



Guardian's Voice

8th District Serving Wayne, Lenoir, & Greene Counties

October 2006

From the Desk of the Administrator:

This year marks my twentieth year of working with the children of North Carolina. This Anniversary of sorts has for some reason caused me to take time and reflect about the status of the children in NC and where we are going as a community in the area of child protection. We live in a world where we can clone your favorite pet or find lost relatives or lost antiques through a good web search, yet we can't seem to stop people from abusing or neglecting their children, our future. What is wrong with this picture? We live in a world where rock stars and athletes and captains of industries earn millions of dollars for minimal work, yet those serving our states most vulnerable population do so for comparably low pay and benefits. I am often asked how can you do this work. My answer is I have the best job in the world. I come to work everyday to work with the best staff any administrator could ever work with. Here in the eighth district we have three full

time staff, two part time staff, two gifted attorneys, and 130 volunteers. Together we accomplish amazing acts on behalf of the children we serve. This year because of you we have seen an increase in children being reunited into homes where families have benefited from community resources. We have seen older youth being given a chance to write youth court reports, thus empowering them to be strong and speak out on their own behalf. This has happened because of you. Recently, several volunteers have called with questions regarding their cases. Inevitably, many have ended the conversation saying I'm sorry I have so many questions or I hope I am not bothering you too much. Each of you need to know it is our job to be here and available to you. Being a volunteer GAL is difficult work. You are dealing with very emotionally charged issues with children who don't always believe you are there to help and agencies who don't always respect

the work you do. You are not in this alone. Do know the work you do is valuable and life changing to the children we serve. Never question whether you are bothering us, you are involved in this program to serve the children. We are here to serve you. Serving you means we are here to be a resource to you, to break down barriers you are having, to make sure you have everything you need to be able to protect the best interest of the children we serve. If anything please call and e-mail more. If we all do our jobs well, just think of the difference we will make for those children and for the future of NC. Your efforts may help a child who will grow up to be a future President, or Nobel Peace Prize Winner. Your advocacy may assure a child gets treatment they need so they can be healthy and happy. You may be the difference in a child being productive in life or being incarcerated. So be strong, work hard, and be proud. You are a GAL volunteer and your work is truly needed and appreciated.

Best Wishes, Colleen

The Mission of the Guardian ad Litem Program is to provide trained, independent advocates to represent and promote the best interests of abused and neglect or dependent children involved in the court and to work toward a plan that ensures that these children are in a safe permanent home.

Wayne Court Dates

October: 5th & 26th
November: 2nd & 16th
December: 7th & 21st
January: 4th & 18th
February: 1st & 15th
March: 1st & 15th & 29th

Lenoir Court Dates

October: 3rd, 17th & 31st
November: 14th & 28th
December: 12th
January: 2nd & 16 & 30th
February: 13th & 27th
March: 13th & 27th

Greene Court Dates

October: 16th
November: 20th
December: 18th
January: 8th
February: 5th
March: 12th

GAL Staff

Colleen Kosinski
Cynthia Coley
Sonya Carter
Gwen Kelly
Raelyn Mosher
Tim Finan- Advocate Attorney
Wayne/Greene Counties
George Jenkins- Advocate Attorney
Lenoir County

Goldsboro Phone: 919-731-5659
Kinston Phone: 252-523-5217
Goldsboro Fax: 919-581-1073
Kinston Fax: 252-527-9154

224 East Walnut St.
Goldsboro, NC 27530

130 S. Queen St.
Kinston, NC 28501

Important Up-Date for Travel Reimbursement Forms!

Effective September 1, 2006, the state has increased the personal mileage reimbursement rate from \$0.37 to \$0.40 per mile. Please see the mileage chart in the newsletter for easy calculations.

Training Opportunity

On Wednesday, October 18 at 8:00 A.M. Jo Jackson, from Lenoir Community College, will be talking about her new faith-based curriculum she has developed for children. This will be an opportunity to ask questions and learn about Partnership for Children's services and programs

for children and their families. Breakfast will be served. Please RSVP to Jessica Wilson at 939-1200 by October 11. The meeting will be held at the Partnership for Children's Kinston office located at 1465 Hwy 258 North.

Cynthia Moves to Goldsboro!



