

BRIDGING THE GAP



Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

Annual Conference

at Shocco Springs

May 10th to 12th

2018



A message from the President

Alabama Foster and Adoptive Parent Association Annual Conference will be held at Shocco Springs on May 10th through the 12th. You can register now by calling Shocco at 1-800-280-1105 and tell them you want to register for the Alabama Foster Adoptive parent conference. You can also register online by clicking link on www.afapa.org website. AFAPA Conference Registration Link: <https://shocco.wufoo.com/forms/2018-alabama-foster-adoptive-parent-association/>

You will have a choice of spending the night Wednesday the 9th and Thursday the 10th or you can choose to spend Thursday and Friday nights. If you want to stay 3 nights you will be responsible to pay for the 3rd night.

The cost to you to register is \$35 registration fee. If you want a private room to yourself you must also pay \$25 extra per night. Shocco can tell you the cost if you want to spend a 3rd night. Everyone who comes must be registered even if they are not attending workshops. This includes anyone who will be eating meals there.

Child Care is not provided. You may contact your local DHR for assistance in finding help with child care while you are away for the training. You may bring children if you bring someone to care for them while you are in workshops. You will be responsible for the cost of the children and person caring for them while at Shocco. Remember everyone coming to Shocco must be a registered guest.

The Lunch meeting on Friday for County Reps and AFAPA Board will be in room 223. If you are an officer in your county association or if your county doesn't have a county association and you would like to attend please email me at buddy@afapa.org or text at 256-507-3273, to let me know you would like to attend. This will be a time to network with each other.

May is National Foster Care Month and there will be many events during the month to help celebrate. Please participate in these events and spread the word about them to friends. We continue to need more foster parents around the state and this is a good opportunity to let people know about that need. Between 80 and 90 percent of the children adopted from foster care are adopted by their current foster parents so to help get more children adopted we need more foster to adopt foster parents. Parents going through TIPS training have the option of being dually approved as foster and adoptive parents.

Hope to see you all there.

If you have any problems registering for the conference please let me know.

Buddy Hooper / *President AFAPA*





Commissioner Nancy Buckner

was appointed in 2008 by Governor Bob Riley and was re-appointed by Governor Robert Bentley and Governor Kay Ivey.

During Commissioner Buckner's tenure, there have been numerous accomplishments in all 6 major program areas.

A few of these accomplishments include:

- Record numbers of foster children have achieved permanency.
- Record numbers of foster children have been adopted.
- Increased the board payment for traditional foster family homes and foster family related homes by 7% in January, 2015.
- Alabama is and has been a national leader in child safety within the child welfare system.
- Created an online training course for persons mandated to report child abuse or neglect. The online training is designed to instruct mandated reporters on important elements of the reporting process.
- In 2013, Casey Family Programs presented the Excellence in Leadership Award in child welfare to Commissioner Buckner based on Alabama's safe reduction of foster children in care.
- Implemented an Interstate Compact on The Placement of

Children border agreement with the State of Georgia that eliminates barriers for social workers seeking homes for vulnerable children on the two states' border.

- Several pieces of important legislation affecting children and adults have been passed including adding additional mandated reporters of child abuse and require that reporters make a direct report. New protocols were developed to provide for first, second and third degree crimes of elder abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- A Quality Rating and Improvement System for child care has been developed, piloted, and is about to be implemented.
- A W K Kellogg childcare grant was received in the amount of \$1.7 million.
- DHR has been awarded an Early Head Start – Child Care Partnership grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services totaling \$41.5 million over a five year period.
- A \$1.8 million food assistance award was received for having one of the lowest payment error rates in the country (while Alabama's food assistance households increased 77%).
- Developed the Elderly Simplified Application Process (AESAP), which allows certain Alabama seniors to apply for food assistance benefits through an expedited, more convenient process. AESAP currently serves more than 53,000 seniors.
- Millions of dollars have been saved through thoughtful, progressive-minded changes. Many advancements in technology have occurred.

Sue Badeau is a nationally known speaker, writer and consultant with a heart for children and families. After receiving a degree in Early Childhood Education from Smith College, Sue worked for many years in child welfare and juvenile justice systems. She serves on several national boards and is currently president of the North American Council on Adoptable Children. Sue writes and speaks extensively to public & private agencies, courts, parent groups and churches. She has worked closely with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, A Second Chance, Inc., Justice for Families, All Children, All Families (a program of the Human Rights Campaign), the National Council for Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Casey Family Programs and was the Deputy Director of the Pew Commission on Children in Foster Care. Sue has developed curricula and provided training in all fifty states, several Tribal nations and internationally in North America and Africa.

