



President's Note

Greetings to all of you!!!

It's that time again! It's another new beginning to hopefully a fantastic school year! We have a clean slate which always gives us the chance to renew ourselves and try to make a difference with our children and their families. We have a lot of responsibility and an awesome task before us. Each year I ask myself, what can I do different this year? How can I work smarter instead of harder?



That is why **I LOVE** attending the KASSW Annual Conference in September and the Midwest School Social Workers Conference in October each year. It rejuvenates me and gives me ideas to create a new approach as I begin a new school year. Check out this issue to find out the dates and locations on both conferences so that you may also attend.

We have had an unusual beginning this year with the history making record floods here in Jefferson County a week before school started. We had quite a few families that were affected and needed our assistance in many ways. Some children had to move and change schools, many lost all their school supplies and new clothing and some lost their homes altogether.

There is always a situation where school social workers can prove their worth. We have to keep reminding our school systems of our expertise for dealing with crisis events in families. We must also remind them of our educational background and experience that qualifies us to do so. We have a lot to offer and should be proud of our accomplishments.

Hope to see you at the KASSW Annual Conference on September 25, 2009 in Lexington, KY at the Spindletop Hall.

Tina Marie Johnson
KASSW President

2009 School Social Worker of the Year.

Ms. Nan Brooks has over twenty-two years of social work experience with the past eleven years being in school social work at Northern Elementary in Fayette County. Ms. Brooks works tirelessly to reduce barriers to student success at Northern Elementary.

She conducts classroom guidance lessons, home visits, parent education, teacher consultation and individual and group counseling. She is an important part of their Student Assistance Team. Ms. Brooks initiated and has conducted one of the first Grandparents Raising Their Grandchild Support Groups in Kentucky. She also initiated and has conducted a Spanish Speaking Support group at Northern Elementary for almost a decade.

Nan not only supports the family during the elementary years but many of her clients continue seeking and receiving support from Ms. Brooks throughout their educational career.

Congratulations to Nan Brooks—the 2009 School Social Worker of the Year!

Check out the new KASSW blog at:
kassw-ky.org

Ashland Independent Receives Federal Grant—Will Hire New School Social Workers

The Ashland Independent School District has been awarded a federal Safe School/Healthy Students grant. This grant is highly competitive and of the 494 applications, only 29 (6%) have received grant funding. The Ashland Independent School District will receive \$729,972 for year one. The four-year total will be \$2,971,176.00 with the grant period ranging from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2013.

The goal of the Ashland Independent School District's Safe School/Healthy Student initiative is to create safe, nurturing, drug -free learning environments which support and promote social skills, responsible citizenship, and healthy childhood development.

The following activities/services/programs focus on universal prevention and intervention:

- Surveillance cameras for school buses, buzzer entry systems for schools, and one fulltime police resource officer
- Too Good for Violence prevention curricula and a prevention specialist
- Too Good for Drugs prevention curricula, one Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drugs school-based therapist, and two mental health school-based therapists
- Three school social workers
- Four public school nurses
- Five AmeriCorps members for tutorial assistance
- Character/civic prevention education curricula and truancy prevention programming

Ashland Independent School Superintendent Steve Gilmore stated, "Our district will collaborate with partners to offer a comprehensive continuum of universal and intervention activities and programs designed to meet the needs of our community. This grant will make our students, staff, facilities, and the total educational environment a safer place while utilizing the cooperative efforts and expertise of all our partners to intervene, address, and make great strides in attacking the existing drug, tobacco, and alcohol problems at every level. All of our schools are committed to providing for every aspect of the students' educational experience which will be enhanced by this grant."

This grant was made possible through the leadership and grant writing expertise of Geri Willis, former KASSW Regional Representative. Congratulations Geri and the entire Ashland team!

KASSW Board Members 2009

President

Tina Johnson, Jefferson County

Past President

Janet Doss, Fayette County

Vice President

Melinda McClung, Fayette County

Secretary

Ashley Farmer, Harrison County

Treasurer

Jennifer Stevens, Fayette County

Newsletter Editor

Scarlet Shoemaker, Greenup County

Midwest Council Representative

Cheryl Esters, Jefferson County

State Consultant

Nigel Clayton, KDE

Publicity Chair

Toni Brown, Fayette County

UK Liaison

Flo Lankster, UK College of SW

U of L Liaison

Andy Frey, Kent School

Bluegrass Representative

Jennifer Brown, Jessamine County

Central Representative

Terry Muse, Hardin County

Eastern Representative

Shawn Crump, Ashland Independent

Jefferson Representative

Brooke Burd

Northern Representative

Sherry Wirth, Campbell County

Southern Representative

Linda Rogers, Laurel County

Western Representative

Lisa Roberts, Christian County

Youth Suicide Resources



SOS: SIGNS OF SUICIDE

Kentucky Child Now and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) provide the Signs of Suicide program free to school districts through a federal youth suicide prevention grant.

