

AABA NEWSLETTER

Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates

June/July
2011

Troubled Transplants



Over the past thirty years, volumes have been written about the abused, neglected and sexually exploited child. Although some studies have touted the resiliency of maltreated children in their ability to rebound—relatively unscathed—from earlier maltreatment, more research has documented the lasting psychological injuries these unfortunate children have suffered. Sweeping societal problems with poverty, homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, broken homes and “children-raising-children” have culminated in a staggering increase in child maltreatment. Currently, a rising tide of foster and adoptive children are flooding the welfare system. Many of these children exhibit severe difficulties in relating to others and in coping within family settings. (Indeed, a goodly number of these youngsters would have been, in years past, placed in residential child facilities, psychiatric hospitals or other institutional settings.) Now, due to dwindling funds and a philosophical shift away from institutionalization, foster and adoptive families are living with and trying to contend with a worsening population of “transplanted” children.

Troubled Transplants: These are children who arrive at the doorsteps of foster and adoptive families burdened with psychological “baggage.” There is a gaping need to address for specific interventions with seriously troubled foster and adoptive children. There are—if sometimes unconventional—treatment strategies for addressing the emotional/behavioral problems of these children and their disruptive influence on families. Troubled transplants require specialized interventions to stabilize their placements and to reduce their intransigent behavioral and emotional difficulties. Specialized treatment interventions spring from our understanding of the disturbed, formerly maltreated child and his/hers impact on the foster and/or adoptive family.

Model of treatment whose core is “teamwork.” The essential treatment team consists of the foster/adoptive parents (and other family members), the birth parents (if still involved), the caseworker, mental health professional, school and others. Moreover, extensive clinical experience with disturbed children have shown that the key players on the team are the foster or adoptive parents themselves.

Many foster and adoptive parents find themselves with a disturbed child that has been placed in their care, bringing with him uncanny ways of thwarting their attempts to help. In short order, caring, enthusiastic parents find themselves stymied, exasperated, exhausted and defeated by the child, his/hers behavior problems and his/hers maladaptive patterns of interacting in a family system.

Troubled Adoption—disrupted adoption—have elements of parental inexperience, lack of support from professionals and agencies and sabotage by a seriously disturbed child combine to disrupt the placement permanently. (Even experienced parents, those who have previously raised birth, foster or adoptive children, may succumb to the deleterious influence of the older disturbed child on their marriage and family. Children with histories of chronic maltreatment and/or loss of past caregivers present even talented, experienced adoptive parents with more that they bargained for.)

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AABA's Mission



• Helping Families Stay Together

Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates depends solely upon yearly support from the community. We are proud to recognize the following individuals, businesses, and organizations for their support through Grants and Donations.



Lend a helping hand

Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates is eligible under AS 43.23.062 to receive charitable contributions as designated by PFD applicants electronic Permanent Fund Dividend applications.

Program: (Pick. Click. Give.)

Please help with our mission

PICK. CLICK. GIVE to:

Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates



2011

Diamond: (\$10,000 to \$24,999)

Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority (2010-2011)
Mat-Su Health Foundation (2010-2011)

Sapphire Circle:(\$6,000 to \$9,999)

Ruby Circle: (\$2,500 to \$5,999)
AdoptUsKids (2010-2011)

Emerald Circle: (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Susan and Dave Denton
Jim Wardman

Platinum Circle:(\$500 to \$999)

Western Enterprises, Inc.
Totem Ocean Trailer Express, Inc (2010)
American Seafoods Company LLC (2010)
Barnard & Rachel Gottstein
BPOE Palmer Elks #1842

Gold Circle:(\$150 to \$499)

BP America Inc.
Karen Howes

Silver Circle:(\$50 to \$149)

Natalie J Beyeler, D.O.
Eleanor F. Oakley
Crystral Loncle

Bronze Circle:(\$25 to \$49)

Weldin Construction

Aluminum Circle:(\$1 to \$24)

In-kind Circle:

Kaye Zwiacher MD
Terrilyn Wamser
Rosemary Burnett

Volunteers

Eleanor Oakley,
Jim Wardman
Karen Howes,
Laura Wagner
Brittany Blawn
Joyce Hance
Carol Rice
Terrilyn Wamser

Special Thanks to

Mr. Howes for donating his time.
Karen Howes for helping with Pampered Chef Fundraisers.

And thanks to: all the Board Members and volunteers.

