

ADVOCATES

ANNUAL MEETING 2005

By : Lisa Vosburgh, Editor

SOUTH CAROLINA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
Division of Foster
Care Review

Mark Sanford, Governor

Volume 19, Issue 1

Summer 2005

Achieving Successful Adoptions: *New Initiatives in SC* was the theme of this year's meeting, held at the Columbia Conference Center on April 22nd.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Cynthia Flynn, Center for Child and Family Studies at USC, presented detailed information on the recently completed "Successful Adolescent Adoption" study. Dr. Flynn was inspirational and gave a "face" to the subject of adolescent and teen adoption.

The SC Department of Social Services is partnering with three private agencies to provide adoption recruitment services. A panel of professionals discussed *Adoption in SC - Current Status and New Initiatives*. The panel included Carolyn Orf, Director of Out-of-Home Care, SCDSS; Rebecca Carney, Director of Children's Unlimited; Mazie White, State Director for Growing Home; and Dianne Paul, State Director for Specialized Alternatives for Youth.

Review Board 11A, Lexington County, was presented the 2004 Review Board of the Year Award by Denise Barker, Division Director, and Representatives Mac Toole, Chip

Huggins, Ted Pitts, and Nikki Haley. Ed Zielinski, Review Board 10C in Anderson County, was presented the 2004 Review Board Member of the Year award by Denise Barker, Division Director.



Representatives from two State Board Ad Hoc Committee's reported on their progress and recommendations. Lisa Southworth, Local/State Public Relations Initiatives Committee Chair, presented recommendations for promoting the Foster Care Review Board at the state and local level. Scott Stephens, National Public Relations Initiatives Committee Chair, reported on efforts to promote public relations initiatives related to citizen foster care review and foster care legislation.

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Mission Statement:

The Foster Care Review Program provides an external system of accountability and advocacy for children and families involved with the foster care system. The Division utilizes panels of community volunteers to promote safe, permanent homes for children in foster care in a timely manner and to increase public awareness regarding the impact of child abuse and neglect.

Directly Speaking... Details From Denise

By Denise Barker, Director

"You must get involved to have an impact. No one is impressed with the won-lost record of the referee." John Holcomb

It is great to be in touch through our newsletter again! We have so much going on that it's hard to decide where to begin! Since our last edition we have welcomed a number of new staff members, most notably for this publication is Lisa Vosburgh, our new Data Research Manager who also has Newsletter Editor attached to her job duties. Lisa arrived just in time to begin preliminary work on the Annual Report for 2004-2005 and handling the purchase of some exciting new computer equipment for the Division. It is amazing that she has been able to work in a newsletter, too! She is doing a great job and we are very fortunate to have someone with her experience and ability on our team. Welcome!

We also have 2 new members on our State Board of Directors. Welcome to Anne Thayer from Anderson and Dot Bailey from Greenville. Our State Board chairperson, Vernon McCurry gives a word of welcome and introduction to both of these outstanding women in his column, check it out! A special **"Thank You!"** is due to all of the State Board from all Review Board staff. Prior to their quarterly meeting in July, the State Board hosted a lovely reception/drop-in as a "thank you" to Review Board staff for all their hard work during the year. This is the second year staff enjoyed this treat and have warned the State Board that we now see it as tradition!

I am impressed with the changes that so many of you are making in your communities with the regular meetings with DSS directors, Guardian Coordinators and Foster Parent

Association presidents. When I read the reports from these meetings that you send Beth, I am constantly amazed at the huge difference you make by fostering these important relationships through communication outside of your reviews. It seems like such a small thing to do – spend time talking and listening to one another. The payoff is tremendous, even though it make take some time to get going. If it was easy, it probably wouldn't matter, so don't give up! Feel free to contact staff here in State Office if you are having problems getting these meetings going in your area – we are happy to help out.

Another impressive thing that many of you are doing is sending the monthly reports (recommended by the Local Ad Hoc Committee) via e-mail to your legislators. They hear you! I have had more than one member of the General Assembly tell me that they never really realized just how much our volunteers were doing at reviews until they started receiving these regular messages with stats from your meetings. It is making a difference, keep those messages flowing!!