Program Description

SOS Signs of Suicide is a 2-day secondary school-based intervention that includes screening and education. Students are screened for depression and suicide risk and referred for professional help as indicated. Students also view a video that teaches them to recognize signs of depression and suicide in others. They are taught that the appropriate response to these signs is to acknowledge them, let the person know you care, and tell a responsible adult (either with the person or on that person's behalf). Students also participate in guided classroom discussions about suicide and depression. The intervention attempts to prevent suicide attempts, increase knowledge about suicide and depression, develop desirable attitudes toward suicide and depression, and increase help-seeking behavior.

Program Strategies

The basic message of SOS is to teach middle and high school students to respond to the signs of suicide as a mental health emergency, much as one would react to a heart attack as a health emergency. Students are taught to recognize the signs of suicide and depression in them and others and the specific action steps needed to respond to those signs. The goal of the SOS program is to make the action step--ACT--as instinctual a response as the Heimlich maneuver and as familiar an acronym as "CPR". The acronym ACT stands for Acknowledge, Care, and Tell. First, one must "acknowledge" the signs of suicide that others display and take them seriously. Next, one must let the person know that you "care" about them and that you want to help. Lastly, youth are instructed to "tell" a responsible adult.

The program's main teaching materials are a video (featuring dramatizations depicting the signs of suicidality and depression, recommended ways to react to someone who is depressed and suicidal, as well as interviews with real people whose lives have been touched by suicide) and a discussion guide. Students are also asked to complete a brief screening instrument for depression.

The average amount of time to implement the program is approximately 2 days.

For more information about the Toolkit, visit www.kentuckychildnow.org.

WELL AWARE

The PDV Foundation has announced a new website to strengthen the role that schools play in youth suicide prevention under the Foundation's Well Aware program for school administrators. This first-of-its-kind website leverages the Foundation's work in strategic communications centered on youth suicide prevention. Well Aware is a social marketing initiative aimed at school administrators, to help them better understand the link between emotional well-being, suicide prevention programs, and academic outcomes. The website is located at: www.wellawaresp.org.

(Continued on page 8)

Conference at a Glance

2009 KASSW Annual Conference

Friday, Sept. 25th

8:00 - 3:30

SPINDLETOP HALL

3414 Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY

Approval pending for (5) Social Work CEUs and (5) EILA hours
Co-sponsored by UK College of Social Work

CONFERENCE AGENDA

8:00—8:30	Registration, Continental Breakfast, Visit Exhibits
8:30—10:30	General Session
10:30—10:45	Exhibits
10:45—12:15	Bullying Play
12:15—12:30	Exhibits
12:30—1:45	KASSW Awards Luncheon and Membership Meeting
1:45—2:00	Exhibits
2:00—3:30	Workshops A & B

General Session

The Positive Impact of Instructional Discipline, Motivation and School Connectedness—Bob McLaughlin

Mr. McLaughlin will review and discuss key concepts related to Instructional Discipline (Positive Behavior Supports), Student Motivation and School Connectedness. Learn how these three concepts relate to one another, how schools may effectively implement them and how they positively impact student development and performance.

The Lexington Children's Theater will present an entertaining drama that examines the different forms of bullying with ideas for children to effectively combat the problem. Learn how you can provide this dynamic play, parent meeting, and follow-up session at your school at low cost.

PM Workshops

Workshop A—Response to Intervention: Implementing the Process

Cindy Matherly, School Psychologist & Jennifer Brown, CSW School Social Worker

Participants will learn how to develop and implement evidenced-based behavioral interventions, while also examining the school social worker's role. In addition you will learn the processes involved in the academic assessment and response options associated with RTI.

Workshop B—Grief Work with Adolescents

Chrissy Cummins, LCSW & Staci Holdeman

Sadly enough as student support professionals, we know it's not if grief will touch your school, it's when. It's our job to be prepared to handle these delicate situations with individuals and groups. Presenters will briefly describe common signs and symptoms of grief in middle and high school students and provide many evidenced-based practices to address them.

