

“SOC” IT TO ME

The System of Care Initiative in Alamance County
*BRINGING THE CHILD SERVING COMMUNITY TOGETHER TO WORK
FOR BETTER OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES*

2008: Happy New Year Alamance County!

Alamance County

The Cutting Edge: JCPC & COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE MOVE TOWARDS JOINT MEETING

The Alamance County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) and Alamance Community Collaborative bodies are contemplating parallel meetings beginning February 2008. Alamance County is all about collaborative teamwork and what a better way to further integrate the work of two child-serving bodies in Alamance than through integration of meetings. In reviewing the composition of both groups, it was determined that many of the same individuals attended both meetings. Although funding sources specify restrictions of JCPC funds and non-UCR funds, the overall intent is to collaboratively work to provide services to kids in the community that keep them in the community instead of out of home placements in group homes, YDCs, Wilderness Camp, etc.

The last months of 2007, Alamance County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and the Alamance Community Collaborative bodies discussed holding a parallel meeting at the regular JCPC meeting time, the third Tuesday monthly at twelve o'clock noon. The JCPC approved this idea at the November 2006 Full Board Meeting. The Community Collaborative will vote on this at the January 2008 meeting. Existing Bylaws of each group would remain intact for the time being. Fostering the System of Care approach to serving children through one child, one plan, one team, the community will work to provide needed services for children through the concept of one need, one community, one meeting.

Alamance County – give yourselves yet another pat on the back for being willing to think outside the box once again. The leaders, the cutting edge: finding what works best for kids and the community.

Look closely at the picture below, as looks can be deceiving. NO, it's not the Christmas play practice as it appears; rather, a pretty unique visual of the cumbersome load families carry who are involved with multiple agencies without System of Care?

The Fall Symposium gave participants an unexpected personal experience into how burdened families working with multiple agencies must feel when attempting to navigate multiple meetings, multiple agency requirements and multiple expectations. System of Care: One Family, One Team, One Plan really does break down all the layers of red tape (hotel tablecloths in this case) and brings everyone involved with the child and family together at the same time allowing the family to utilize natural strengths and supports to ensure the best plan and chance for successful outcomes for the family. *Thanks to Mary McGinty, Caring Family Network, for sharing her photos!*



L-R: Gary Ander, Susan Osborne & Amanda Farris



L-R: Adrian Daye, Pastor Chris Stone, Gary Ander, Susan Osborne & Amanda Farris Standing: Suzan Evans and Lisa Dodson

Work teams from the Fall Symposium continue to meet to develop the work plan developed at the Symposium. Committee work will be shared through this newsletter quarterly.

Faith Based Initiative

Chair

Chris Stone, DJJDP

The Faith Based Initiative in Alamance County is energized with ideas about spreading the word to the entire community about System of Care. Focus for this committee includes:

- Focusing on training with churches/pastors about System of Care
- Brochures
- Billboards
- Faith based website where agencies could post a need a family might have for any service/help item. The website would be available to all churches to try to match their resources with the needs of the child & family. Churches would post activities they are sponsoring to educate staff in public agencies.

Children's Executive Oversight Committee (CEOC)



2008 Co-Chairs:
Susan Osborne, DSS
Cindy Watkins, Alamance Partnership for Children

Mission Statement: All children, ages 0-18 or still in high school and their families will have resources they need in order to lead safe, healthy, productive lives.

Philosophy: The Children's Executive Oversight Committee is a higher-level management body with the responsibility to push agenda in order that System of Care becomes underlying philosophy within Alamance County.

The Children's Executive Oversight Committee continue to meet the fourth Tuesday monthly and remain committed to supporting a system of care concept for Alamance County child-serving agencies. Working collaboratively supports the best outcomes for kids.

Recent highlights include:

- *Added key players Dr. Randy Bridges, Alamance Burlington School System Superintendent, Sheriff Terry Johnson, Alamance County Sheriffs Department and Cindy Brady, Director, Alamance County United Way to the team*
- *Agreed to assume leadership of the body from within the body (sustaining SOC). Co-chairs for 2008 are Susan Osborne, Director of Alamance County DSS and Cindy Watkins, Director of Alamance County Partnership for Children. 2009 Co-Chairs are Daniel Hahn, Alamance-Caswell-Rockingham LME Director and the Honorable Jim Roberson, Chief District Court Judge 15-A Judicial District, Alamance County.*
- *Agreed to serve as the overview body for Family Court grant*
- *Supported a gang grant application for Alamance County*
- *Signed a new MOA and agreed to update with an annual addendum specifying initiatives that the committee provides oversight*
- *Extended an open invitation to Senator Tony Foriest and Representatives Alice Bordsen and Cary Allred to attend CEOC meetings*

Family Involvement Committee

Co-Chairs

Sherry Loman, Family Advocate - Exchange Club Family Center

Ann Hancock, Parents Who Care

This Family Involvement Committee is a key piece to the success of the System of Care Initiative in Alamance County. This group continues work to train family members as advocates and involve family in the System of Care Initiative as evidenced by familiar faces attending JCPC and Community Collaborative meetings.