I hope you have all had a warm, wonderful summer and have been able to spend time with those who bring smiles to your faces. Each time I count my blessings I am thankful that there are people like each of you who care enough to want every child to have someone whose face lights up when they see them. When you come right down to it, that's really all that matters, isn't it?

Thanks to you, we are making a difference. ■

Program Staff

(PLEASE NOTE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES)

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General Counsel

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Foster Care Review Program Director
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Annual Meeting Numbers

- ◆ A record 112 Attendees
- ◆ 82 Board Members Attended
- ◆ 78 Completed Evaluations
- ◆ 4.6 Quality Rating (out of a possible 5.0)
- ◆ 94% of responders indicated expectations were "fulfilled"
- ◆ 89% of responders comments were positive

Strictly by the Board

News from the State Board of Directors

By Vernon McCurry, Chairperson, State Board of Directors

We welcome two newly appointed members to the State Board of Directors - Anne Thayer from Anderson, Review Board 10B and Dot Bailey from Greenville, Review Board 13C. Anne has served on her local Board in Anderson since 2003 and Dot's service on her Greenville Board started in 1999. Both of our new members are full of ideas and enthusiasm about how we can better advocate for children in foster care and I look forward to working with and learning from both of them.

The State Board is still focused on maintaining and facilitating better contact with local boards. All new chairpersons who assumed their duties in January should have received a call from your designated State Board member. Our work has become a little easier with the addition of the two newly appointed members. The addition of these new members has shifted some of our local board assignments, so you may be receiving a call from a different State Board member than the one who contacted you previously. We continue to learn a great deal from all of you and we plan to use what we have learned during our annual strategic planning session in September.

We have established a systematic method to track the results of your regular meetings with County Directors and other essential players in our process. Please be sure to send Beth your updates after each meeting so we can track issues appropriately. These meetings, in addition to regular attendance at local board meetings, will continue to be our focus as we

finish up the second half of the year. If your board has particular problems in either of these areas, please do not hesitate to contact your assigned State Board member to see if there might be things we could try to be of assistance.

Our two Ad Hoc committees will come back together in the coming weeks to determine what needs to be done to complete the remainder of their recommendations. Again, the State Board is very appreciative of the time and effort expended by these two committees. We look forward to the expansion of our advocacy efforts both at the State and local level as a result of the recommendations made by each committee.

Thank you all again for the time and commitment you bring to this program. Without you, there would be no external system of accountability for children in foster care in South Carolina. ■

State Board Members

VERNON MCCURRY, MEMBER AT-LARGE, CHAIRPERSON

DOT BAILEY, 4TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

MARTHA BROCK, 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

BURNET MENDELSON, 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

LOUISE MCFARLAND, 2ND CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CARRIE SINKLER-PARKER, 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

ANNE THAYER, 3RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Annual Meeting: *(continued from front page)*

Vernon McCurry facilitated the afternoon *State Board Connection* session. Local review board members had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss local review board issues and concerns.



Many thanks to everyone that made this year's meeting a huge success! ■

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A REVIEW BOARD VOLUNTEER?

You need to be at least 18 years of age and able to commit to spending one day per month reviewing cases. You will be given an opportunity to work with others in the child welfare system to bring about positive change for foster children.

Each review board member is appointed by the Governor, upon the recommendation of legislative delegations, and is required to reside in the judicial district of the review board.

For more information, call the Governor's Office Foster Care Review Program at 803-734-0480, or contact your local legislative delegation.

South Carolina Heart Gallery

By Robin Campbell, RB Project Administrator and Millie Qualls, RB Coordinator

In March of 2001 the first ever “Heart Gallery” exhibit opened at the Gerald Peters Gallery in Sante Fe, New Mexico. The exhibit was a result of founder Diane Granito, an adoption recruiter with New Mexico’s Children, Youth and Families Department, and photographer Cathy Maier Callanan, who realized that in typical photographs shown to prospective parents all the children looked the same. Granito began asking for professional photographers to donate their time and services to create a professional photograph that would “capture the unique spirit of each individual child waiting to be adopted”. Since then similar projects have occurred in over 45 states, with more than 60 new galleries scheduled to open throughout this year. For additional information on other state Heart Gallery Exhibits visit AdoptUSKids.org and view the feature titled “A Gallery of Waiting Hearts”.