We, volunteers and staff, have operated successfully without adequate staffing. The legislature recognized all of our efforts and rewarded us with an additional Program Supervisor position. This means that Greene County gets to keep Cynthia Coley as their Program Supervisor. It also means that some things will change for Wayne County. These changes start with the introdu-

ction of Cynthia Coley as Program Supervisor. No, you don't have to experience sudden withdrawal from Colleen. Yes, some of you will now be supervised by Cynthia Coley. Colleen will remain the District Administrator, and will still supervise cases. The specific division of cases will be announced at a later date.

"I have worked with the GAL program for three years now. During that time period I have met many of you. I welcome the opportunity to meet all of you. For those of you with questions, this is an attempt to answer some of them. I started my professional life in administration

with a residential treatment facility for adolescents. I then worked in sales for a Fortune 50. Went back to law school and graduated. I then managed a court annexed mediation program and became a certified mediator. When I redefined myself upon returning to my home state of North Carolina, I landed with the GAL program utilizing all previous training and education. I have enjoyed my employment with this program, the volunteers, and staff. I look forward to the challenges of learning a different county, learning the different resources, learning the cases, and learning you."

Kinston Gets A New Program Supervisor

My name is Sonya Carter and I am the newest GAL staff member. Some of you may already know me as a volunteer. I began working with the program in September 2000 as an intern. During my internship, I co-founded "Every Child Deserves a Christmas" and have continued to assist with that program during the past six years.

I graduated from ECU in December 2000 with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. I then worked as a paralegal for a law firm in Greenville until I decided to go to law school. I graduated from NCCU School of Law in May 2005.

During my last year of law school, I worked as an intern for Tim Finan, the GAL attorney in Wayne and Greene County.

My husband and I have been married for seven years and dated for seven years before we were married. We are the proud parents of a 17 month old little boy, who is the light of our lives. He is a sweet, loving child with a personality all his own. He is definitely all boy.

I am working out of the Kinston office. Periodically, you will hear from

me for various reasons. Please feel free to call or come by the office for any reason. I am very anxious and excited to get to know all of you. Please know that my door is always open. I look forward to working with each of you.



Behavior Labeling

If an adult is reinforced for behaving appropriately, we call it recognition.

If a child is reinforced for behaving appropriately we call it bribery.

If an adult laughs, we call it socialization.

If a child laughs, we call it misbehaving.

If an adult writes in a book, we call it doodling.

If an child writes in a book, we call it destroying property.

If an adult sticks to something, we call it perseverance.

If a child sticks to something, we call it stubbornness.

If an adult seeks help, we call it consulting.

If a child seeks help, we call it whining.

If an adult is not paying attention, we call it preoccupation.

If a child is not paying attention, we call is distractibility.

If an adult forgets something, we call it absentmindedness.

If a child forgets something, we call it retardation.

If an adult tells her side of the story, we call it clarification.

If a child tells their side of the story, we call it talking back.

If an adult raises their voice in anger, we call it maintaining control.

If a child raises their voice in anger, we call it a temper tantrum.

If an adult hits a child, we call it discipline.

If a child hits a child, we call it fighting.

If an adult behaves in an unusual way, we call it unique.

If a child behaves in an unusual way, we refer them for PSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION!!!

Welcome New Volunteers!

Congratulations and welcome to the newly sworn in volunteers. The following volunteers were sworn in between June-September 2006:

Gordan Bateman	Beverly Mc Carter
Kathy Holmes	Jessica Odom
Michelle Edmundson	Pamela Parrott
James Leach	Philip Sexton
Saralynn Veid	Jane Wood
Mary Kay Newcomb	

Protect Yourself: Disable Caller ID

If you must call from your home, work, or cell phone, remember to use *67 before dialing the number. This will prevent the people you are calling from getting your number. If they have Caller ID, it will display "private" when the receiver looks for the number. Also, if someone tries the "callback" feature, the call will not go through or display your number.

Dial *67, you will hear a series of beeps, then dial tone; then just dial the number.

Beanie Babies, Beanie Babies, and MORE Beanie Babies!

