

AzCAnections

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE EMPLOYEES
OF ARIZONA'S CHILDREN ASSOCIATION
AND ITS FAMILY OF AGENCIES



Connecting to AzCA

Dear Employees This column in AzCAnections is dedicated to connecting our employees and the work we do to the long term strategic plan of Arizona's Children. This quarter we're concentrating on long term strategies seven and eight from the AzCA "Strategic Plan FY 2007 through FY 2011": 7. Continuing to be very active in the political sector to increase opportunities, not only for the agency, but for the children, adults and families we serve and 8. Supporting the increase in the quality and quantity of the technology that we use. ♪

Thank You.

Fred Chaffee, *President and CEO*

IT Department: Enabling AzCA Staff to Have Access to the Information they Need

Arizona's Children Association computer network is "up" more than 99% of the time, a record that beats most national corporations. Running the very effective, very lean IT staff is David Oliver, director of Information Technology. "Our job is to enable all staff to have access to the information they need to do their jobs," said Oliver. "In addition, all of our office connections are encrypted to meet HIPAA standards."

The current priority of the IT department is a new clinical information system that will roll out in the next two months, beginning with the Center for Family Based Practice (CFP) behavioral health program in Phoenix. The clinical information system includes research capabilities with the internet enabled to virtually any trusted site. The system will also allow new team members to go into the system and find all services, notes and clinical information about their clients.

AzCA's video conferencing capabilities are also a priority. "Our video conferencing

capabilities currently use the internet to travel to 13 AzCA sites around the state; all except Flagstaff, LHC and Las Familias in Tucson are encrypted to HIPAA standards," said David. "We continue to work to bring more sites on line and to allow more than six sites to come in at one time. Our biggest challenge is funding."

A continuing challenge for the IT department is AzCA employees who visit dangerous websites from their work computers. "I think that our employees may be unaware of the damage that can be done," said David. "We have anti-virus and anti-spamware on our system, but if people get a new virus that knows how to spread itself, they can take down the whole system for days."

To protect yourself and the AzCA network from dangerous viruses, know what internet sites you're going to and do not download pictures, screen savers, or other software from unfamiliar sources. ♪

Public Policy Committee: Effecting Future Change

Arizona's Children Association public policy committee has worked through the last two legislative sessions. During the past year, the legislative committee, co-chaired by board members Ken Kotch and Anita Royal, hosted a legislative day at the state capital where they trained board members on participating in the legislative process and interacted with legislators at a luncheon that day. "It is our goal to be seen as a leader and a resource for legislators in the area of children and families," said committee chair Ken Kotch, "for an organization like AzCA there's a lot we can do in the here and now to begin to effect change in the future."

This year we also published our first "Advocacy News" advocacy bulletin featuring a profile on Congressman Raul Grijalva and acknowledging legislators in the state senate and house for their work for children and families.

To view the "Advocacy News" visit www.arizonaschildren.org/publicpolicy.htm. ♪

To visit the AzCA spamblocker and see if you have e-mail that has been filtered out, go to: <http://mailsrv:8081>.
Questions? Contact David Oliver in the IT department at doliver@arizonaschildren.org.

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ARIZONA'S CHILDREN ASSOCIATION

Protecting Children. Preserving Families.
Across Arizona Since 1912.

Would You Believe?

CELEBRATING AzCA
ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE 07 TO AUGUST 07

5 YEARS

Julia Jackson

Donald Birchard

Joseph Johnson

Sandra Snyder

Amy Cox

Linda Selsor

Anjaneane Knudsen

Sean Jackson



Linked to Each Other

AzCA provides 40 programs to children and families across Arizona: 14 in the prevention arena, 19 intervention programs, five permanency programs and three special programs. Each quarter in AzCAnections we introduce employees to the work of selected programs.



A significant part of the work of AzCA across the state remains in **Intervention**, working with clients with behavioral or drug and alcohol problems that interfere with their ability to live productive lives.

Our inpatient drug and alcohol program in Southern Arizona is **La Canada**, a 30-day, level 2 substance abuse treatment program/therapeutic group facility for male and female adolescents ages 12 through 17 with substance abuse issues that require residential treatment but no medically supervised detoxification. The foundation of the program is family involvement.