When Tammy Swartz of Mount Pleasant and Audra Brown of Summerville learned about successful shows in other states, they organized and launched the SC Heart Gallery project - a collaborative effort of state agencies and volunteers focused on creating awareness of children in foster care in need of an adoptive family.

The first photo shoot was held at Finlay Park in Columbia on June 17th. Kathy Wilkins, SC Department of Social Services State Office Adoptions Recruitment and Cheryl Herring, Region II Adoptions arranged transportation for children to be photographed, and provided refreshments and Wendy’s gift certificates. Audra Brown from Charleston provided confidentiality forms, and recruited photographers from Charleston, Summerville, Greenwood, Columbia, and Greenwood to donate their time and service for the event.

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Deborah Alantzini, Jantzen Blackmon, Audra Brown, Larry Cameron, Glenn Donaghy, Brian Dressler, Hansje Gold-Krueck, Heather Moran, Daphne O’Donnell, Tara O’Donnell, Julie Rowe, Norm Ruttan, Leslie Scanlan, Meg Wallace, and Jason Zwiker.

Millie Qualls, RB Coordinator, recruited the following volunteers:



“Images draw us into the story”

Heather Moran, photographer

REVIEW BOARD STAFF VOLUNTEERS: Robin Campbell, Stephen Clyburn, Tomika Jackson, Amanda Reich, DeLisa Stallings, and Millie Qualls.

REVIEW BOARD VOLUNTEERS: Zora Massing and Mary Ann Riley, Review Board 7B; Rachel Silver, Review Board 5C; and Margie Mijares, Review Board 11A. Review Board 11A also arranged for water and ice donations.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS: Paige Jones, CASA Richland Director; Yvette Leby, July Barber; Tanieka Ward, Cameron Runyan, and Sharon DuPree; Rebecca Carney, Director, Children Unlimited, and Loretta Cobb from SAFY.

A “heart”-felt thanks to everyone who supported this event. The photographers are excited that their portraits will help find a family for a child. We are all inspired by the enthusiasm of the photographers and volunteers!

The inaugural SC Heart Gallery reception will be held **Thursday, September 8, 2005 from 5-8 pm** at the Charleston County Public Library, 68 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC. The reception will be hosted by Port City Java. The Gallery will be on display from September 8 - September 30, 2005.

Photo shoots are planned in August and September for exhibits opening in Columbia and Greenville in Fall 2005 and Spring 2006. For more information, please visit www.scheartgallery.org

Review Board Roundup

By Foster Care Review Board Coordinators and Project Administrators

- ◆ Kathleen Bounds, Chairperson for Berkeley County Review Board 9C, received the Charles Darby Advocate of the Year Award at the Trident United Way annual luncheon on April 12, 2004. *Sandy Marcengill*
- ◆ On October 16, 2004 SC Friends of Foster Children hosted a Waiting Children's Party for over 50 children. Doris Blazer, Greenville County Review Board 13B, and Jan Dulin, Greenville County Review Board 13A were among the volunteers that made this event a huge success. *Mille Qualls*
- ◆ The Pawley's Island Kiwanis Club donated \$500 in Wal-Mart gift cards for local foster children. Mr. Kaple, husband of Mae Kaple, Georgetown County Review Board 15A Vice Chairperson, is a Kiwanis club member.
- ◆ Bobbie Anderson, Greenville County Review Board 13C, was named Teacher of the Week at Sevier Middle School in November 2004. Ms. Anderson is a sixth grade teacher who founded "Return to Camp Sevier", a Veteran's Day program held annually at the school. Each year she coordinates activities that help children understand and appreciate the freedoms they have in this country. *Millie Qualls*
- ◆ Valerie Staley, Orangeburg County Review Board 1A, and her husband were chosen by Mayor Paul Miller to throw the switch for the Christmas lights in the Children's Garden. *Tomika Jackson*
- ◆ Carolyn Payton-Pinson, Chairperson of the 10B Board met with 10th Circuit Court Judge Cain to discuss the lack of progress towards achieving permanency for the children of Anderson County. The 10B Board has been quite concerned regarding court cases being continued. Judge Cain listened to the Board's concerns and offered to meet with all the Anderson County Board Members (10B and 10C) to address any legal concerns they may

