



BACW NEWS

2009 BACW CONFERENCE

“ Bridging the Gap for Our Children... Our Legacy”

Black Administrators in Child Welfare, Inc.

Long Beach, California. For the first time in its thirty –four years of existence, BACW went west for it’s 2009 Conference. “Bridging the Gap for Our Children...Our Legacy” brought together some of the brightest and best in the field from across the country. *The Pre Conference Institute* featured a panel of outstanding Deans of Schools of Social Work from across the country. This interactive sessions equipped attendees with information about the new child welfare legislation—Fostering Connections to Success Act. Attendees were entertained throughout the evening by the Hamilton High Jazz Band at our annual *Village Celebration*. Encouraging words were received at the *Opening Plenary* by the **Rev. Vanessa Mackenzie** and **Rev. T. Larry Kirkland.**, the newly appointed bishop of the fifth district of the AME church.

Other conference highlights included:

- Special Remarks by **Christine James– Brown**, CEO of Child Welfare League of America.
- Musical Selection by **Strachen Sisters**.
- Inspirational words by **Jeff Penix**, WE Foundation.
- And a dynamic story of triumph from motivational speaker **Sil Lai Abrams**.

Attendees also enjoyed over twenty five informative workshops and exhibitors. See you in Chicago in 2010!

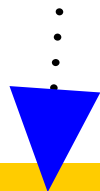


Volume 1, Issue 6

May Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Kellogg Grant	2
Truth on the Hill	2
Foster Care Month	2



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.

Virginia Pryor, Elected New Board President of BACW



Virginia S. Pryor has over 20 years of experience in child welfare and social policy. She is currently serving as the Director of Strategic Consulting with Casey Family Programs in Seattle, Washington. Ms. Pryor has ensured the advancement of appropriate services, policy and improved outcomes for children and families by leading the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Federal Review for safety, permanency and well-being, creating the work teams and developing the strategy for the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) for the District of Columbia’s child welfare agency as well as serving as Adjunct Faculty at Howard University School of Social Work and Virginia Commonwealth

University School of Social Work. Ms. Pryor continues to advocate for and improve the child welfare system through her leadership and commitment to children and families in her work with Casey Family Programs having been responsible for the implementation of Family Group Conferencing throughout the Casey Field Offices, serving as Chair of National Foster Care Month an awareness campaign that highlights the needs of young people in foster care and encourages citizens to step forward to help change the life of child in foster care and currently working with jurisdictions across the country to improve outcomes for youth in care by focusing on safe reduction and advancing efforts that lead to mitigating disproportionality in the child welfare system. Virginia is member of Casey Family Programs “Casey Leadership Institute” a program sponsored and managed by Casey Family Programs’ Executive Team. Its purpose is to provide key leaders with an opportunity to challenge and strengthen leadership skills and help them prepare for more advanced leadership roles at Casey in the future.

BACW TO LEAD NEW EFFORT TO PROMOTE RACIAL EQUITY IN CHILD WELFARE SYSTEMS AND PROGRAMS

Washington, DC. BACW has begun a body of work that will provide leadership, support and technical assistance to promote racial equity and culturally appropriate child welfare programs and services. This is a two-year project funded by W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan.

“As noted in a number of studies, while children of color represent approximately 33% of all the children in the US, they are 55 percent of the 500,000 children in the foster care system. We see the gravest disparities in the placement of African American children despite evidence that there are no differences among racial groups in incidences of child maltreatment,” said Sondra Jackson, executive director of BACW. “It is time for changes to the system which will reduce the number of children of color in the child welfare system.” Project efforts will focus on identifying the causes and effects of placing children of color disproportionately in foster care; developing and demonstrating effective service delivery models and program standards that impact positively on children of color; increasing awareness, knowledge, and skills of personnel in child welfare agencies of racial equity and cultural issues that affect practice and policy development; and, implementing effective use of program data and evaluation to impact system change. “A number of states have begun to grapple with the question of why African American and Native American children are more likely to enter public care when family disruptions occur than white children,” Jackson said. “Professional practitioners, the legal system, and communities are beginning to seek answers to this question and BACW is prepared to assist in providing strategies and tools for achieving better outcomes for all children and families who come to the attention of the child welfare system. The time is right for a systematic overhaul of all child welfare systems in America, especially those whose policies and practices have resulted in children of color being removed from their families without consideration given to the child’s placement in the community, with relatives and special services to birth families.”

TRUTH COMES TO THE U.S. CAPITOL



Washington, DC. After 10 years of planning the National Congress of Black Women, Sojourner Truth will be honored as the first African American woman to have a memorial bust in the U.S.

"One could only imagine what Sojourner Truth, an outspoken, tell-it-like-it-is kind of woman ... what she would have to say about this incredible gathering," first lady Michelle Obama said at the Celebration of Truth ceremony. "We are all here because, as my husband says time and time again, we stand on the shoulders of giants like Sojourner Truth. And just as Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady

Stanton and Lucretia Mott would be pleased to know that we have a woman serving as the speaker of the House of Representatives, I hope that Sojourner Truth would be proud to see me, a descendant of slaves, serving as the first lady of the United States of America," she said.

The bronze statue, which was crafted by 81 year old African-American sculptor, Artis Lane, will stand proudly in the Emancipation Hall at the Capitol Visitor Center.



MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

This month we should take the time out to remember the 496,000 American children and youth in foster care. In addition, we should also congratulate the foster parents, volunteers, mentors, child welfare professionals, and policy makers who play a important role in keeping foster care temporary. We must remember also this month the 55% of children of color who are overrepresented in the system. Please be advised of the following activities throughout the country that honor and observe national foster care month.

- ***Foster Care and Probation Youth Resource Fair***, 5/16/09 8:00am-12:00pm Los Angeles, CA
- ***Therapeutic Foster Care Information Meeting***, 5/30/09 6:00pm– 8:00pm Baltimore, MD
- ***Tools to Better Navigate Resources for Children in 2009***, 5/15/09 8:30am-12:00pm- Detroit, MI
- ***7th Annual Public Policy Institute & Advocacy Day***, 5/18/09 10:00am– 4:00pm– Washington, DC

For more information please visit www.fostercaremonth.org