And thanks to: Bingo Mania for using our Gaming permit.





Workshop: Revised Defusing Strategies

~Reactive Attachment Difficulties with Siblings

~How to Defuse Situations

~Practical Tool Strategies

~Therapeutic Interventions

New information and video's

Time: August 27, 2011

Place: 101 W. Swanson Ave, Training Rm. 2, Wasilla, AK

Time: 8:45 am to 5:30 pm

Cost: \$150.00

Provided: Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks

CEU:

Registration required: Online registration (www.akattachment.org) (will not work with web-based accounts, g-mail, yahoo, etc), Or download form and mail to AABA, PO Box 872188, Wasilla, AK 99687, Or call 907-376-0366 and register over the phone.

Special Thanks to

“AABA 's Board..”

~“Kaye donated a brand new MFC printer’

~“Karen donated the money to sign-up for the PICK CLICK GIVE for 2012”

~“Susan signed AABA up for the BP Matching funds”

~“Eleanor donated money for operation of AABA”

~“Jim donated the money for AABA's Insurance”

Great Board!!!



Workshops

Are a fun way to learn!

Resources and Links

TATTAC Bernadine Janzen, MS, LPC;
Tattacbsj@gmail.com

Attachment Disorder Network for parents;
www.radzebra.org

Alaska Parent Line; 1-800-643-5437

Alaska Center for Resource Families;
www.acrf.org

Alaska Children's Trust;
www.alaskachildrenstrust.org

Families & Professionals resources for the first three years of life;
www.threetozero.org

American Family Advocacy Center;
www.profane-justice.org

For Grandparents raising grandkids;
grands@voaak.org 1-888-522-9866

RAVEN Respite Parent Support Group, subscribe at; www.subscribe@yahoogroups.com (To sign up for Online support group: call 907-357-6263 or Email: princessbutercupp@yahoo.com) you will receive easy instructions on how to get on the site.

Support group line: 907-982-1948 Crystal
cloncle@mtaonline.net
RAVEN Respite Support Melissa Jessup;
zeusl@mtaonline.net
princessbutercupp@yahoo.com

Court Appointed Special Advocates;
www.alaskacasa.org

Attachment Disorder support group;
www.adsg.org

Child Welfare Information Gateway;
www.childwelfare.gov

RAD Kid Organization; www.radkid.org
www.sociallearning.com <http://www.fosterparentcollege.com/>

<http://thursdaygroup.blogspot.com>

Visit the AABA

web-site
for
information on
upcoming
workshops.

[www.akattach](http://www.akattachment.org)
[ment.org](http://www.akattachment.org)

“RAVEN
Respite Striving to make a
Difference for families in the



(Continued from Page 1) Troubled Transplants

All too frequently parents adopt, poorly prepared and under-supported. They often complain later about the limited information on the child, his diagnosis, behavioral problems and history of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Although some adoptive parents concede that they had been warned of problems and been advised to follow-up on counseling for themselves and their adoptive child, many put it off until too late. Without assistance, many adoptive parents are overwhelmed by the seriousness of the problematical children in their home. They find the relative tranquility of their families disturbed by negative forces. From within, they find that the child plays a divisive, unsettling role in the family. The child's pattern of emotional and behavioral problems disrupt normal marital and family functioning and evoke strong, disquieting feelings in the parents and in other children in the home. From without, they feel unsupported, blamed, scapegoated and punished—by professionals, agencies, and individuals who are in the position to help—for the Child's on-going problems.

Troubled Foster Placement—Parents who adopt disturbed children are not the only ones besieged by the vicissitudes of caregiving. Foster home and group home parents also may rapidly find themselves in domestic distress.

Foster parents today are called upon to care for extremely disturbed children. Gone are the days when foster parents would care for psychologically "normal" children whose mother was hospitalized briefly or children who were suddenly orphaned. Foster children today have been sorely abused, neglected, and sexually exploited—boys and girls alike. Most foster parents are asked to provide much more than a sound family environment. "Therapeutic" agents by necessity, they must provide a "treatment milieu" for children suffering from conduct disorders, clinical depression, separation anxiety, childhood schizophrenia, fetal alcohol syndrome, mental retardation, attention deficit disorder, seizure disorder, attachment disorders, and many other daunting medical/psychiatric maladies. These children, in years past, would have been placed in psychiatric hospitals or residential treatment centers. Currently, due to limited funding and to a philosophical shift in how we treat children, many reside in family rather than institutional settings. Many other children, recently discharged from hospitals and treatment centers, are placed immediately into foster homes. In many instances, these children are "right on the edge" of a mandatory inpatient stay; but they remain in the foster home, where we affix undersized psychic band-aids to gaping emotional wounds.