have. The 10B Board Members have been instrumental in advocating for more court time for Anderson County. In May 2005 Anderson County was given an extra week of court time to complete much overdue TPR hearings. By all reports there were at least 12 TPR hearings successfully completed. It is the advocacy efforts on behalf of the Review Board Members that helped achieve permanency for several children! Way to go Anderson County Foster Care Review Board Members!!!!
Michelle Crowder

- ◆ On June 1st Governor Sanford met with Margie Mijares, Lexington County Review Board 11A, and her son Isaiah. Isaiah read over 500 books for the Governor's Reading Honor Roll. This is a very significant accomplishment for Isaiah who has hydrocephalus and suffered a brain bleed shortly after birth. *Shirel Frazier and Denise Barker*



Margie, Cesar, and Isaiah Mijares with Governor Mark Sanford



Vernon McCurry, Chairperson of our State Board of Directors, was recently honored by IBM for his outstanding community service. Vernon received the IBM President's Volunteer Silver Award, which is part of a national Presidential recognition program initiated by IBM for their employees and retirees who contribute their time and talents to worthy endeavors in their communities. Vernon donated over 421 hours of volunteer service through his leadership on the state and local Foster Care Review Board, the Board of Senior Action, Inc., and volunteer service to numerous other local organizations. Review Board staff and fellow State Board members honored Vernon for his accomplishments at a recent drop-in for Review Board staff sponsored by the State Board
(Denise Barker)

Foster Care Review News and Views

By Beth Green, Program Director, Foster Care Review and Medicaid Review

Joint Quarterly Meetings

After 27 years in child welfare, I still find excitement in blossoming new initiatives that positively impact the system. It was only two years ago, in a routine state level meeting, that the leadership at SC DSS, the SC GAL Program, the SC Foster Parent Association and the SC FCRB came to the realization that local problems were not going to be solved at the state level. The group determined that the format used for the discussion of statewide system issues should also be effective at the local level. Thus, the concept of joint quarterly meetings in the counties was born.

The first year was interesting, as most representatives from the various programs were not accustomed to meeting together to discuss what was not working in the system and how everyone could work together to make it better. As someone that has been tracking this initiative, I am here to tell you, "We've come a long way, Baby!" Currently, in the majority of counties across SC, joint meeting meetings are occurring on a quarterly basis. Representatives from DSS, the GAL

Program, the Foster Parent Association and the Foster Care Review Board are routinely discussing issues impacting children in foster care in their communities. As a result, relationships are being established, trust is being built and plans are in motion to address system barriers.

I encourage you, as local review board members, to communicate with your local partners regarding the dates, times and scheduling of these meetings. The next step is to ensure that a Review Board member is in attendance at every meeting. You have too much to offer not to be "at the table". Lastly, it is imperative that the Foster Care Review Board State Office be provided a summary of each meeting. These summaries provide your perspective on the issues and strategies developed by the group. "Thank you" to those of you who have accepted the challenge of participating in these meetings and submitting summaries. It requires additional time, but ultimately your community and its children will be stronger for it. For those who have been a bit hesitant to get involved, please come join us. The children and your community need you.

FOSTER FACTS

by Lisa Vosburgh, Data and Research Manager

I feel incredible blessed to be part of the Foster Care Review team, both personally and professionally. As an adoptive parent of two children, I am passionate about permanency for all children in foster care. Professionally I am excited about the challenges and opportunities ahead of me. Since my arrival in April I have been attending reviews, meeting with staff to review current program processes, preparing the 2004 Annual Report, and producing this edition of *Advocates*. I am truly inspired by the professionalism of staff and their dedication to improving the foster care system.