As most of you know, the GAL program held a Beanie Baby drive in the month of August. The Beanie Babies collected were to be used for the children we serve that have to testify or as an ice-breaker for first time visits. Thanks to the donations of many generous volunteers, churches, businesses, civic organizations and private individuals in the community, the GAL program collected around 5,000 Beanie Babies for our children. Some of the Beanie Babies are the larger ones, so they will be used at Christmas time for "Every Child Deserves A Christmas." We have also donated some of the Beanie Babies to the District Attorney's office and the Sheriff's Department to use when they have to report on a call involving children.

If you have a new case, or simply think one of your child clients would like to have a Beanie Baby, please stop by either office and pick one out. We have all types of animals to choose from.

Every Child Deserves A Christmas

Christmas is fast approaching. Some of you may not be aware that the children in our program that live with their family members or family friends get just enough money for their very basic care. The families or friends who have agreed to care for these children may already have children of their own, or are living pay check to pay check to make ends meet already. When Christmas rolls around, there is no extra money provided to these families to give the children a Christmas. If the caregivers cannot afford presents, the children may not receive anything for Christmas.

"Every Child Deserves A Christmas" was started to ensure these children have something to open on Christmas morning. If any of the children you serve are living with family or friends please let the GAL office know, or ask their social worker to make the referral.

Sponsors for the children are also needed. If you or someone you know would like to sponsor a child, please contact the GAL office to let us know.

Facts

- ◆ Every five minutes a child is abused in North Carolina
- ◆ 31 Children died in North Carolina from child abuse
- ◆ 85% of the time the perpetrator is a biological parent
- ◆ 1 in 3 children will be sexually abused before age 18
- ◆ 85% of the children will grow up to be abusive parents...

HERE'S WHERE YOU STEP IN

Donate Your Used Ink Cartridges, Toners, & Cell Phones

The Guardian ad Litem Program is participating in a recycling program for used ink cartridges, cell phones, toners, and laptops. If you would like to donate your cartridges, you can drop them off at either office. Raelyn can also provide a box for your place of business, church, or social/civic organization. Please contact Raelyn at 919-731-5659 or 252-523-5217 for more information.

The Child/Family Evaluation Program

Child maltreatment remains a public health issue of national, as well as statewide concern. Data prepared by the North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute (2002-2003) show that the state investigates approximately 107,000 reports of maltreatment each year; 28% (30,016 cases) were substantiated, of which 3.5% involved sexual maltreatment. Results from a recent random telephone survey in the Carolinas, however, suggest that actual child sexual abuse rates may be as much as 15 times greater than officially reported.

Many communities, however, do not have adequate numbers of mental health professionals available to meet the needs of sexually abused children. Since 1976, the Child Mental Health Evaluation Program (CMHE) has provided the infrastructure as well as direct service funds to support skilled sexual abuse diagnostic evaluations statewide. In an effort to improve services and provide skilled diagnostic evaluations in suspected child abuse evaluations the CMEP has undergone many changes. The Child Mental Health Evaluation Program (CMHE) was revised and re-named the Child Forensic Evaluation Program (CFEP), and finally, the Child/Family Evaluation Program. Thus, the new name retains the same initials, CFEP. The current Child/Family Evaluation Program (CFEP) is administered through the Child Medical Evaluation Program, Department of Pediatrics, at UNC School of Medicine, under direct contract with the North Carolina Department of Social Services. The Child/Family Evaluation Program is designed to assist county CPS agencies in decision-making and case disposition, including treatment planning. CFEP evaluations are conducted using "forensic standards" and are designed to assist CPS in their investigation of alleged child abuse and neglect by providing brief forensic evaluations in cases that have not been determined through standard CPS processes or medical evaluations (CME's). Evaluations typically have the following types of questions as a focus. Determining the likelihood that the child has been abused and/or neglected, and identifying who is the probable abuser? Determining if the child is safe from abuse in their current environment, and in light of these concerns, does the child have a need for mental health treatment or other child/family interventions? Specific objectives of the CFEP evaluations are to assist CPS in the following areas: 1. Gathering and analyzing data which will facilitate CPS decision-making about substantiation, disposition and planning in active CPS investigations; 2. Assessment of the child's risk of experiencing abuse/neglect in his/her current living situation, including assessment of the parents' or parental figures' capacity to ensure the child's safety as well as to adequately provide for the child's psychological and developmental needs; 3. Determining the existence of emotional or behavioral problems and the child's resulting need for psychological treatment or other child or family interventions; 4. Providing specific recommendations for psychological treatment or other interventions, as needed, to address the child's emotional and behavioral problems.

