

AAAAC

African American Advisory Council Newsletter

Spring 2006



Annual Conference April 20 & 21

**“Investing in the Well-Being of Our Daughters
Today, Tomorrow and Forever”**

From the Chairperson

AAAC remained active during the past year



**Michael D. Burns, AAAC
Chairperson**

Michael D. Burns, AAAC Chairperson

Since it has been a while since our last newsletter, I want to mention some of the activities that took place in 2005.

I want to share some of the highlights of the 2005 African American Advisory Council's Conference. As a result of staff's continued support, this event was once again deemed a success.

Conference Chair, Frances Elbert and first time co-chair Jackie Bright did an excellent job in planning this affair along with the conference planning committee. We are grateful for the support provided by Training, Hispanic Advisory Committee, and Communications. We were pleased to host this event in the African American Community.

Even though it was a shortened event the Harold Washington Cultural Center was able to accommodate the more than 500 participants. As a result, we were able to invite people from the community thus allowing great network-

ing with many social service providers, community residents and consumers of social services. We thank you for your understanding and the many positive comments about hosting the conference in the heart of the African American Community.

The participation of WVON radio station was just outstanding. Some of the key interviewees on the Cliff Kelly and the Matt & Perry Show were DCFS staff along with private agency providers. Vice Chairperson, Frances Elbert was elated with her interview by Mr. Kelly,

and I really enjoyed my time with Matt & Perry. It was our intent to inform the public on the many positive services and interventions that staff provide for the community. We thank WVON for providing an avenue to showcase the AAAC contributions to DCFS and its mission of providing safety for children.

This past June we held our monthly meeting in East St. Louis. We always receive a very warm welcome from the staff in East St. Louis, and we thank them for the annual luncheon discussion. By the way, the discussion was highlighted by the great food provided by staff.

Council member Vendetta Dennis did a great job in getting staff to participate in the meeting to discuss concerns of employees from the Region. Vendetta now has some help as we had a new member from Southern Region to join the Council in December. We are pleased to welcome Sonia Phillips to the AAAC. We will continue to work with staff regarding issues that they bring to our attention. We also had a follow-up meeting in East St. Louis in October, and we have collaborated with Affirmative Action on some of the issues identified by staff.

We also held a meeting for the Central Region in Champaign last October where we began a discussion with representative from Illinois State in looking at better permanency outcomes for African American youth. On-going discussions with Director Samuels, Deputy Directors Arthur Bishop and Gailyn Thomas along with Central Regional Administrator, Robert Blackwell are taking place. AAAC members, Lolita Dumas and ex officio member Oscar Gipson continue to work hard in the Central Region. Jere Moore performed an outstanding job in leading the efforts to address permanency issues for

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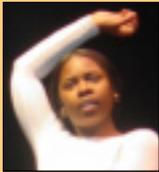
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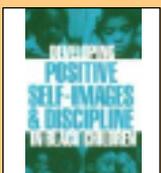
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Uniting Community Theme of 13th Annual Conference

**Jacqueline Bright, Co-Chair
Conference Planning Committee**

On April 28, 2005, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services' African American Advisory Council held its 13th Annual Institute at the Harold Washington Cultural Center in the heart of the African American community.

The goal of the Institute was to establish working resolutions that will empower the African American community with supports needed for families to take responsibility for their youth's safety, permanency, and well being. The Institute encompassed both State and Community agencies that serve African American families.

The theme, "Uniting Networks to Better Serve the African American Community" was chosen to address the gaps that exist between the community and service providers. The discussion in each session focused on ideas that would enhance relationships with the community; improve permanency, safety, and well being for African American youth.

The community often perceives the status of today's Black youth as being woefully neglected and overlooked by helping professionals. There is also a disproportionate number of black youth that are incarcerated in the juvenile justice system, failing in school, and disenfranchised from employment opportunities. As a Council, we decided to address the aforementioned issues by bringing together several entities within the community that can support our youth and the families we serve. Through networking and group sessions, we were able to create a forum that addressed the issues.