Laptop computers with Mobile Data Capture software have been ordered. This cutting edge technology will enable review coordinators to collect and enter data during the review process - eliminating the need for duplicative data entry. I am also researching information management solutions for all program activities of the Division. In the very near future a team of review board staff will begin the process of designing and developing a new data management system.

While drafting the 2004 Annual Report, I looked at data on specific outcomes for children in foster care and plan to develop comprehensive analysis for management review. I have also expanded the focus of data analysis for measuring outcomes by case management for the Facts About Foster Kids report.

I look forward to meeting all of the local review board members and working with the State Board. Please contact me with questions, ideas, or suggestions. lvosburgh@oepp.sc.gov or (803)734-0474

Legal Lines

By *Melissa Dunlap, General Counsel*

Governor Sanford Signs S.85 to Strengthen Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect

On May 26, 2005, Governor Sanford signed Senate Bill 85 to strengthen the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect. Perpetrators of child abuse and neglect are frequently not placed on the registry. Through a combined effort of the Foster Care Review Board, The South Carolina Victim's Assistance Network Children's Legislative Committee, and the Department of Social Services, this bill was introduced and passed during the last legislative session. Senate Bill 85 was introduced by Senator Glenn McConnell. Senators Moore, Elliott, Alexander, Fair, Richardson, Ford, and Campsen were co-sponsors.

Perpetrators need to know that there are consequences when a child has been abused or neglected. In addition, employers and volunteer organizations need to have confidence in the Central Registry when conducting background checks on prospective employees or volunteers. Of course this legislation is just the first step in making sure that perpetrators go on the registry. At reviews across the state, the Foster Care Review Board will continue to gather data and continue to advocate on behalf of foster children to ensure that all parties in the child welfare system understand that a perpetrator must be placed on the Central Registry.

Additional language makes it clear that when a determination of a person's history of child abuse or neglect is a condition for employment or volunteer service in a facility or entity regulated by DSS, the person must be screened before employment/volunteer service and each time the license of the facility or entity is renewed.

The full text of the bill is as follows:

Entry of child abuse perpetrator on Central Registry

SECTION 1. Section 20-7-650(L) of the 1976 Code as last amended by Act 325 of 2002, is further amended to read:

"(L) At a hearing pursuant to Section 20-7-736 or 20-7-738, at which the court orders that a child be taken or retained in custody or finds that the child was abused or neglected, the court:

(1) must order that a person's name be entered in the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect if the court finds that there is a preponderance of evidence that the person physically or sexually abused or willfully or recklessly neglected the child. Placement on the Central Registry cannot be waived by any party or by the court. However, if the only form of physical abuse that is found by the court is excessive corporal punishment, the court only may order that the person's name be entered in the Central Registry if item (2) applies;

(2) may, except as provided for in item (1), order that the person's name be entered in the Central Registry if the court finds by a preponderance of evidence (a) that the person abused or neglected the child in any manner, including the use of excessive corporal punishment, and (b) that the nature and circumstances of the abuse indicate that the person would present a significant risk of committing physical or sexual abuse or willful or reckless neglect if the person were in a position or setting outside of the person's home that involves care of or substantial contact with children."

Screening of Central Registry for child abuse and neglect for employment, volunteer service, and licensure



Melissa Dunlap, Review Board General Counsel, with Governor Mark Sanford

SECTION 2. Section 20-7-680 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 325 of 2002, is further amended by adding two new appropriately lettered subsections to read:

"() When a statute or regulation makes determination of a person's history of child abuse or neglect a condition for employment or volunteer service in a facility or other entity regulated by the department, the person must be screened against the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect before employment or service in the volunteer role. The person must be screened each time the license, registration, or other operating approval of the facility or other entity is renewed.

() When a statute or regulation makes determination of an applicant's history of child abuse or neglect, a condition for issuance of a license, registration, or other operating approval by the department, the applicant must be screened against the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect before issuance of the initial license, registration, or other approval and each time the license, registration, or other operating approval is renewed."