Clients who leave La Canada enroll in **Cornerstone**, a six-month intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment program for youth who have completed substance abuse therapy at La Canada. The six month program takes place in six-week blocks that include individual, family and group therapy, parenting classes and gender specific classes taught by the University of Arizona.

When you walk through the doors of the **Nellie P. Covert School** on the AzCA campus in Tucson, you experience a vibrant learning environment that provides positive academic learning experiences as well as behavioral and social skill growth for students in grades 1-12 with specialized behavioral health needs. Students learn through computer-based and teacher-directed curriculum that is based on Arizona's State Standards and is adjusted to meet their individual needs. Social skills curriculum is interwoven throughout the learning continuum.



We are proud of our efforts in the **Prevention** area to identify and confront potential problems before they start.

Promotoras de Bienestar is a unique neighborhood revitalization program at Golden Gate Community Center that utilizes members of the community to improve the physical, mental and social well-being of the

community. Promotoras meet with people in their homes, at schools, churches and wherever their paths cross in the community. Year one was assessment and now Golden Gate is training Promotoras to provide prevention information to community members.

We strive with our **Permanency** programs to ensure that every child has a safe, loving family.




Arizona's Children Association trains 'resource families' across the state who are interested in providing **foster care or adoption** for children in Arizona's foster care system. Foster and adoptive families go through the same 10-week PS MAPP training course and decide during the training whether they are best suited to become a foster or adoptive family. There is a significant need for foster and adoptive families for older children and sibling groups. AzCA was contracted to provide foster care and DES adoption services across the state in the most recent contract awards.

Special Programs meet our mission but don't fit in the intervention, prevention or permanency categories.

The **Infant Adoption Awareness Training Program** is a federally funded, national effort by Arizona's Children to collaborate with adoption providers, public and non-profit health care providers and stakeholders



in Arizona, Nevada and New Mexico to provide training for healthcare staff to develop the knowledge and skills to present adoption information on an equal basis with all other courses of action for women and teens with unplanned pregnancies. "We're not advocating for adoption," said AzCA IAATP program director, Marcie Velen. "We're advocating for adoption education." 

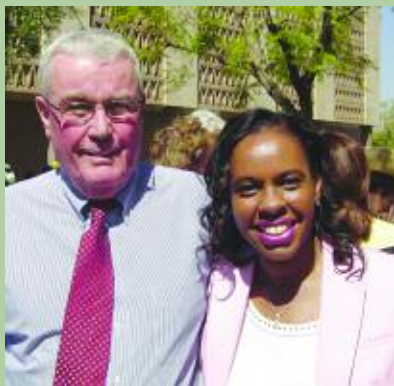


The Clear Connection **Meet State Senator Leah Landrum Taylor**

There is a clear connection between our long term strategic plan and the work of our employees. This "Clear Connection" is exemplified by Senator Leah Landrum Taylor, senior advisor to Arizona's Children Association. For the past two years, Senator Landrum Taylor has served as a senior advisor to Arizona's Children Association where she staffs the agency's public policy committee, and consults with the board and staff about legislative matters of interest. Leah is also an

Brown Cloud Summit, and Federal Mandates committees during interim.

During the last legislative session, Leah worked diligently to continue the \$1,000,000 budget allocation for a one time emergency grant of \$300 and monthly stipend for kinship caregivers that she had first secured in the 2006/07 legislative session. Leah is also currently chairing the 2007 Faith Based Summit, "Not on Our Watch," a statewide leadership event to engage faith leaders in developing faith based solutions for teens aging out of foster care. ♡



Leah Landrum-Taylor with Fred Chaffee at the Grand Families Rally

elected State Senator for District 16 where she serves on the K-12 Education, Natural Resources and Rural Affairs and the Public Safety and Human Resources Committee. She has previously served on the House Ways and Means and Environment Committees as well as Adoption and Foster Care, Homelessness, Governor's

Thanks to Cindy Hansen and Natalie Randolph

Southern Regional Director Cindy Hansen was a member of the planning committee for the "Not On Our Watch" faith-based summit, where she continued to raise the issue of services for youth aging out of the foster care system in rural areas. Thanks to Natalie Randolph in northern Arizona who facilitated a breakout session on Arizona's Children Association Independent Living Programs which are provided through contracts with DES. Natalie was joined by youth from the independent living program in Northern Arizona. AzCA also administers independent living programs in the Western and southeastern areas of the state. ♡

Joined with the Community

The Globe outpatient staff under the leadership of clinician Jim Gray has developed an anger management group for children at the San Carlos elementary school on the San Carlos Indian reservation. The group meets two times a week and has eight children who attend on a regular basis. School administrators make referrals to the group and have expanded to include a parenting

class while the anger management class meets.

