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COCAF News

Child Welfare Ombudsman Working Group

Carla Bennett, a long-time COCAF board member, has been appointed to the Child Welfare Ombudsman Working Group. This is the group that will determine how the Child Welfare Ombudsman Program will be established and administered. Carla will be a strong voice for families and for an independent and impartial Ombudsman Program. If you would like to provide Carla with information on this topic, please email her at carla.bennett@cocaf.org.

Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)

COCAF was contacted by an adoptive parent whose children were on CCAP. She was informed last month that the children are no longer eligible for CCAP because they receive adoption subsidies. We are in disagreement with the Department of Child Care's interpretation of the children's eligibility, and are working with the family to see if we can help get the children's eligibility reinstated. If you have been told that your children are no longer eligible for CCAP because they receive adoption subsidies, please contact us so we can keep you informed of the progress on this case. Send all emails on this topic to Deborah Cave, COCAF Executive Director, at deborah.cave@cocaf.org.

Stay Current with the COCAF Facebook Site

187 people now get up-to-date post-adoption support information on COCAF's Facebook page. Go to www.facebook.com/COCAF and add COCAF to your friends list so you can stay current with new COCAF events or adoption-related information.

COCAF Needs YOUR Help

Your financial support can mean the difference between a child staying in a home or becoming another disrupted adoption statistic. Please donate today!

COCAF has three simple ways you can donate:

1. Go to <http://www.cocaf.org> and click on the Donate Now button on the upper right corner of the screen. **COCAF will receive 100% of your donation.**
2. Go to the Facebook causes website at <http://apps.facebook.com/causes/419195> and click on the green DONATE button. COCAF will receive your donation minus a small Facebook processing fee.
3. If you don't want to donate online, just mail your check to:
COCAF, 5702 West 114th Place, Westminster, CO 80020-6831

COCAF Services

If you are in need of COCAF's services or just want to pass on some information, you may email Deborah Cave, Executive Director, at deborah.cave@cocaf.org.

Upcoming Events

Camps

Colorado Heritage Camps

The philosophy of Colorado Heritage Camps is that it's never too early or too late for adopted children and their families to take part in this valuable experience. The camps are for parents and children (ages 3 to 17), with childcare available for toddlers and infants. Birth siblings, siblings adopted from another culture, aunts, uncles, grandparents, alumni campers and alumni parents. Once adoptees turn 18, they are welcome to apply to be camp counselors or volunteers, and adult adoptees of all ages and their families are most welcome to come to camp, and bring their families and children too.

Camp	Camp Dates
African/Caribbean Heritage Camp (Denver, CO)	July 22nd - 25th
Cambodian Heritage Camp (Fraser, CO)	July 15th - 18th (optional day 14th)
Chinese Heritage Camp (Fraser, CO)	September 3rd - 6th
Russian/Eastern European/Central Asian Heritage Camp (Fraser, CO)	July 22nd - 25th
Vietnamese Heritage Camp (Estes Park, CO)	July 29th - August 1st

Scholarships may be available. For more information, and to download an application form, go to The Adoption Exchange website at www.adoptex.org. Click on the "adoption" tab, then go to "post adoption services," and you will find the "Adoptive Families Program" page. At the bottom right you can click on "funding" and from there go to "family mini-grants".

RADical Attachment Camp

July 31, 2010 – August 6, 2010
Echo Lake, Saskatchewan, Canada

RADical Attachment camps are designed to help families to connect and help challenging children to redirect their paths. The focus of camp is to renew, recharge, and empower each parent and child with effective techniques to increase love and laughter in their homes. Skill building interventions will be taught and practiced to build trust, honesty, self-control, and conscience development. Most of us learn best with a "hands on" approach. Living the techniques and experiencing the change is the camp's goal. Families can then return home and continue to successfully improve relationships with their new skills.

This program is for families with challenging children aged 2 to 16 years old (RAD, DTD, SID, ADD, ADHD, ODD, OCD, and a number of other mood disorders). The camp is designed to provide parenting skills and one-on-one coaching to help children with attachment issues learn to be respectful, responsible, and fun to be around.

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The treatment team includes Nancy Thomas, James Dumesil, Marie Sherwood, and trained staff, including our equine co-therapists. An important part of the treatment team is the horses. Most of the horses are Curly Horses that have puppy dog temperaments and are hypo-allergenic. This means that if you are usually allergic to a horse, you probably will not react to Curlies.

For more information, go to www.AttachmentCamp.com or contact Marie Sherwood, Executive Director, by email at marie@shalomranch.org.