Time effective

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Ratified the 24th day of May, 2005.
Approved the 26th day of May, 2005. ■

Specially Submitted:

Understanding Depression in Children and Adolescents

By Tonya Lewis, Medicaid Review Specialist

How many of us have used the expression, “If only I were a child again...?” The truth is that many adults have the good fortune of being able to relate to the carefree days of childhood when responsibilities seemed minimal, stress was almost obsolete and the fun seemed never-ending. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, popsicles, bicycle riding and an occasional, “forced” mid-day nap accompanied long days of playing with friends. However, for many children, the expression evokes a sense of sadness, a feeling of emptiness and a barrage of bad memories that never seem to fade away. How often have you heard parents say to their children, “What do you have to be sad about?” Being an adult has taught me to be less egocentric. Being a therapist has shown me the harsh realities of what some children truly experience during their childhood.

As professionals in human services, we are aware of the realities of depression. We are capable of recognizing and treating the symptoms of depression. As a parent, relative, friend or other family member, you may be able to determine that something is wrong, different or unusual about your child but be unable to recognize to what extent you should be concerned or when to seek additional help. Childhood depression over the past two decades has received much more attention than in the past and is being taken much more seriously. Children and teenagers often commit suicide while their loved ones are left contemplating all of the signs that were missed along the way leading to such a tragedy.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, also known as SAMHSA, population studies have shown that 10 to 15 percent of children and adolescents have experienced some symptoms of depression. Symptoms of depression in children and adolescents are very similar to the symptoms of depression experienced by adults; however, the outward expression of

symptoms differs. Symptoms of depression in children and adolescents, according to *Psychology Today*, include the following:

- Non-specific physical complaints such as headaches and stomach aches
- Frequent absences from school or poor academic performance
- Verbalization, plans or efforts to run away
- Outbursts of crying, complaining, unexplained irritability or shouting
- Being bored
- Lack of interest in playing or hanging out with friends
- Alcohol or substance abuse
- Social isolation and/or poor communication
- Fear of death
- Extreme sensitivity to rejection or fear of failure
- Increased anger, hostility or irritability
- Reckless behavior
- Difficulty with relationships

Risk factors associated with depression may include stress, cigarette smoking, loss of a loved one, break-up of a romantic relationship, abuse, trauma, medical conditions or natural disasters. Research has also shown that children who develop depression more often have a family history of depression.

The good news is that there is treatment for depression. Treatment often involves psychotherapy, medication or a combination of these. Regardless of the chosen treatment modality, identification and early detection of symptoms of depression is vital. We all know that times have changed. Children now face more and more daily pressures at school, in peer groups, at social gatherings and many times, at home. We have a responsibility to pay attention and actively listen....two simple things that can make a world of difference in the life of a child. ■

Committed to Kids — Smiling New Faces

New Review Board Members!

10 new local review board members attended orientation training this spring, along with 3 new foster care review staff. Please welcome:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----|---------------|
| • Tangalen Bennett | 5B | Columbia |
| • Freddie Brown | 5C | Columbia |
| • Sheila Dantzer | 5D | Columbia |
| • Monty Felix | 1A | North |
| • Rick Foreman | 4A | Bennettsville |
| • Pecolia Grove | 4B | Hartsville |
| • Kerry Harrah | 15B | Myrtle Beach |
| • John Hubbard | 7B | Gaffney |
| • Laurie Parks | 5E | McCormick |
| • Floy Shuler | 1B | Holly Hill |

Orientation training is mandatory for all incoming board members and is offered at least four times each year. If you have review board members who have not completed this training, please encourage their attendance. Volunteer guardians and Guardian Ad Litem Staff are welcome to attend also; please reserve ahead.

The next sessions are scheduled for August 22, 2005 and October 17, 2005.

New Staff!

We are pleased to announce that **Amanda Reich** joined the Foster Care Review Board staff as the Review Board Coordinator for Boards 3A, 5E, 11B, and 4A. Amanda is a graduate of Clemson University and received a Master's Degree in Public Health from Emory University in May. Amanda worked at Emory University and as a clinical specialist for children at the Marcus Institute. Her thesis was on risk factors for child neglect in Georgia, and she was invited to present a poster on her research at a recent Center for Disease Control conference.