Sue and her husband, Hector, are lifetime parents of twenty-two children, two by birth and twenty adopted (three, with terminal illnesses, are now deceased). They have also served as foster parents and kin caregivers to grandchildren. They have co-authored a book about their family's parenting journey, *Are We There Yet: The Ultimate Road Trip Adopting and Raising 22 Kids*. Sue and her daughter Chelsea have also co-authored a book on child trauma, *Building Bridges*

of Hope: A Coloring Book for Adults Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma and a companion volume for children entitled *Bubbles and Butterflies*. These books, as well as Sue's short fiction stories and devotionals can be found on Amazon.com or on Sue's website – www.suebadeau.com - Sue may be reached by email at sue@suebadeau.com. She lives in Philadelphia with her family.



Sue Badeau

Keynote Speech-Bridging the Gap for Kids: Healing within Relationships

Using anecdotes and stories spanning 35 years of experience in the trenches of foster care and adoption, the presenter will paint vivid and often humorous pictures of foster and adoptive family life in a manner that illustrates the enormous power that families have in creating healing and wholeness for children. Stories will also illustrate critical lessons learned about the importance of communities and families engaging and partnering together to ensure the best outcomes and opportunities for children and youth to grow and thrive.



Alabama
Foster & Adoptive
Parent Association

1091 County Road 1659
Cullman, AL 35058
1-888-545-2372
www.afapa.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Huntsville, Alabama
Permit #780

AFAPA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 10th, 2018

- 7:00 – 7:45 Breakfast in Dining Hall
- 7:30 - 5:00 Registration in Chapel
- 8:00 – 8:15 Chapel -William Hooper and AFAPA Board Welcome and conference information
- 8:30 – 10:00 Workshops
Suffering, Stress and Strain: The Toll of Trauma on our Foster Children. Working with Birth Parents, Developing Empathy with Granny, Understanding Sexualized Behaviors in Children, Behavior Management and Medication Advocacy for Foster Children.
- 10:15 – 11:45 Workshops
Suffering, Stress and Strain: The Toll of Trauma on our Foster Children. Legal Issues for Foster Parents, Hair Care. Adoption Subsidy, Understanding Sexualized Behaviors in Children, Behavior Management and Medication Advocacy for Foster Children.
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch in dining hall
- 1:15 – 2:45 Workshops
Panel Discussion Bridging the Gap to Permanency, Car Seat Safety, Independent Living Program, Strategies for Challenging Behavior,
- 3:00 – 4:30 Workshops
Allegations and Documentation, Drug Awareness, Strategies for Challenging Behavior, All About Me
- 5:00 – 6:00 Dinner in dining hall
- 6:15 -7:45 Chapel - Foster Parent Trivia and Oldie Wed Game etc.

FRIDAY, MAY 11th, 2018

- 7:30 – 11:30 Registration in Chapel
- 7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast in Dining Hall
- 8:30 – 10:00 Welcome Ceremony with pledge of allegiance, State Flag Ceremony, Special Recognitions and Special Speaker Commissioner Nancy Buckner.
- 10:15 – 11:45 Keynote Speaker Sue Badeau – Bridging the Gap for Kids – Healing with Relationships
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch in dining hall
- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch for Local County Reps with AFAPA Board Room 223
- 1:15 – 2:45 Workshops
Cultural Diversity and Bias, Transitions to Permanency, Day to Day Living with FAS, Put Your Own Oxygen Mask on First, Advanced All About Me Class 3 hours, Secondhand Trauma, Stress, and Resilience
- 3:00 – 4:30 Workshops
Cultural Diversity and Bias, You Can't Pour from an Empty Cup (Self Care), Day to Day Living with FAS, Well-Becoming: Supporting Adolescents as they Transition & Thrive for Adulthood, Secondhand Trauma, Stress, and Resilience
- 5:00 – 6:00 Dinner in dining hall. Scholarship Reception dinner in room 223 next to dining hall.
- 6:30 – 7:30 Chapel – Scholarship Awards – Guest Speaker Barbara Ford

SATURDAY, MAY 12th, 2018

- 7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast in Dining Hall
- 8:00 – 10:00 Chapel – William Hooper – Closing Session – What you learned past 2 days and follow up questions and answers about foster care and adoption.