Evaluations are conducted by trained CFEP examiners and quality assurance of evaluations is provided by ongoing continuing education of examiners, as well as review and feedback of CFEP's by the Child/Family Evaluation Program administrative staff.

Scott Allen Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist

Kinston Community Health Inc Outreach Department

Anna Spencer, Community Health

Our center has been in existence now for 11 years. We offer services such as Medical, Dental, OB/Gyn and our new clinic Pediatrics. KCHC Inc. is a non profit health center and is a member of the National Association of Community Health Centers. We accept private insurance, Medicaid, NC HealthChoice, and Medicare. Patients that do not have coverage may be eligible for the sliding fee scale. The number of family members in your household and the amount of your annual income will be assessed. Proof of income for the whole household must be brought in to determine eligibility for the sliding fee scale. KCHC, Inc. is open Monday thru Friday and offers extended hours to accommodate our families.

We now offer a new service, which is our Outreach Department that has only been in existence since 2005. The staff include Anna Spencer Outreach Director, and Cynthia and Maricella Macias Outreach Specialists. This department focuses on the Latino population, mainly the farm workers and their families. During the growing seasons the staff visit many different camps and homes delivering Medical information and performing basic health assessments to determine the different needs for health care.

KCHC's Outreach Department is also a way of informing the Latino population of the different resources that are available throughout the community. To name a few of the partnerships that this department works with for example are, Parents as Teachers, East Coast Migrant Head Start, Lenoir and Duplin Migrant Education, Partnership for Children, Episcopal Farm worker Ministry and several other community health centers.

We are happy to provide extended Dental hours, where the farm workers are seen for a fee of \$5.00 per visit. These hours are the second and fourth Wednesday's of each month with the hours of 6:30pm until 8:30pm. Since KCHC was named a Migrant Health Entry Point, we are able to assist farm workers and their families with the eligibility of utilizing the "Migrant Fee Base Program." This program entitles these patients to be referred to any provider outside of our clinic paying a fee of \$5.00 and receiving medicines within the formulary for only \$6.00 each.

The Outreach Department was very fortunate in receiving monies to purchase a 15 passenger van to help the patients to and from appointments, and to do our visits throughout the week. We assist with interpretation services if someone needs to see another provider off site. Our services also include the ability of taking our Physician Assistant, Mercedes Zimmerman, to any site with farm workers that are not able to come in to the clinic during the hours we are open.

If you think that your organization would find our services to be helpful to you please feel free to contact Anna Spencer at 252-522-1369 ext. 252, or Cynthia and Maricella Macias at extension 220 and 218.

Putting Your Best Case Forward: Court Advocacy Based on Facts and Evidence

Deana K. Fleming, GAL Associate Counsel

From a volunteer perspective, how can you present a winning case on behalf of the child or children you represent? To begin although it is common to think about “winning” and “losing” court cases, it is essential not to lose focus of GAL representation—the best interest of the child. So the question is really not how to win the case, but rather how to present your case to ensure that the best interests of the child are met by the court’s order.

Remember that you are not alone in the courtroom, but part of a team of dual representation with your Attorney Advocate. Your Attorney Advocate should be your guide when it comes to the courtroom and presentation of your case. In a hotly contested matter, it may make sense to make an appointment or have a telephone conversation with your Attorney Advocate to prepare in advance for your testimony. Understand the purpose and goal of your testimony. As far as team responsibilities, you should defer to your Attorney Advocate when a legal issue comes up; however, when an issue of fact arises, your Attorney Advocate should be able turn to you. How can you have the answers?