Foster or adoptive families contain the key ingredients for change in the disturbed child. Sadly, while the significance of the foster or adoptive family to the seriously troubled child is theoretically acknowledged, these families are routinely overlooked or exiled from treatment. All too often, foster and adoptive families are passive spectators. These families seldom receive credit for the child's gains, though frequently they take the blame for the child's failures. Ironically, helping professionals often miss the significance of the unhealthy, abusive histories these "troubled transplants" bring into the foster or adoptive home.

R.T.C. Spot Light

Cedar Springs provides both inpatient and outpatient psychiatric treatment for individuals of all ages. The facility is at the foot of beautiful Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

New Programs:

Connections: Program for children Challenged with Attachment Disruption and Reactive Attachment Disorder.

Southgate School Day Treatment Program: Year-Round Licensed Special Education/Alternative School for Children and Adolescents.

Mountain View Place Program: Positive residential treatment program for young people challenged with general psychiatric disorders.



**Cedar Springs
Behavioral
Health System**



Cedar Spring Behavioral Health System
2135 Southgate road
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
Phone: 719-633-4114
Toll Free 800-888-1088
Www.cedarspringsbhs.com

A Word from our CEO/President

“Happy Father’s” and “Happy Fourth of July”

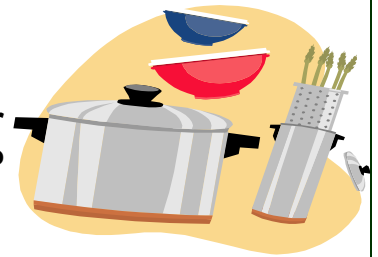
Eleanor Oakley, MS, CEO/President



Pampered Chef “Pampered Chef Consultant– Karen Howes”

You may order on-line at www.pamperedchef.biz/karenh anytime or request a catalog from Karen, at 315-1425 or email request to karenh@gci.net.

Call Karen to find out what the guest special is or go on line.



Lending Library Located at: 619 S. Knik Goose-Bay Road, Suite J, Wasilla, AK 99654

Open: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Monday though Friday

Books are listed on AABA’s web-site: www.akattachment.org

Please come in and browse, check some books out, to read at home at your leisure, then either bring them back or mail them in. If you cannot get to the lending library call and request the books you would like to read, and we will mail them to you. Please call Laura at 907-376-0366 with any questions.

LENDING LIBRARY MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY:

THE ALASKA MENTAL HEALTH TRUST AUTHORITY

AND MAT-SU HEALTH FOUNDATION

The TRUST
The Alaska Mental Health
Trust Authority



**Mat-Su Health
Foundation**

“Camp for Attachment Disorder Kids & Families” with Nancy Thomas camp directing and parent training.

Planning is still in the works, the camp will be May 13 to 19, 2012. The camp ground will be North Star Bible Camp in Willow. We need 12 volunteers , one volunteer for each family. The local therapists, teachers, school counselors, parole officers, classroom aides and psychology students could learn new techniques and understand the families they work with more deeply. Needed: 12 volunteers and 12 families

This is a very special event, the kids that very seldom get a chance to go to camp with their families, and the families get a chance to bond with their kids with the direction on Nancy Thomas.

Nancy Thomas: camp directing and parent training

The one week Family Camp was designed to help families to bond and help children with ADD, ADHD, RAD, ODD, OCD, PTSD, Tourette's, Asperger's, the effects of early trauma and adoption and Bipolar disorder. With RAD so common and such a huge issue we have mainly focused on those children but many have multiple diagnosis. The focus of the camp is to increase love, laughter, bonding, self-control, and child conscience development in the family.

The goal of the Camp is to teach parents of emotionally disturbed children how to help their child to be successful. Each morning the parents attend a training, encouragement, support session. They then practice the new skills with staff support to fine-tune the interventions throughout the day.

Afternoons are spent interacting and having fun together with bonding, cooperation and trust building activities as the parenting skills are put into place.

Camp: cabins secure enough to provide safety for the emotionally disturbed child to keep them from sneaking out at night and hurting others or themselves.

Each family needs their own cabin. Families do not share common areas in their cabins.