In the state of Illinois, African American children and youth are represented in foster and residential care at a higher percentage than the overall population. The greater increase in substitute care is attributed to the disproportionate provision of quality services in the African



Third Ward Alderwoman Dorothy Tillman addresses the 2005 AAAC conference attendees with energy and enthusiasm.

The theme "Uniting Networks to Better Serve the African American Community" was chosen to address the gaps that exist between the community and service providers.



AAAC Council members Diane Cottrell (above photo) and Gregory Smith at the 2005 Conference. At right, Praise Dancer Ashley McFall of Trinity United Church of Christ, performs. In top right photo, Council members Cottrell (from left), State Sen. Mattie Hunter, Cretora Barnett and Council Chairman Michael Burns gather. In photo at bottom right, Associate Deputy Director of Operations and AAAC Council Member Valerie Davis served as Mistress of Ceremonies.



American community, compared to the allocation of services in predominately Caucasian communities. A large majority of the population in substitute care are adolescents. Numerous studies have shown that the adolescent population engages in delinquent behavior and are often at risk for developing criminal behavior.

Specifically, research has identified two areas of concern that determine both disproportionate placements in substitute care and problematic behavior of youth:

- Underutilization of or access to services in the community
- Disproportional rates of poor prevention and child service outcomes (e.g. well being indicators such as educational achievement and health care services).

The AAAC Institute focused on the efforts made by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services African American Advisory Council to bridge the gap that exists by uniting community based agencies (both public and private). The council hoped this process would provide families in the community with the knowledge and resources needed to pro-

vide a safe environment for children/families, and decrease the over-representation of African Americans in the child welfare system.

Through collaboration and participation of community-based agencies, a full day of networking and disseminating information created an opportunity for the community and agency professionals to further assess the problems,

The AAAC Institute focused on the efforts made by the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services African American Advisory Council to bridge the gap that exists by uniting community based agencies (both public and private).

and make recommendations to the agency providers.

Conference Discussion Panel discussions and breakout sessions ensued that covered the following topics: *Department of Human Services: Making a Positive Connection: Reunifying and Maintaining Families within the*

Community.

Providing the necessary financial assistance to families is a critical component needed to maintain families.

Representatives from the TANF Program outlined the criteria needed for families to qualify for this type of assistance. They also provided child welfare professionals guidelines needed to assist biological families with the financial transition involved with reunification. Participants were informed of the following:

- The caregiver of the child, qualifies for TANF – (qualification for TANF for care givers.)
- In crisis situations, immediate services offered
- In order of priority, the four most important eligibility criteria for TANF recipients are:
 - Benefit by referrals for resources
 - Education and training programs
 - Substance Abuse treatment programs
 - Access services through local day care facilities or child care agencies.

There was also further discussion regarding a need for childcare serv-

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13th Annual Conference

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ices for relative caregivers. The eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Employed grandparents or other relatives caring for the child (without parent).
- TANF provides childcare for caregivers (regardless of income. The local office determines eligibility.)

Mental Health: Advocating for Community Services for Children and Youth Who Are At Risk for Behavioral and Emotional Disorders

Existing financial and cultural barriers often prevent or delay the provision of mental health services in the African American community. Representatives from the Bobby Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center discussed the following holistic approach

that engages African American families to become receptive to mental health services: child Welfare workers should engage families with positive reinforcement. Change in behavior through communication will prevent bias opinions about mental health treatment. The vehicle for changing negative behaviors is through education and communication. Through the process of collaboration between the child welfare agencies and other community based agencies, informational resources can be developed to help individuals recognize when to seek mental health services. Interagency agreements are necessary to identify resources that will empower families to gain access to financial resources needed to utilize mental health services.

Chicago Public Schools and the State Board of Education: Available Community-Based Programs to Enhance the Academic Performance of Children and Youth

Studies have shown that the family and community factors are associated with the level of academic achievement. Grade retention can also result in poor employment outcomes during early adulthood. The Chicago Board of Education and the State Board of Education are committed to serving children and families in the African American community. Practices currently exist that focus on strengthening families and improving the academic standards/developmental stages of children and youth. Establishing and maintaining ongoing communication with DCFS and area school districts is necessary to better assess the educational needs of our children and youth. There is a need for caseworkers to better understand the system and become proactive to the educational needs of children in substitute care.