Independent Investigation

The most important consideration is to always carry out your own thorough investigation. Do not simply rely on the social worker’s notes and his or her observations—call and visit service providers, schools, the foster home, parents’ home and other collaterals yourself. In all juvenile proceedings except the adjudication of the petition and a termination of parental rights adjudication, the rules of evidence are relaxed meaning that the court will permit hearsay. In other words, a GAL may testify as to what another individual has said regarding the child or a situation so long as it is relevant. However, having first hand knowledge lends more credibility to any witness, resulting in the judge giving your testimony more value when considering all the evidence presented at the hearing. Think about your own everyday situations. We all tend to lend more credence to a person recount a situation that actually happened to them or a conversation in which they

participated, as opposed to what your friend said he or she heard through the grapevine.

Personal Knowledge

Having first hand knowledge will also allow the GAL to withstand cross-examination from defense attorneys. The purpose of cross-examination is to undermine the credibility of a witness so that the judge will give the testimony less weight in reaching the decision. It is much more persuasive when a witness can recount information based on personal knowledge. If the witness can only recall what another individual told him or her, the defense attorney will always ask questions to weaken testimony: “Isn’t it true that you did not actually see the incident occur?” “You only heard about this conversation through the social worker. Did you actually speak with the mental health case manager?” “You have never actually observed the child have visitation with the parents, have you? How then do you have knowledge about the bond between the mother and her child?” These typical types of cross-examination questions can be avoided if you actually make your own observations and have your own conversations with key players in your child’s case.

Corroboration

Another purpose of GAL testimony is to corroborate or strengthen the testimony of another witness. For example, an incident occurred at a supervised visitation that you happened to observe. The assigned social worker already testified that another social worker that supervised the visit observed the mother ignore her children after her cell phone rang and it was her new boyfriend. The mother ended the visit prematurely because she made plans for her boyfriend to pick her up from DSS and barely even said goodbye to her children. On cross-examination, the social worker admitted that she did not actually observe the visit. The social worker that observed the visit has since left the agency and was not subpoenaed for the hearing. The Attorney Advocate called you to the stand because you were at the visit and had first hand knowledge that supported the social worker’s testimony.

The fact that you personally observed the visitation and recounted the same sequence of events directly contradicted the mother’s testimony that she was always focused on her children during visits. Not only did you corroborate the social worker’s testimony, but you also gave the judge a specific reason to doubt the testimony of the mother.

Testifying Guidelines

In order to be an effective and credible witness in court, it is important to follow certain guidelines for testifying. The guidelines should be a review from volunteer training; however, it never hurts to be reminded of the basics especially since testifying in court can make anyone nervous. Being an effective witness on the stand requires **focus**. (1) Carefully listen to the question the attorney asks of you. (2) Make sure you understand the question. (3) Do not guess—it is okay to say you do not know or that you need to first review your notes. (4) Do not give your opinion unless asked. (5) Speak loudly and enunciate—use yes or no instead of nodding or “uh-huh.” (6) Answer only the question that was asked in a concise, definitive manner. As a reminder, it is not uncommon for the judge to ask a witness questions. If the judge asks you a question while on the stand, respond directly to the judge and try to make eye contact.

Conclusion

The best way to be an effective advocate and GAL witness is to complete an independent investigation. Gather your own facts and make your own recommendations based on your work. Having first hand knowledge from personal observations will give you credibility as a witness. Follow up with what others have shared with you, and you may be able to corroborate the testimony of another witness or discredit others. Prepare for court by reviewing your notes and touching base with GAL staff. Finally, stay alert on the stand to avoid strategies of defense counsel to lessen the impact of your testimony. It takes preparation and motivation to be an effective GAL witness, but YOU can do it.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS

As you already know, the state reimburses volunteers for case related travel as long as the funds are available and the request is submitted timely. The rate recently increased to forty cents per mile (.40). The state office has made specific requests in order to process your paperwork quickly. Please keep in mind that the person in Raleigh who processes these reimbursements is not knowledgeable of every city and county in North Carolina. To this end, please complete the form completely. Start with the day of the month, just simply the number such as 1. Please list the "to" city and the "from" city, even if they are the same. For the purpose, you may list the school, hospital, DSS, home visit, etc. along with the case number. Then list the number of miles in whole numbers, rounded off to the nearest mile. Multiply the number of miles by .40; which result in a total that should be listed under amount. Total the front page and put that amount in total trans. block. If needed, continue on the back in the same manner and total that page also.