Staffed kitchen cleaning/dishwashing crew separate from the camp volunteer team. The dining room must be large enough to comfortably accommodate all families and camp staff during meals.

A training room that can seat all campers and staff.

A intervention room where the sound will not create a disturbance to any activities or people sleeping nearby. This room is for children having meltdowns or needing quiet time to shift gears and get back on track.

Entire camp located where the sound will not concern nearby residents. Privacy and a feeling of safety are essential for these children to heal as well as to avoid embarrassment to the parents from others who don't understand. To protect the privacy of the attending families, this group must be the only ones using the facility at that time.

Any adults (other than the parents) that will be interacting with children must attend the two day training. We will need a minimum of one volunteer team member, full time, per family for interventions and activities. I will bring a licensed therapist, who is well seasoned and trained as an intervention staff person. We will train 10 to 20 volunteers to do the work. Many times local therapists, teachers, school counselors, parole officers, classroom aides and psychology students want to come and participate to learn new techniques and understand the families they work with more deeply.

If you are just interested in attending a Nancy Thomas one day workshop (Rebuilding the Broken Bond), May 12, 2012, the fee will be \$150. Please register soon: seats are already filling up.

Call Laura @ 907-376-0366.



(Continued from page 4) Troubled Transplant

As an outgrowth of this omission, the child's difficulties are seen as "rooted" in presumably disturbed foster or adoptive family dynamics. This is particularly easy for the professional to justify, if foster or adoptive family appears troubled and distressed, as is common in such placements. However, even when the family and the marital couple is not observably troubled, professionals scrutinize the family for suspect, hidden, insidious problems. In either case the family cannot win. And in the end, the child loses a well.

For more information about strategies and finding out the five common categories of disturbed youngsters found in foster and adoptive care. Please read "***Troubled Transplants***" By: Richard J. Delaney, Ph.D and Frank R. Kunstal, Ed.D,

"*Troubled Transplants*" by Richard J. Delaney, Ph. D. and Frank R. Kunstal, Ed.D
copyright 1998

Permission to print granted by the Author:

Richard J. Delaney, Ph.D.

If you would like to own a copy, you can order copies of the entire book at www.sociallearning.com or by calling Laurie at 1-800-777-6636

Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates has "*Troubled Transplants*" By Richard J. Delaney, Ph.D. and Frank R. Kunstal, Ed.D. in the Lending Library....This is a great book.....

Other books by Richard J Delaney, Ph.D.

Behavior with a Purpose

Troubled Transplant

The Healing Power of the Family (Audio CD)

Parent to Parent Mentoring (DVD)

Safe Passage

Long Journey Home (Audio CD)

The Permutations of Permanency (booklet)

Fostering Changes:

1 St Edition:

2nd Edition: Treating Attachment Disordered Foster Children

3rd Edition: Myth, meaning and Magic Bullets in Attachment theory

New book coming out in August 2012...will give you the information about the book as soon as it becomes available.



Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates: Workshops
“Revised Defusing Strategies”

When: August 27, 2011

Where: 101 W. Swanson Ave. Training, Rm. 2, Wasilla, AK

Time: 8:45am to 5:30 pm Cost: \$150.00 CEU's

Provided: Continental Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks

Scholarships for Caregivers & their Natural Supports (when available)

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Register by Phone: 907-376-0366 Fax: 907-376-0966

online registration @ www.akattachment.org

(will not work with web based email addresses, such as hotmail, g-mail, yahoo)

Therapeutic Parenting Specialist “Nancy Thomas”

One day workshop “Rebuilding the Broken Bond”

Date: May 12, 2012; Fee will be \$150; Registration Required (limited seating)

Call Laura @ 907-376-0366.

Sponsored by: Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates

Upcoming Resource Family Training: Mat-Su Area Training 2011

□ Adopting Through OCS

Tues June 7, Social Worker Visits and Contact Standards, Trainer: Aileen Mcinnis, noon-1:00

Wed June 8, Autism Spectrum Disorder, 7:00-8:00 PM

The monthly Rural Teleconference is designed for anyone living outside of Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Wasilla or Palmer although we allow others to participate. Families may participate by dialing 1-888-626-7441 and when asked enter the code: 9939775#. If you phone in before the group leader you will hear music, please stay on the line. For more information contact bwoodin@nwresource.org or call our toll-free number 1-800-478-7307.