The educational providers stressed the "No Child Left Behind" initiative as a means to engage families and children

by informing them of supportive services that would enhance the academic performance. (Alternatives such as evening classes for high school students are an integral component for case planning, given certain challenges faced by some youth during normal classroom hours.) For child welfare specialists, it is imperative that parental visits and visits by caseworkers occur to discuss the child/youth's academic progress with teachers and school personnel. There is also a need for open community forums that will address standardized testing, programs for a preparation, and clarification regarding the federal mandate for testing. Forums should also explain to families the difference between truancy and expulsion, the process of mainstreaming children/youth into regular classrooms, and community based behavior intervention programs.

Maintaining Positive Family and Community Connections During and After Incarceration

A major concern in the African American community is the increase of incarceration of youth. Research indicates a large number of adolescents engage in some form of delinquent activity. Often when youth are incarcerated, caseworkers and family

Integrating the youth back into the community is a holistic process that should include the caseworkers, probation/parole officers, caretakers, and family members.

members experience systemic barriers when attempting to navigate through the Correctional facilities to secure information regarding the youth's well-being, and discharge planning. Following a discussion convened by representatives from the Department of Corrections, there was evidence of significant gaps in practice issues from both Departments- Department of Correction (DOC) and Department and Children and Family Services (DCFS) as it relates to casework monitoring, service provision, and discharge planning.

The participants felt there was a lack of communication regarding discharge planning and procedure. Specifically, most of the participants were unaware of the requirement for a DOC representative to visit the identified residential placement facility prior to the youth's discharge. DCFS staff felt that insufficient placement resources impedes discharge planning, and has created a significant barrier in casework practice.

Integrating the youth back into the community is a holistic process that should include the caseworkers, probation/parole officers, caretakers, and family members. However caseworkers felt that exposing the youth to the same environment that resulted in their incarceration presented serious safety and well being issues.

Reconnecting the youth to family members or caregivers also at times imposed risk in situations where there is a prior history of abuse/neglect. Casework staff also felt challenged in their efforts to identify available resources for youth that have restrictions placed upon them for house arrest (elec-



The 2005 AAAC Conference Awardees for Outstanding Achievement, DCFS Child Welfare Specialists Stephanie LeCoure (left) and Doris Paul display their awards.

Uniting Community Theme of Conference

tronic monitoring). It is necessary to prepare the youth to reintegrate into the community by identifying community advocacy programs that will support the youth and their family members.

Recommendations

The general theme that permeated throughout each workshop was a need for more enhanced communication processes among both public and private agencies. The areas of communication should focus primarily on ways to address the concerns of African American families. Programs should support the community relative to their needs. Some of the examples recommended by participants were:

- Services that will improve education for children and youth (i.e. evening classes, testing preparation for students)
- Awareness of mental health services
- Identifying cultural barriers that will remove stigmas associated with such services.
- Develop more community advocacy programs for youth discharged from Corrections.
- Engaging families to empower themselves
- Offering more advocacy programs in the venues of community forums.



DCFS' Lucille Pearson (left) and Kathy Cook facilitating the day's activities

Cook North Celebrates 'Herstory'

Cook North held its 3rd Annual Black Heritage Month Celebration Luncheon on February 22, 2006. Over 70 people attended the luncheon.

The theme this year was "herstory", which focused on celebrating the lives and achievements of influential African American Women.

"Through out the month of February, we (the committee) sent out Black history facts related to black women. The committee chose one of these women to tell her story, we chose Mrs. Coretta Scott King", said

Kathy Cook, Chair Person Organizing Committee

The luncheon was a finale to Month long program that involved several other activities that included trivia and treasure hunt. Entertainment at the luncheon included praise dancers, fashion show, fun games, poetry, music, and a bus ride skit (based on Rosa Parks' experience). Catered lunch was served.

In addition to the major event at 1911, staff at the Bradley office also had a luncheon on February 3, 2006.