Family involvement is the heart of System of Care.

Next meeting January 29, 2008. Location to be determined.



ABSS Child and Family Support Teams Report for 2006-2007

**The first year of data is available for the Alamance-Burlington School System
Child and Family Support Teams (CFST) Initiative**

Here's a look at the results:

Grades served – K – 12

Total # of students for whom data was collected (15 students per CFST at 7 designated Initiative Schools, and 15 students per team serving 2+ schools) Total students with data = 315

- # Of males = 160
- # Of females = 146

- # Of students served by EC or 504 plan = 123

Tracking information

- # Of Child & Family (CFT) meetings = 844
- # Of School Social Worker contacts = 4, 844
- # Of Nurse contacts = 2,547
- # Of students involved with DJJDP = 58
- # Of students involved with DSS = 123
- # Of students involved with LME = 138
- # Of out of home placements = 52
- # Of students with health issues = 172



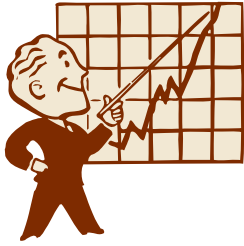
The Alamance-Caswell-Rockingham LME just received approval from the Division of MH/DD/SA for its request to utilize a portion of Comprehensive Treatment and Services Program funds to support SOC and help fill gaps in services. Funds for Alamance in the amount of \$26,400 will be utilized for the following: increase family participation in SOC, crisis respite care, SOC training and supports, tutoring/mentoring, and summer literacy enrichment.

**Comprehensive
Training
Committee**



The Training Committee continues planning for the System of Care training opportunities for the 2008 calendar year. Below is a peek at what is ahead.

<p><u>Combined Modules I & II</u></p>	<p>Monday January 14, 2008 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Human Services Center Training Room</p>
<p>Module I <i>SOC Overview</i></p>	<p>Will soon be offered on line at the Alamance-Caswell-Rockingham LME website: www.acmhddsa.org</p>
<p>Module II <i>CFT, Care Review Family Advocacy</i></p>	<p>Quarterly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ January ▪ April ▪ July ▪ October
<p>Module III <i>Community Protocols (Expectations & Responsibilities)</i></p>	<p>April 2008</p>
<p>Module IV <i>Supervising & Coaching SOC For Supervisors</i></p>	<p>May 2008</p>
<p>Module V <i>CFT Facilitation</i></p>	<p>This is a two-part training. Part I December 17-18, 2007 Part II January 30-31, 2008 <i>Seats Are Filled For These Sessions</i></p>
<p>Module VI <i>Local Resources Awareness</i></p>	<p>May 2008</p>
<p>Module VII <i>Cultural Competency</i></p>	<p><i>Newly added to the training curriculum with an anticipated preview date of May 2008.</i></p>



**Data Collection
CFT Care Review
Protocol Committee**

**Co-Chairs
Janis Baumbarger, ABSS
Liz Snyder, Duke**

Data Collection/Evaluation/Monitoring Committee has merged with the CFT Care Review Protocol Committee for the next work year. The new team is hard at work. Statistics below are reported by agency determined as “lead”, meaning agency responsible for service planning that addresses the child’s primary disability.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u># CFT’s LEAD</u>	<u>Regular Hours</u>	<u>After Hours</u>	<u>Held On Site</u>	<u>Neutral Location</u>
October 2007	DJJDP	35	30	2	11	24
	NC Mentor					
	Triumph					
	Easter Seals					
	DSS	13	12	1	10	3
	Caring Family Network					
November	DJJDP	30	27	3	2	28
	NC Mentor					
	Triumph	21	12	9	4	17
	Easter Seals	5	5	0	0	5
	DSS	18	17	1	17	1
	Caring Family Network	0	0	0	0	0