The service is so needed that when summer break came, the school bus driver stayed on to transport the children to and from the groups. When she could no longer do it, the school janitor and secretary volunteered to continue the transportation. ♡

Watch Us Grow

Welcome New AzCA employees since
June 1st, 2007 through August 31, 2007

CENTRAL REGION

Veronica Castellanos	Jacque Dunshie
Brandy Page	Danielle King-Butler
Megan Wertz	Amy Lesnick
Amy Miller	Christina Krauthoff
Sosen Khodickian	Elizabeth Martinez
Venessa De La Cruz	de Menchaca
Eileen Delaney	Rosa Grajeda
Susana Hernandez	
Michelle Victoria Muckerheide	

MID CENTRAL REGION

Jamaica McGrew	Susan Jones
Julie Heck	Barbara Guillen
Joy Simione	Haley Bell
Christine Thornton	

NORTHERN REGION

Ryan Louis	Jessica Lance
Shelly Ehmman	Julie
Cody McMurry	Christopherson
JoAnna Mhairi Hale	Summer Smith

SOUTHERN REGION

Eduardo Cuellar	Wendy West
Jacqueline Green	Whitney Wilson
Ana Lucore	Debra Frank
Claire Cohen	Valerie
Rayna Powell	Christenson
Dana Free	Mary Oien
Christine Widener	Kristi Gerrard
Cynthia Alexander-Green	Holly Stocker
Celina Tolano	Patsy Martinez
Melinda	Lettea Colquhoun
Betancourt	Denise Roepke
Margaret Dibble	Oksana Kostroski
Terri Dotson	Crystal Simons
	Jane Hall

WESTERN REGION

Cori Leigh Tyndall	Amanda Lynn Inman
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Connected to You

It's been a busy quarter for the human resources department. Statewide Open Enrollment sessions have been completed for all AzCA employees for the new fiscal year.

- Some changes for this year include a **new Health Savings Account (HSA)** which resulted in folks moving in to this plan option. Mutual of Omaha is the new carrier for Life Insurance, LTD, and voluntary plans such as short term disability. They have provided a three year price guarantee. Finally, we are pleased to remind you that AzCA absorbed the increase in medical premium expenses to benefit employees.
- Elizabeth Hightower, *Corporate Employee of the Year*, was selected for the one-week time-share resort package prize this year. This time-share prize will be offered in the future for the lucky "Employee of the Year" candidates.
- We hope all employees took the time to complete the *Employee Satisfaction Survey*. Results will be tabulated and SMT will be addressing any trends or issues identified in the analysis of the survey. Further information will be forthcoming.
- Regional Training Forums** being coordinated by Diane Dvoskin and Phyllis Habib for the SAZ, CAZ, and MCAZ regions show great attendance and interest. These internal training events by employees who are "subject matter experts" have been extremely successful and useful.

- SAZ Region hosted a **"talent show"** during the noon hour for employees to participate and enjoy... "AzCA's Got Talent". The talent show was a big hit for employees in Southern Arizona. Thanks to our talented performers, Carolyn Damko, Gina Chesler, Diane Dvoskin, Steve Sisson and Armando Urbano, and our judges, Fred, Dee Ann and Charlene who did a wonderful job and kept everyone laughing. Carolyn Damko received the top prize with Gina Chesler a VERY close second. Thank you to the maintenance team, food service, Miguel Quezada, Sam Valdovin, and the Employment Satisfaction Committee for organizing a really fun event!

Carolyn Damko won for her sign language performance of Lee Greenwood's song "Proud to be an American"



Editor's Note: We hope you enjoyed this issue of AzCAnectons. If you would like to give us feedback or submit an article, please email us at AzCAnectons@arizonaschildren.org or fax to AzCAnectons 602.248.8150.

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