Remember to complete the top portion of the form as well. On each form you must check the division, which is Guardian ad Litem. Then complete your name and address. Check the block only if you have a name or address change. Enter your title (Volunteer) and the Headquarters city (Kinston or Goldsboro). Enter your social security number. Enter the month and year for which the reimbursement is requested. Enter the date the request was prepared. Please sign it. The total cost should reflect the totals from both the front and back of the page. Also put that same total in the reimbursement block.

Remember, incomplete data results in delays locally or at the state office.

Travel reimbursements should be submitted on a monthly basis. A good rule for timelines is a submission within five (5) business days of the month following the month of travel. You can mail them in, bring them in, slide them under the door or present personally; we must have an original signature to submit for reimbursement. For your convenience, a mileage chart is below.

****Please note that the state office now requires volunteers to use only case numbers, not case names!!!!****

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT @ .40 per mile

1	0.40	21	8.40	41	16.40	61	24.40	81	32.40
2	0.80	22	8.80	42	16.80	62	24.80	82	32.80
3	1.20	23	9.20	43	17.20	63	25.20	83	33.20
4	1.60	24	9.60	44	17.60	64	25.60	84	33.60
5	2.00	25	10.00	45	18.00	65	26.00	85	34.00
6	2.40	26	10.40	46	18.40	66	26.40	86	34.40
7	2.80	27	10.80	47	18.80	67	26.80	87	34.80
8	3.20	28	11.20	48	19.20	68	27.20	88	35.20
9	3.60	29	11.60	49	19.60	69	27.60	89	35.60
10	4.00	30	12.00	50	20.00	70	28.00	90	36.00
11	4.40	31	12.40	51	20.40	71	28.40	91	36.40
12	4.80	32	12.80	52	20.80	72	28.80	92	36.80
13	5.20	33	13.20	53	21.20	73	29.20	93	37.20
14	5.60	34	13.60	54	21.60	74	29.60	94	37.60
15	6.00	35	14.00	55	22.00	75	30.00	95	38.00
16	6.40	36	14.40	56	22.40	76	30.40	96	38.40
17	6.80	37	14.80	57	22.80	77	30.80	97	38.80
18	7.20	38	15.20	58	23.20	78	31.20	98	39.20
19	7.60	39	15.60	59	23.60	79	31.60	99	39.60
20	8.00	40	16.00	60	24.00	80	32.00	100	40.00

Telephone Lists for Social Services

Please let the GAL office know if you have problems reaching any social worker

Lenoir County Department of Social Services

Lenoir County Department of Social Services Telephone List

252/559-6400

FAX 252/559-6380

Monica Williams - Program Mgr.	ext. 6217	Tonya Branch - Secretary	ext. 6210
Deloris Bunch - Team I	ext. 6215	Renee Kennedy - Team II	ext. 6219
Anita Armstrong	ext. 6203	Erica Bostic	ext. 6223
Calvin Godwin	ext. 6200	Cynthia Couch	ext. 6225
Amanda Haddock	ext. 6222	Michelle Hayes	ext. 6220
Tenisha Howard	ext. 6211	Bonita Lynch	ext. 6216
Empty	ext. 6205		
Katie Northrup	ext. 6204		
		Jeff Harrison - Team IV	ext. 6209
Barbara Williams - Team III	ext. 6213	Stacey Frazier	ext. 6214
Karma Best	ext. 6229	Joanna Hudson	ext. 6201
Anita Burton	ext. 6224	Empty	ext. 6207
Mack Dixon	ext. 6208	Michael Miller	ext. 6218
Kristy Heleine	ext. 6227	Nancy Parker	ext. 6206
Wanda Morgan	ext. 6212		
Food Stamp Supervisor - Pat Hemby - 6332		Day Care Supervisor - Gay Humphrey	6368

Wayne County Department of Social Services Telephone Number

919/705-6533

FAX 919/705-1742

Please note that by dialing the above number, you should always reach a person. You may request to be transferred to the social worker or transferred to the voice mail or have that the social worker paged. The main number should help you to reach a supervisor when necessary or connect with any other service. If you have repeated problems reaching a Wayne County social worker, call Darlene Grantham-Program Manager and she will make sure you receive assistance.

Greene County Department of Social Services Telephone Number

252/747-5932

FAX 252/747-8654