MDFT

**Offered By:
Caring Family Network**

Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) is a comprehensive and flexible family-based program for substance-abusing adolescents or those at high risk for substance use and other problem behaviors. MDFT is an evidence-based intervention found to be especially effective with court involved youth and is noted as a “Model Program” by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Agency –SAMHSA. The MDFT approach is multidimensional, working in four areas: the adolescent, the parent, the family, and the extra familial (which includes systems outside the family). Documented outcomes of MDFT include decrease in substance use, reduction in negative attitudes/behaviors, and improvements in positive attitudes/behaviors. MDFT has also been found to cost less than standard treatments and to effectively engage and retain a range of adolescents in treatment. The MDFT team is composed of two full-time therapists, one case manager/therapist assistant, and one half-time supervisor. One team typically serves small caseloads of five to eight adolescents/families. Treatment length is 4 to 6 months.

With the support of Mental Health Trust Funds, made available through the LME, Caring Family Network staff recently completed intensive training in MDFT and will begin providing the service in January 2008. For more information, or to make a referral, contact CFN Community Support at 227-5050.

What's Going On In Your Neighborhood?

Think the kids in your neighborhood are

just

“drawing”

on buildings?

Alamance County has a gang problem and while one might well think it's the older generation – we're talking about kids. What are the kids in your neighborhood doing? Think “gangs” only mean hoodlums in those larger cities, you know.... the big towns you decided you didn't want to live in when you settled in Alamance County – the safe place to raise a family?

Open your eyes, educate yourself: kids you see every day may need intervention and/or prevention services that can provide them with a safe alternative to gang lifestyle. Kids are impressionable and especially, need to feel they “belong” (fit in).

Since both pictures were made in the same parking lot it looks as though the “horse” is actually coming to the water in our case; but, do we know how to make the horse drink?

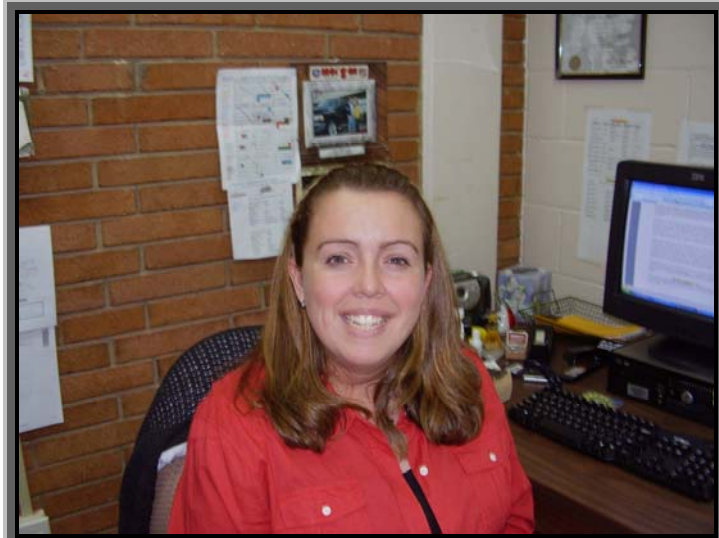
Then you need to

learn more about gangs!

Limited programs are available in Alamance County: *Found in Him (Christian Adventurers)* and *Street Smart (Salvation Army)* are funded in part through JCPC funds. Alamance County & gangs – they been here for quite a while: they aren't going to disappear: what can we as a community do to turn things around?

A group is working to submit a grant to receive collaborative gang funding for Alamance County.





Alamance County

Court

Improvement Grant

Nicky Melton

(336) 438-1057

Nichole.L.Melton@nccourts.org

On July 1, 2007, Alamance County received a Court Improvement Grant from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to support our community's transition to a Family Court Model. The grant's focus will be in Juvenile Court for abuse, neglect and dependency cases. With this new program, Alamance County will begin holding Child Planning Conferences (CPCs), mini case reviews, and updating the Local Juvenile Court Rules.

Child Planning Conferences will begin in January 2008. This conference is a meeting attended by the parties in a case, but is not held before the judge. Participants will include: parents and their attorneys, social worker and their attorney, Guardian ad Litem and attorney, support persons, community service providers, etc. (CPCs will be somewhat similar to a Child and Family Team Meeting). It will take place on Tuesday following the first non-secure hearing alleging abuse, neglect, and/or dependency at 12:45 p.m.

The main focus of the CPC will be to initiate services for the family at the beginning of the court process. Historically, when the Department of Social Services files a petition, the matter is brought into Court with adjudication of the issues taking 60 days or longer from the filing date. This is time that is essentially lost with out permanence or service issues being addressed. Alamance County Court hopes to expedite this process to support children and families with coordination of necessary services at the CPC.