Protecting Our Children

Keeping kids safe is a shared responsibility

by Gregory Smith,
PSA, Quality Assurance

Recently, I completed an "Outcome Enhancement Review" (OER), as part of ongoing Child and Family Service Review for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (IDCFS), and several factors relating to the difficulties Child Protection (CP) workers have in protecting children from abuse and neglect grabbed my attention.

The nation struggles with the heartbreaking problems of child abuse and neglect. IDCFS, like other government agencies are charged with investigating and responding to allegations of child abuse and neglect in a timely manner.

Unfortunately, states often lack sufficient Federal funding to assist child welfare agencies to adequately address the needs of children at risk. Pressures on the system have mounted steadily, in large part due to the widespread problems related to substance abuse among parents, family breakup, social service

budget cuts, and increase levels of poverty.

The changes brought by welfare reform has created new demands on DCFS, and other child protection systems, and only recently have reformers focused on the "front end" of the child protection system, where critical decisions are made as it relates to family preservation, and the emotional well being of highly vulnerable children.

Oftentimes, it appears that Child Protective Services (CPS) is overmatched by the scope and complexity of its task.

However, even with widespread problems related to substance abuse among parents, family breakup, social service budget cuts, and increase levels of poverty, DCFS, CP workers are expected to straddle two core values, the protection of children and respect for the



privacy of family.

CPS have often been accused of both "unwarranted interference in private life" and "irresponsible inaction" when children are truly threatened. It is called "incompetent, confused, mismanaged", and staffed with under trained workers, an inadequate knowledge based.

However, because the lives of children are at stake, CPS cannot, and will not stop its work while the public

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'Juneteenth' a time to celebrate past, future

Edited by Valerie Baker-Davis

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the end of the slavery period in the United States.

Although President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation as an Executive Order into law effective January 1, 1863, it took another two years for it to reach Texas; specifically on June 19th 1865, when a regiment of Union troops under the leadership of Major General Gordon Granger arrived at Galveston, Texas to enforce this law.

Though late, the news generated reactions that varied from shock to jubilation. Many former slaves left the plantations and ran into the streets of Texas in celebration of their just announced freedom. (Shortly after this announcement many moved into new territories as freedmen; some remained under sharecropping arrangements; while others sought family members sold in neighboring states and in the South.)

Henceforth, Juneteenth became symbolic celebration of the day of "freedom" to descendants of former slaves. Families would gather to strengthen family ties. During these gatherings, they would pray for each other; engage in recreational activities such as baseball games, entertainment activities, such as rodeos, and nourish their souls with great barbecues. Often guest speakers or elders offer

encouraging words about formal education and self-improvement.

Initially, these festivities were held in Black Churches or rural areas because of outward resistance of local officials who prevented use of public facilities.

The earliest recorded purchases of land for Juneteenth Celebration were in Emancipation Park in Houston (by

tions.

Overtime, several factors, including cultural and economic forces, have led to the decline of Juneteenth celebrations across the country.

As African Americans get more assimilated into mainstream culture, their children are relied more on classroom and textbooks, rather than the elders and community cultural events for African American history. Oral history, which was traditionally used to transmit history in the African American community during slavery and right after emancipation got lost.

The Civil Rights movements of the 1960's brought a resurgence of ethnic identity for African Americans and renewal of interest in the history of the African Diaspora. Juneteenth celebrations came to life again. Nowadays, two of the largest Juneteenth celebrations occur in Milwaukee, Wis. and Minneapolis, Minn. where the focus is upon

strides toward racial equality and economic parity.

Today, Juneteenth celebrations continue as encouragement for self-development, empowerment and self-

respect for African Americans. Public institutions such as the Smithsonian, The Henry Ford

Museum, and others have begun sponsoring Juneteenth events with the objective of promoting and cultivating knowledge and appreciation of African American History and culture.



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landowners insisted on their laborers returning to work in the midst of the celebrations. Hence, to ensure the success of the celebrations, most of the laborers took the day off, made food, and cash dona-

Get in Shape

Work out an exercise plan with kids, teens

George Winters Jr.
CWSII, Sacwis Project

Data from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention show that enrollment in daily Physical Education (PE) classes among High Schools nationally has significantly decreased from 42 percent in 1991 to below 25 percent currently. Only half of students at all grade levels are enrolled in any form of PE class.