We welcome **Sandy Marcengill** to our staff as Review Board Coordinator. Sandy comes to the Review Board from Midlands Adoptions. Sandy has a broad base of knowledge having worked with Richland County DSS and most recently with Midlands Adoptions coordinating the Medically Fragile Children's program. Sandy is working with the 1B Review Board in Dorchester County and with the 9A, 9C and 9D Review Boards in Charleston County.

Stephanie Spink joined the Foster Care Review Board staff as a Review Board Coordinator. Stephanie also comes to the Review Board from Midlands Adoptions. Stephanie brings a wealth of experience having worked in Sumter County and most recently with Midlands Adoptions. Stephanie is working the 7A and 7B Review Boards in Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties and 12A and 12B in Florence and Marion Counties.



April 18, 2005 Orientation Training
Seated left to right: Stephanie Spink (Coordinator), Sandy Marcengill (Coordinator), Tangalen Bennett
Standing (left to right): Monty Felix, John Hubbard, Rick Foreman



June 27, 2005 Orientation Training
Seated left to right: Floy Shuler, Freddie Brown, Kerry Harrah
Standing left to right: Pecolia Grove, Laurie Parks, Sheila Dantzer

Lisa Vosburgh joined the staff as Data and Research Manager. Lisa is a graduate of Columbia College and has over 15 years of state service. Her primary focus will be program evaluation and information system management. She has worked with Mental Health, The Continuum of Care, and most recently at DHEC for the Division of Children with Special Health Care Needs. Lisa is also an adoptive parent of two special needs children that were adopted as adolescents.

We are delighted to have **Anne Ochylski** join our staff as Review Board Coordinator for Boards 6A, 4B, 13A and 14A. Anne is a graduate of Clemson University. She has worked as an Applied Behavioral Therapy Assistant for children with autism, and as a service coordinator with a Disabilities and Special Needs Board. Anne is passionate about child advocacy and permanency for children, and is looking forward to working with our volunteers.

Congratulations to **Michelle Dhunjishah, Review Board Attorney**, and her husband Phil Betette on the birth of their son Jackson Tyler Betette on May 9, 2005.

**South Carolina Governor's Office
Division of Foster Care Review**

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**Visit us on the Web:
[www.govoep.state.sc.us/
children/foster.htm](http://www.govoep.state.sc.us/children/foster.htm)**

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Permanent Homes for Children

Child Care Calendar

Art-A-Must Gala and Art Sale to Benefit Prevent Child Abuse SC	Fri-Sat Aug 19 Aug 20	State Museum
Foster Care Review New Member Orientation	Mon Aug 22	10 am to 3 pm Edgar Brown Building
Heart Gallery SC Reception	Thurs Sept 8	5 to 8 pm Charleston County Public Library
Foster Care State Board Strategic Planning	Thurs Sept 29	Claussen's Inn Columbia
Foster Care Review Chairperson's Training	Friday Dec 2	Columbia Conference Center
Foster Care Review New Member Orientation	Mon Oct 17	10 am to 3 pm Edgar Brown Building
Foster Care Review Certification Training	Friday Feb 3	Columbia Conference Center

All locations in Columbia, unless otherwise noted; times subject to change. Submissions are welcome; please direct them to the editor .

Advocates is published quarterly by the South Carolina Governor's Office. The deadline for submission of articles for the next issue of *Advocates* (Fall 2005) is September 30, 2005

Anyone wishing to submit an article should contact *Advocates* editor Lisa Vosburgh. Call 803-734-0474, or send an e-mail to lvosburgh@oepp.sc.gov.

The publisher reserves the right to make the final determination as to the content of each issue. Articles submitted are subject to editing and are not guaranteed inclusion.

NOTICE:
If you still want to continue receiving this publication, please notify us in writing by October 1, 2005; otherwise your name will be removed from the mailing list.