SOS Outreach and Meet the Wilderness

Sunday through Saturday, August 1-7, 2010

Students ages 12-18 are invited to a weeklong backpacking trip in the pristine Colorado wilderness. Explore your leadership potential and discover your strengths as you hike in the White River National Forest. This program is great for youth with any range in backcountry or outdoor experience. We begin at our Minturn base camp with a teambuilding session on our low ropes course. We then provide an equipment orientation and packing session before departing for the trailhead. We spend 5 full days in the backcountry, hiking between camps and experiencing a peak ascent, solo, and a rock climbing session. Our trips focus on life skills, teamwork, and leadership. Participants return home with broadened horizons and a greater sense of self.

Cost is \$350 for equipment, food, and professional instruction. Financial aid scholarships are available.

Additional information and photos can be found at <http://www.sosoutreach.org/page/wilderness-trips-base-camp>.

Register online at www.sosoutreach.org under the "Programs Tab" > "Wilderness Trip."

Payment can be made online with credit card at www.sosoutreach.org or with check made out to SOS Outreach.

NACAC Conference

Presented by the North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC)
Connecticut Convention Center, Hartford, Connecticut
Wednesday, August 4 - Saturday, August 7, 2010

The North American Council on Adoptable Children (NACAC) annual conference is for adoptive parents, foster parents, adoption workers, adoptees, kinship care providers, child welfare administrators, and other members of the adoption and foster care community.

NACAC's conference covers almost every adoption-related topic imaginable—with more than 80 sessions about post-adoption services, therapeutic techniques, parenting children with challenges, recruitment and pre-adoption issues, international/infant adoption, public policy, and

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more. Many sessions are advanced, so even experienced parents and workers will benefit. Tentative sessions include:

- Find a Family for Any Youth in 12 to 20 Weeks!
- Surviving Adolescence: A Workshop for Parents Raising Challenging Teens
- Creating a Cultural Continuity Plan for Children
- What to Look for in an Adoption-Competent Therapist
- State of the Art Home Studies
- Living with Hurt or Scared Kids: Attachment, Trauma, and Neurobiology
- Advocating for Permanency in a Tight Budget Environment
- Post-Adoption Services for International Adoptive Families

To learn more about the conference, including keynote speakers, workshops and institutes, pre-conference sessions, the program for children and youth, and fees, visit:

<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=1062655731&msgid=31175166&act=LETZ&c=69890&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nacac.org%2Fconference%2Fconference.html>. From the main conference page, you can link to a registration page. Full registration fees cover institutes, workshops, general sessions, Saturday's awards luncheon, and a CD with handouts. For those who register as non-members, a one-year individual NACAC membership is also included. Registrants can also elect to attend a single day or two.

Children's Conference Call with Dr. Ken Duckworth

Friday, July 16th, 2010, from 9:00a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Mountain Time
Topic: Obtaining School-based Mental Health Services

Lewis Bossing, Senior Staff Attorney, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, will be on the July Children's Conference Call with Dr. Ken Duckworth, NAMI Medical Director and child and adolescent psychiatrist, to discuss how to obtain effective school-based mental health services and supports for students living with mental health conditions. Lewis works on a broad array of issues at the Bazelon Center affecting children with mental health conditions, including community integration, special education, and criminal justice.

To access the toll-free call, dial 1-888-858-6021; access number 309918#.

Events

Seventh Annual Buckaroo Stampede for Adoptive Families

Sunday, July 18, 2010, 12:00 p.m. to closing
Heritage Square, Golden, CO
Space is limited to the first 575 attendees.

Each family will receive free ride tickets and t-shirts for attending children, one free adult ride ticket, and barbeque tickets for each attending family member. A \$20 advance deposit is required to hold your family's reservation and will be refunded at the event. Please note: The alpine slide and train are not included.

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For more information, contact Shelbi Perry at 303-755-4756 or 1-800-451-5246.

The Adoption Exchange graciously thanks the McDonnell Family Foundation for providing this spectacular event.

King Tut Exhibit Discount Tickets Order BEFORE August 31

June 29, 2010 -January 9, 2011, Tuesday – Sunday 10am-5pm (Closed on Mondays)
Denver Art Museum, 100 W. 14th Ave Pkwy, Denver, CO 30204

The Denver Nuggets are partnering with the Denver Art Museum for an exclusive discounted ticket price!

Discover more than 100 striking objects spanning 2,000 years of ancient Egyptian history. See breathtaking treasures from Tutankhamen's tomb—including the golden sandals found on his mummy and a canopic jar that held his internal organs. Relive the excitement of Howard Carter's 1922 discovery of King Tut's tomb and explore new scientific discoveries that provide insight into the Boy King's legendary life and death.