“R.A.V.E.N. Respite Project”

If you would like to participate in the upcoming RAVEN Respite project: there is still time to sign up, we have 5 providers and 6 respite families interested so far. (respite training workshop is a must) respite meetings will be booked before and after workshops, and when ever deemed necessary by the families.

“Mom2Mom/Dad2Dad Parent support group”

Mom2Mom/Dad2Dad parent support group meets the first Monday of every month. From 10:30am to 12:00. At the AABA office, 619 S. Knik Goose-Bay Road, Ste J. Wasilla. No registration is required, just come and talk with the other parents that have the same concerns as you do. Coffee and tea is served.



If you have any questions, please e-mail laura@akattachment.org or call 907-376-0366.



Workshop: April 23, 2011 Revised Attachment Disorder 201~

Was sponsored by: “Mat-Su Health Foundation” Thank you for your support!!!

“A Special Thanks for the Door Prizes from:”

Glacier Dietary Foods & Fitness:	376-3488
Sportsman’s Warehouse:	864-8000
Flowers by Louise, Inc:	376-4939
Learning Essentials:	357-3990
Stanley Carpet Cleaner:	1-800-steemer
Batteries Plus:	376-1181
Sears Portrait Studio:	357-2860
PaPa Murphy’s	376-3696
Body Renew:	376-7144
Shake Your Day:	357-0005
Bouncin’ Bears:	376-5800
Just Imagine Toys:	357-1543
Guys & Gals Salon:	376-2320
Fish Creek Sales:	373-2650
All I Saw Cookware:	376-3177
Hairport Salon:	376-5241
Alaska Shipping Post:	357-7678
The Dog Wash:	376-9274
Three Bears Alaska, Inc:	883-4324
Pampered Chef-Karen:	357-1045
Pro-Lube Car Wash:	376-5823
Jacobson’s Greenhouse:	376-2123

“Bingo Mania” supports “non-profits” by using their gaming permits.

(Non-profits are Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates & Wasilla Senior Center)

Closed: Monday; Tuesday and Wednesday:

Opened: Thursday: one session starts @ 6:30 p.m.

Friday: two sessions starting @ 6:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Saturday: two sessions starting @ 6:30 & 10:30 p.m.

Sunday: one session starting @ 6:30 p.m.

6445 E. Blue Lupine Drive Wasilla, Alaska 99654,

Phone: 907-376-4816



Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates

City Center Business Park
619 S. Knik Goose-Bay Road, Ste J
Wasilla, AK 99654

Phone: 907-376-0366

Fax: 907-376-0966

E-mail: laura@akattachment.org



AABA

Web Site

www.akattachment.org

About Alaska Attachment & Bonding Associates

AABA is a non-profit organization that provides education, training, support and advocacy for kinship, adoptive and foster families who care for children with emotional disorders, such as Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD), and professionals who work with this population of children.

AABA's area of Focus: **PREVENTION** of abuse/neglect

PLACEMENT information

TRAINING in Attachment

COMMUNITY Resource information

WHAT drives AABA?

AABA is passionate about traumatized children.

AABA has first hand experience with Attachment Disorder children and knows the special care and treatment needed to help these children learn love and trust.

Left untreated, children with Attachment Disorder and other emotional disorders are often times shipped to out-of-state Residential Treatment Centers (RTC's), and are likely to become emotionally disturbed adults, unemployable, likely to be involved in drugs, alcohol or other illegal activities.

Attachment Disorder children place a huge impact in dollars, stress, crime, and livability in the Mat-Su Borough and throughout Alaska.

WHY should you care?

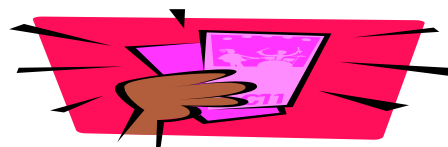
Because this is a preventable disorder and will take the community working together! AND, "**BECAUSE THIS IS YOUR HOME!**"



The Bingo Mania is a light yellow building away from all the hustle and bustle of the bowling alley. A much more pleasant and serene atmosphere. There is a Bingo Mania Deli for all the hungry Bingo people. Bring a friend and help celebrate this new kind of Bingo establishment. Bingo Mania is located at 6445 e. Blue Lupine Dr. Wasilla. 907-376-4816, On the frontage Rd by Alaska Sales & Service.



NEW PULL TAB STORE!!!!



“PULL TABS MANIA”

Mile 49 Parks Hwy

Meadow Lakes

Opened 11:00am to 9:00pm

(helping the non-profits)