Unfortunately, one of the biggest misconceptions among many African American children and teenagers, of course including our foster children, is the perception that exercising or physical fitness training is very boring.

For our children, many who are interested in exercising, often lack access to gymnasiums or private training facilities; therefore, they spend their free time watching television, playing video games, and eating foods that are not nutritional (children and teenagers love junk food; foster children are no exception).

Hence, it is very important for case workers to encourage foster parents to enroll children in extra curricular-physical fitness programs through schools, park districts, Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, or other community sponsored program. Many programs are free or inexpensive. The benefit of providing and supporting young African American kids and teenagers with participation in organized sports are tremendous.

Physical fitness and organized sports provide children with a positive outlet for building self-esteem, sportsmanship, discipline, self-control, perseverance and developing healthy relationships with peers, family and caregivers.

Statistics show that minority and

most particularly African American children, who participate in some form of organized sports, cross training, weightlifting and other forms of exercise, perform at higher academic levels, tend to be drug/alcohol free, are goal oriented, physically healthier, and more

inclined to abstain from teenage pregnancy.

Encouraging children and teenagers to participate in sports and physical exercising would be a great benefit to the whole family and in turn the community as a whole.



For the Health of It!

Special nutritional needs for African Americans

Robert Williams, PSA

Along with all of the other battles and issues we fight within our community, we, as African Americans, must discuss, address, and educate our children on our health and well being needs. The African American diet is often very high in sodium and low in potassium (two major contributing factors to hypertension), and very often it does not include many fresh fruits and vegetables.

In today's fast paced environment and "fast-food nation" it's a struggle to get the optimal amount of nutrients in your diet. For many Americans,

For each of these conditions, African-American men and women have a higher rate of death than do Caucasian men and women.

grabbing a hamburger, slice of pizza or sugar-laden snack is often easier than finding a healthy food choice, but the consequences are increasing health concerns for African Americans due to high-calorie and high-fat diets.

As we move toward summer days and look forward to the picnics, barbeques, and vacations we, as African Americans, need to keep in mind that the three leading causes of death in the United States are coronary heart disease, stroke, and cancer. For each of these conditions, African-American men and women have a higher rate of death than do Caucasian men and women.

In addition to the three factors cited above, one of the alarming health concerns within the African American community is diabetes. African Americans suffer from diabetes at a rate two times higher than Caucasian men and women.

According to the Journal of the American Society of Nephrology, African Americans suffer from diabetic complications such as visual impairment and amputations twice as often as Caucasians. (It has also been reported that African Americans suffer kidney failure at a rate three times higher than Caucasians.)

Consequently, as we gear for summer, we must heed the advice of many health professionals and our elders:

1. Eat in moderation e.g., eat to satisfaction not to stuffiness; add more Greens to your plate and less macaroni and cheese, opt for the barbeque chicken

as opposed to a plate of ribs; have a bowl of peach cobbler as opposed to two.

2. Exercise - a simple walking plan would produce great results. It can help you loose weight and help keep it off; it can aid in lowering blood pressure, reduce tension, stress, and the risk of Type 2 Diabetes. Walking can be a family affair or something that you and your friends can do while discussing your next move to help a family or a child.

3. Relax - find the time to spend with family and friends not discussing work and problems. Find time to catch up on your reading or just relax and enjoy being alive! Have a good summer.

Health and Healthy Living



Green-Hammond

Sheree Green-Hammond
Child Welfare Nurse Specialist
Cook Central

As social service professionals, we have committed ourselves to advocating for the strength and well-being of the communities we serve. However, we must make a difference in our lives so that we can influence others. We must lead by example. We must nurture and mentor each other. Overall good health is critical to living a lengthy and high quality life.