Discounted Ticket Pricing:

\$21 Adult (13 & over) Tuesday – Friday & Sunday (save \$4 and all service fees waived)

\$26 Adult (13 & over) Saturday (save \$4 and all service fees waived)

\$15.50 Youth (5-12 years old) Every Day (save \$1 and all service fees waived)

Children 4 and under are free. Promo code will end 8/31/2010. Tickets are sold on the ½ hour. No refunds or exchanges. King Tut tickets include all Denver Art Museum galleries

To order tickets:

1. Click this link: <http://tickethorse.com/tut>
2. Click on the "promo code" package and type **TJONI**
3. Select the number of tickets (adult and/or youth)
4. Select any additional items (audio tour/Egypt 3-D movie)
5. At the bottom of the page click the "select price range" tab and select the time slot you want
6. Select delivery and payment method

The Second Annual AbleGames

Presented by Assistive Technology Partners

August 21, 2010

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

Assistive Technology Partners invites children ages 3 - 18 years of age with disabilities and their families to this second annual event. AbleGames provides a fun environment for children with disabilities to play adapted computer, Wii, and other kid-friendly games. Participants can enjoy a Wii racing game using a controller adapted to allow participation using only head movements. There will be a wide variety of switch accessible computer and pinball games including basketball

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and horse racing. Come and experience the possibilities of what accessible gaming and assistive technology can do to enhance the quality of life for children with disabilities.

Cost: \$25 per participant (includes T-shirt and lunch)

To register: Call 303-315-1278; limited space available, call now to apply.

Time Sensitive Information

Do You Have a Story to Share?

Fostering Families Today editors want to know—Do you have a story to share that would help someone else on their foster parenting journey? The best information comes from those who are living it, doing it, and experiencing it. EMK Press, a publishing company that specializes in helping adoptive and foster families, is working on a new publication just for foster parents and those who work with them. This parenting book will provide information for new and experienced foster parents alike. This will also be a resource for all those who work with and advocate for foster parents and the children in their care. Submissions are welcome from all who work with, live with, and support foster/adoptive children. To learn more and to access their long list of topics visit: <http://www.emkpress.com/fosterparenting.html>. Submission deadline is September 1.

Your Questions on ADHD

NAMI is currently looking for individuals of all ages who are living with ADHD and their family members. NAMI would love to hear what questions you have for health care providers about ADHD. As part of a video/audio project NAMI is working on, NAMI will be interviewing psychiatrists about a variety of topics related to ADHD. NAMI would like to know what topics interest you the most and what questions you may have. Email any topics and questions to Morgane Cibotti, NAMI Intern, at mcibatti@nami.org and Stephanie Wight, NAMI Intern, at swight@nami.org.

What Issues Are Important to YOU?

The Colorado Developmental Disabilities Council (CDDC) and The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People proudly announce a series of regional forums, featuring presentations by fellow Colorado citizens concerning cutting-edge ideas for people with disabilities and their family members being active and contributing members of their communities.

The 2010 Council wants to know what issues are important to people with disabilities and family members so that the Council's next Five-Year Plan and The Legal Center's priorities reflect those issues and concerns.

Please fill out the survey online at <http://www.coddc.org/>. You may also fill out the survey and mail it in, and call to fill it out over the phone.

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The Council is holding six public forums around Colorado until mid-September. Forums are confirmed for Alamosa on August 31 and in Evans (Greeley area) on September 9.

Voice for Adoption Portrait Project

Seeking nine Colorado families to share their stories of older (9 years+) child adoption. Your family photograph would be displayed in the Washington, D.C. office of one of Colorado's United States Senators and Representatives. The project is meant to keep issues related to adoption in mind as they work on issues throughout the year. Contact Nicole Dobbins at Voice for Adoption at 202-210-8118 or voiceforadoption@gmail.com if you are interested or have any questions.

For more information, go to www.voice-for-adoption.org.

Classroom Training

Respite Care Training: For People Who Want to Help Foster or Adoptive Families and Their Children

Presented by: Colorado Post-Adoption Resource Center (COPARC)

Trainer: Denise Leffingwell, MSW, LCSW

Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2010, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: LifeBridge Christian Church, 10345 Ute Highway, Longmont, CO 80504

and

Date: Friday, August 13, 2010

Location: The Adoption Exchange, 14232 East Evans Avenue, Aurora, CO 80014

This class will cover:

- Becoming part of a team that supports family stability and prevents disruptions
- Positive approaches that will head-off issues before they become crises
- Concrete skills and behaviors for managing challenging behaviors
- The unique needs of children who have been adopted, or are in kinship or foster care
- Tools that will help you successfully work with families and their children
- Ideas for creating and sustaining group respite care programs
- Self care tips

Trainer Denise Leffingwell, MSW, LCSW, has over 10 years experience in social work.

Cost: Free to adoptive and foster families and the professionals who work with them. Participants should bring their own lunch and snacks.

To register: Contact Tanya Hammar at tanya@adoptex.org or at 303-755-4756. Or go online to www.adoptex.org.

