess that we're about to see one of the larger increases in child abuse cases since the drug epidemic increases in the 1990s." However, many advocates warn against making the association between child maltreatment and the poor economy. We must also take into consideration the multiple issues families face at the same time. Many families are also living with issues of substance abuse, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, mental illness on top of the failing economy. The combination of those risk factors together can increase the likelihood that children can be abused.



PRESIDENT HAS SIGNED CHILDRENS HEALTH INSURANCE BILL



Washington, DC. On February 4, 2009 President Obama signed one of his first bills as our new President. President Obama states that by signing this bill we are ensuring one of our highest responsibilities which is ensuring the health and well-being of our children. The president says by expanding health care to 11 million children is a first step in securing health care for every single American. Key provisions include allowing states to cover children up to 300% above the federal poverty line. This will end a two year democratic fight to pass the bill, which former President Bush once vetoed. An estimated \$32 billion would be spent to insure children from lower-economic homes through the year 2013.

SCHIP is extremely important in these uncertain economic times as many millions of Americans are left without jobs. Speaker Pelosi (D-CA) says, "For every 1 percent increase in unemployment, it is estimated as many as 1.5 million Americans will lose their health care coverage". We applaud President Obama for keeping his promise to America's children!

WHAT THE STIMULUS BILL MEANS FOR OUR CHILDREN



BACW was invited to the Economic Recovery and Investment Act of 2009(Stimulus Bill) informational meeting by the Social Security Administration in Washington, DC on February 26, 2009.

What does this Bill mean for me?

- Tax credit of up to \$400 for individuals, \$800 for couples for 2009 and 2010. Figure your individual credit by taking 6.2% of your earned income. Note that your employer can adjust your withholdings so that the credit is returned to you over the year instead of all at once. The Associated Press says most people will see this in the form of a \$13 bump in weekly paychecks starting in June, and dropping to about \$7.70 a week for the duration of 2010.
- The \$1000 child tax credit will be extended to more families, and if you're a poor family with three or more kids, you'll get an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit.
- \$87 billion is going to help states administer Medicaid.
- If you're drawing unemployment, expect to see \$25 more per check, and the duration of the benefits has been extended.
- No tax on the first \$2400 of unemployment checks.
- Increase in Food Stamps.

Contact Us : 900 2nd Street NE Suite 217 Washington, DC 20002 Ph: 202-783-3714
Fax: 202-783716 www.blackadministrators.org