We must always consciously work on achieving good health so that we can help the people we serve achieve the same. (This includes advocating for good health systems in the communities we service.) Currently morbidity and mortality resulting from numerous illnesses, diseases and systemic/infrastructure problems disproportionately affect the minority communities we serve. One's health status can be generally attributed to access to healthcare, genetics, environment and lifestyle.

As summer approaches, I urge each of you to pause and evaluate our happiness. For some, happiness lies in looking and being more physically fit and trim, through better nutrition, weight management, exercise, and stress reduction.

We all want more out of life and have a desire for true happiness. The key to our happiness begins with a healthy body and mind. Everything we do in life is made easier and better if we have healthy bodies to help us enjoy it. What better way to jump start this new season than by giving ourselves the gift of the healthiest body we can have, whether that means losing weight, having more energy, and improving well-being.

From the Commissioner: AAAC remained active during the past year

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African American Youth prior to her leaving the Department in January. The Council truly misses Jere and we wish her much success in her new employment. She represented the Council well and displayed great leadership skills for the Department.

Our annual meeting in Northern Region took place last November where we also received feedback from some staff concerns. Millie Tolliver and Jean Woodhouse did an outstanding job organizing and preparing for this meeting. Council members from Northern, Central and Southern Regions formed a committee in 2004 that will continue to look at similar issues/concerns between the regions that they present to the Council. We will be visiting each of the regions during the summer and fall. If you would like to meet with the AAAC, please contact your Council members for dates that we will be in your region.

Over the years we have talked about and advocated for mentoring of youth or coming actively involved with youth in your community through sports or other activities. This past summer I became aware of an employee who was taking time from his extremely busy schedule to be involved with youth from his community.

Deputy Director Erwin McEwen chose to spend some of his summer coaching a little league baseball team. Many of us have witnessed his great leadership skills as the Deputy for the Division of Monitoring and Quality Assurance. He has utilized some of those same skills to lead his team to championships of the league in his first year as a coach.

I congratulate Erwin on his success as a coach but more importantly for taking the time to get involved with youth from his community. Erwin is a tremendous advocate for the "Fatherhood Initiative" where emphasis is placed on involving fathers in service planning and delivery. I see Erwin as leading by example. The young people

of his baseball team look up to him and he is likely to make a difference in their lives. Let us know about individuals you know that are doing similar things with young people, and we will mention their efforts in future articles.

During last summer I attended resource fairs throughout the state where the focus was to inform case managers of DCFS and private agencies on resources for families deflected from involvement with the Department. The LAN's Education Initiative (reduction of truancy, suspension and expulsion of youth from school) was also provided. The idea for these fairs originated from Deputy Director Gailyn Thomas. Committees in each of the six Regions did a superb job in planning the fairs. Public and private providers responded very well by sending staff to share resources.

What I found to be fascinating about these fairs was the joint effort between the Division of Child Protection and Field Operations in planning and

producing these events. I cannot think of other situations where these two Divisions have worked in accord with each other on a project of this magnitude. I think this is important because there have been too many instances where turf control comes into play, creating a division in service delivery instead of focusing on a unified process. The loser in that scenario becomes those in need of services.

Hopefully the success of the fairs, chaired by Child Protection Associate Deputy Keith Langston, can serve as a model for developing other mechanisms for unity within the Department. As a result, we can concentrate on reunifying families more expeditiously, or have more timely successful permanencies.

I have given you some of the highlights of 2005 and another newsletter will be coming to you very soon with updates on 2006.

Peace

Protecting Our Children

Continued from page 8

debates its mission, or while researchers discover which intervention might help which families.

This plane must be fixed while it flies through the air. We all must share responsibility for keeping children safe.

Let examine key issues regarding the shared responsibility for child protection:

- how should the role of CPS be framed
- how CPS efforts should be focused,
- how CPS decision-making can be improved
- what prevention and treatment resources should broader service systems offer to families to complement the protections CPS provide to children

- what will it take to make lasting improvements in the child protection system?

Clearly, there are no easy or inexpensive answers to any of these questions. Instead, the path toward more effective protection for children will require public debate over appropriate societal goals to eliminate child mal-treatment.

It will demand a new emphasis within CPS on prioritizing, decision-making, and creating partnerships with service providers.