AdoptCare Network Training - Advanced

Presented by: Colorado Post-Adoption Resource Center (COPARC)

Trainer: Denise Leffingwell, MSW, LCSW

Date: Thursday, August 26, 2010, 8:300 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: The Adoption Exchange, 14232 East Evans Avenue, Aurora, CO 80014

You must have completed an AdoptCare class to attend this advanced course. This course focuses on continuing to build and strengthen a network of professionals ready to serve adoptive families. Topics will include:

- Affect of attachment on the child and family
- Brain development, trauma, and emotional regulation
- How secondary trauma affects you and the families you work with
- Assessment and intervention strategies
- Parent coaching and consultation

Trainer Denise Leffingwell, MSW, LCSW, has over 10 years experience in social work.

Cost: Free to adoptive and foster families and the professionals who work with them. Participants should bring their own lunch and snacks.

To register: Contact Tanya Hammar at tanya@adoptex.org or at 303-755-4756. Or go online to <http://www.adoptex.org/site/Calendar/413069861>.

Webinar Training

Funding Transportation

Presented by: Fostering Connections Resource Center & the American Bar Association Legal Center for Foster Care and Education

Date: Tuesday, July 13, 2010, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mountain Time

The Fostering Connections Resource Center and the American Bar Association Legal Center for Foster Care and Education invite you to a free webinar on the education provisions of the Fostering Connections Act (FCA). The new law presents both opportunities and challenges to state leaders responsible for implementing requirements aimed at promoting new school stability for children and youth in foster care. During this webinar, experts from the Legal Center for Foster Care and Education will focus on the special challenges related to providing, arranging, and paying for transportation for children to remain in their same schools. They will outline key questions and considerations relevant to decision makers and highlight successful strategies from selected states.

To register: Go to <http://www.fosteringconnections.org/events?id=0022>. After registering you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The Value of Family Therapy for Adoptive Families

Presented by: The Center for Adoption Support and Education (CASE)

Trainer: Hannah Worthington, LGMFT

Date: Thursday, July 15, 2010, 11:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. MDST

Your child has issues and you think adoption may have something to do with it. Family communication has broken down and conflicts quickly turn into eruptions. Your child is asking questions that you weren't prepared to answer. Or new behaviors, such as angry meltdowns, anxiety, withdrawal, or changes in sleep patterns, are disrupting your happy home. You think it's time to consider professional help. Find out how adoption-competent family therapy can help families understand those concerns, assess how they are handling them, and learn new ways to interact around those issues.

Cost: \$25

To register:

<https://p4.secure.hostingprod.com/@www.adoptionsupport.org/ssl/WorkshopRegistration/workshopregistration.php>

Working Across Systems to Improve Outcomes for Young Children

Presented by: Fostering Connections Resource Center

Date: Thursday, July 15, 2010, 12:30 p.m. Mountain Time

There is a growing awareness of the critical importance of development in the early years of birth to age five, and young children in child welfare systems often have pressing developmental needs. This session will explore strategies agencies and their partners can use to successfully identify and address these needs. Hear from national experts and representatives from sites that have been able to improve collaboration to bring about better outcomes for young children. Learn about strategies to engage early intervention, early care and education, health providers, courts, child welfare staff, and foster parents in efforts to enrich the early learning environments for these children, identify developmental concerns and refer children to critical services

To register: Go to <http://tatis.muskie.usm.maine.edu/pubs/teleReg.asp>.

How Young Adults Use the Internet to Access Mental Health Information & Support

Presented by: Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2010, 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Mountain Time

According to Pew Internet research, every day, more people go online for medical advice than actually visit health care professionals. This may be especially true for young adults, as their access to health care and other supports is more limited than other populations. Using the latest research as well as results from focus groups conducted by The Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures, this webinar will address how young adults use the Internet to

manage their mental health.

To register: Go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/249429568>.

Education

CSU Tuition Cuts

CSU is offering middle-class students breaks on tuition for both the Fort Collins and Pueblo locations. Low-income students may be able to attend for free. For more information, go to: http://www.collegian.com/index.php/article/2010/06/062310_tuition.

Fostering Connections Resource Center

The Fostering Connections Resource Center (www.fosteringconnections.org) provides information, training and tools related to furthering the implementation of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act. To read more, [click here](#).

Mental Health

Your Life, Your Future

"A Youth Guide to Wraparound Services: Your Life, Your Future," developed by Mary Grealish (in conjunction with youth experts and other professionals) with support from the Child, Adolescent and Family Branch at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is now available. To read more, [click here](#).

Colorado Links for Mental Health Initiative

The Center for Systems Integration (CSI) is dedicated to actively developing and promoting policy solutions to complex policy problems, including mental Health. For more information, go to: <http://www.csi-policy.org/linkingyou/>.