Another goal of the grant is to begin "mini case reviews." The "mini review" is a new concept in the courtroom that involves more frequent reviews of these cases; currently, no other counties in North Carolina are conducting them. Alamance and the surrounding counties who received Court Improvement Funds are charged with developing procedures to initiate the "mini case review." A committee will meet in January to determine exactly how to create the procedures to handle these reviews. We are very excited to develop a system that may be used in other counties in North Carolina.

Updating the Local Juvenile Court Rules is also necessary to support our goals and ensure the Court Improvement Initiatives are implemented. A committee has already met and agreed on a rule for CPCs and will meet in the future to discuss revisions for other sections.


If you would like to discuss how the Court might be able to help you, please contact Nicky Melton at 336-438-1057 or via email Nichole.L.Melton@nccourts.org. Nicky will be happy to share the conversation with our Judges.



Contact Information For Programs Awarded



JCPC Funding - FY 07-08

<p>Alamance Dispute Settlement & Youth Services Family Conflict Resolution Resolve Teen Court Juvenile Work Restitution CFT Facilitation</p>		<p>Lisa Dodson 102 N. Maple Street Graham NC 27253 (336) 227-9808 settledisputes@bellsouth.net</p>
<p>ABSS Summer Reading Enrichment Program Alamance-Burlington School System</p>		<p>Meredith Miller Contact: Meredith_Miller@abss.k12.nc.us</p>
<p>Found In Him Ministry Youth Intervention Program</p>		<p>Eric Thompson Eric_Thompson@abss.k12.nc.us</p>
<p>Psychological Services Testing</p>		<p>Amanda Farris DJJDP 570-6872, Ext. 208 Amanda.Farris@ncmail.net</p>
<p>Street SMART - Interpersonal Skill Building Gang & Violence Prevention A National Boys and Girl's Club Program that creates an awareness of gangs and negative conflict and how it impacts communities, teaches resistance skills to prevent gang involvement and violence, helps youth develop skills needed to become positive peer helpers in their community and helps them recognize and respect their own cultural identities and those of others.</p>		<p>Sherri Henderson Sherri.Henderson@uss.salvationarmy.org Phone: (336) 226-4462 FAX: (336) 227-1310</p>
<p>Teen Achievers Program Positive Attitude Youth Center Structured After-School Program</p>		<p>Pastor Kerry Richmond 1914 West Webb Avenue Burlington, NC 27217 (336) 585-0844 positiveattitude@bellsouth.net www.positiveattitudedyouthcenter.org</p>
<p>Teen Outreach Program (TOP) Prevention Services to increase school success and decrease teen pregnancy. Alamance County Health Department/ABSS/JCPC Partnership</p>		<p>Amanda Marvin 319 N. Graham-Hopedale Road Burlington, NC 27217 (336) 513-5504 Amanda.Marvin@alamance-nc.com</p>
<p>Volunteer Families - Easter Seals Respite/Emergency Care</p>		<p>Caroline Page Caroline.page@nc.eastersealsucp.com (919) 861-0033 Extension 105</p>

<u>SOC Contacts</u>		<p>Gary Ander (336) 513-4769 DSS SOC gary.ander@alamance-nc.com</p>	<p>Connie Windham (336) 513-4200, Ext. 4900 ACR LME SOC cwindham@acmhdds.org</p>
	<p>Sherry Loman (336) 260-4218 Family Advocate sherry.loman@exchangescan.org</p>	<p>Sue Ward (336) 513-4225 Logistics & Care Review sward@acmhdds.org</p>	<p>Fran Harvey (336) 513-4200, Ext. 4174 LME SOC fh Harvey@acmhdds.org</p>

Share this newsletter with others in your agency and your community. System of Care is a great concept that the entire community needs to support.

Add others to this mailing by providing email information to Sue Ward, System of Care Logistics at sward@acmhdds.org.

Have information you would like to share with others in the child-serving community? Send it to the *SOC It To Me* Newsletter, a quarterly publication from Alamance County System of Care.

It's 2008: *The year to make an even bigger difference in the futures of our children in Alamance County by promoting community growth that will sustain principles of [System of Care: One Family, One Team, One Plan.](#)*

What a better time to build services from existing natural supports in the community so that System of Care can be:

One Child, One Team, One [COMMUNITY Plan](#)