Finally, it will take significant government resources to create and sustain a safety net for poor families and service system for troubled families. Meanwhile, we all should applaud DCFS CP staff for a job well-done!

1911 Celebrates Black History Month



Mistress of Ceremonies
Yvonne Lewis



PSA Hendiz Flynn portrays a passenger on the bus during the performance.



DCFS Child Welfare Specialist Yvonne Lewis (left) portrays Rosa Parks and her refusal to move to the back of the bus in a 2006 Black History Month performance at 1911 S. Indiana Ave.



DCFS Data Control Charles Jones created this impressive work of art commemorating the achievements of African Americans throughout history.



Models Linda Redd (above) a DCFS CPM, and Martha Saines, a DCFS PSA display Afrocentric fashions during the 1911 S. Indiana Black History Month celebration



2005 AAAC Conference



Bremen and Melody Campbell, DCFS attendees



Leslie Galloway, DCFS PSA 2005 Conference attendee



Panel Members. Rev. Richard Nelson (from left), Rev. Walter Matthews and DCFS Addie Hudson take part in a panel discussion at the 2005 conference.

2005 AAAC Conference



Keynote Speaker Illinois State Senator Mattie Hunger



Youth entertainer Praise Dancer at the 2005 AAAC Conference



DCFS Deputy Arthur Bishop, DCFS PSA Council Member Lawrence Kilonzo

Recommended Reading from the AAAC

CHILDREN BOOKS

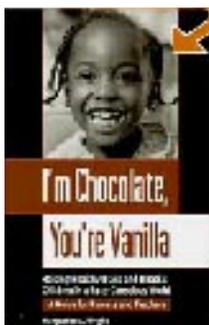
A South African Night by Rachel Isadora
William Morrow Children's ISBN: 0-688-11389-3

Brent and Dad 1: Baseball by Mary West
Genesis Press ISBN: 1-885478-42-9
Presents a positive African-American Father & Son relationship based on love, sharing and caring.

My Aunt Came Up by Pat Cummings Harper
Festival ISBN: 0-694-01059-6
For toddlers learning the joy of mimicking words and sounds. Ages 1-up

KWANZAA Read Along Audio Tape by A. P. Porter
Carolrhonda Books Inc., Minneapolis

PARENTING BOOKS



I'm Chocolate, You're Vanilla: Raising Healthy Black and Biracial Children in a Race Conscious World
by Marguerite Wright
Jossey Bass Inc.

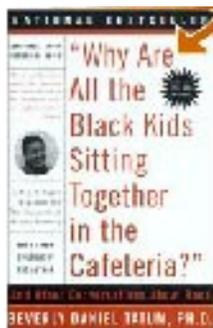
"WHY ARE ALL THE BLACK KIDS SITTING TOGETHER IN THE CAFETERIA?"

by Beverly Daniel Tatum,
Ph.D. Basic Books

KIDS TALK HAIR by Pamela Ferrell

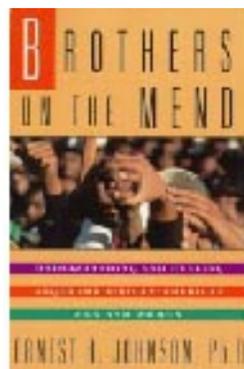
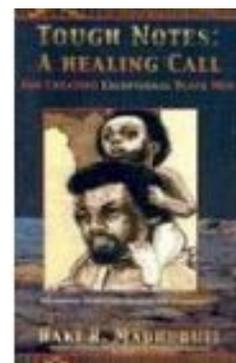
ISBN: 0-939183-03-X

A hardcover book that gives full-color instruction on care from newborns to teenager's natural hair.



SOCIAL WORK BOOKS

Tough Notes: A Healing Call for Creating Exceptional Black Men
by Haki Madhubuti



Brothers on the Mend
by Ernest H. Johnson, Ph.D.
Pocket Books
Understanding and Healing, Anger for African-American Men & Women

Developing Positive Self-Images & Discipline In Black Children

by Jawanza Kunjufu
African American Images, Chicago