Conference Registration



Mail Completed Registration Form To:

Jennifer Stevens, Treasurer
412 Tremont Lane
Winchester, KY 40391

Name _____

Home address _____

Home Phone or Cell _____

Employed by _____

Position _____

Work Phone _____ E-mail _____

CONFERENCE FEES

— **Current and new members \$95.00**
Includes all sessions, Membership Renewal and Awards Luncheon

— **Non-members \$90.00**
Includes all except membership

— **Student rates \$45.00**
Includes all and student membership

Total Enclosed _____

**** _____ Vegetarian Entree

Make checks payable to KASSW

Method of Payment

___ check enclosed

Purchase Order, must have PO# _____

And Invoice Address _____

To receive an e-mail confirmation, contact treasurer jennifer.stevens@fayette.kyschools.us

Office Use Only Date rec'd _____

Amount or P.O. # _____

Our Featured Exhibitor

National Center for Youth Issues (NCYI has an amazing supply of resources ... curricula, books, games, DVD'sCome prepared to shop at their booth, they will accept credit cards, cash, checks and school purchase orders. For a sneak preview visit: <http://catalog.ncyi.org/>



KASSW Member Spotlight—Helen Haury

Helen Haury started with the Louisville City Schools in 1971 working with two elementary schools and one middle school. In the mid 70's, the county and city school systems merged into Jefferson County Public Schools and she worked with two high schools, 4 middle schools and quite a few elementary schools.

When Family Resource Centers started in the 90's, she spent 4 years at Minors Lane Elementary. At the inception of the Neighborhood Place, she started at 810 Barret and worked with ten elementary schools until she retired after 38 years in June, 2009.



Helen, second from left, is pictured with retired school social workers Mary Florence Barnes, Sherry Bruce and Debbie Tinker.

Helen spent years as the Jefferson County Representative for KASSW. She has also served on many committees over the years, including the one that helped form the Neighborhood Place concept. She was a very active member of the NP baby store, called Families R Us. She always helped w/ raising funds for the baby store, selling raffle tickets for various raffles throughout the year to everyone she encountered.

She has been married to her husband, Jack for 29 years. Jack, who is now retired, was a lifelong high school teacher and baseball and basketball coach. She has 3 children, Susan, John and Caesha, She has 3 grandchildren Jenna (1st grade), Ella (kindergarten) and Addison.

Helen has been an awesome School Social Worker for MANY years and will truly be missed.

MIDWEST UPDATE & Beyond—From Cheryl Esters, Midwest Representative

The Midwest Fall conference in Dearborn, Michigan is scheduled for Oct. 8-10. You can view and download the conference flyer by going to the Midwest website at www.midwest-ssw.org or the Michigan website at www.MASSWMI.org. For the first time you can register on-line and pay on-line by credit card. KASSW will be represented by Doug Adams, Cheryl Esters, and Tina Johnson and our 2009 school social worker of the year. If you are interested in attending the conference please contact one of us and we will be glad to give you tips and help you work out the travel arrangements. The conference has 15 CEU hours attached to it. If you miss this fall but would like to try the conference in 2010, it will be in Minnesota.

SSWAA has a new executive director—Frederick Steeck is at the helm. They are rebuilding and had a great conference in Philadelphia. The 13th National School Social Work Conference will be April 7-10, 2010, in St. Louis, MO. The call for proposals is on the website at www.sswaa.org. It would be great to have a school social worker from Kentucky on the conference program. If you are doing something in your schools that is cutting edge or is evidenced based and can share we would love for you to submit a proposal.

If you are interested in the results of the 2008 National School Social Work Survey of more than 1600 school social workers, you can see the highlights on the sswaa website or at <http://www.sswaa.org/index.asp?page=90>

Interested in Rank I?

Did you know the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville offer School Social Work Rank I programs??

For information about earning the Rank I at UK go to www.uky.edu/socialwork click on current students and then school social work specialty. There you will see an information document entitled Those seeking the Rank I.

For the U of L program go to www.louisville.edu/kent/programs/school-social-work-specialization

UK SSW Coordinator - Flo Lankster
U of L SSW Coordinator - Andy Frey

SSWAA Call for Proposals

SSWAA is now accepting workshop proposals for the 13th National School Social Work Conference. The event will be held at the Union Station Marriott in St. Louis, Missouri, April 7-10, 2010.

Deadline for proposal entries is September 15, 2009. Entries must include a *workshop description* of not more than 100 words that includes an abstract for the conference brochure as well as three goals and learning objectives. Presentations that feature evidence-based practice, contemporary educational frameworks, or direct practice based are particularly desirable

To receive a copy of the Call for Workshop Proposals form, contact:
Dot Kontak at dkontak1@aol.com .

KASSW Board Member Elections

This year, the KASSW Board is slotted to re-elect for the positions of Vice-President and Treasurer. The Board is open for any members of our state organization. It's a great way to be involved and stay informed of our profession's activities locally, at the state level and even the national stage for school social work.

Interested individuals should contact Melinda McClung by emailing Melinda.mcclung@fayette.kyschools.us. Elections will take place at our September conference during the annual meeting. Please consider joining this important endeavor to represent school social workers in your area!

Fall 2009

KASSW

Scarlet Shoemaker
Newsletter Editor
1201 Emma Kay Blvd.
Greenup, KY 41144



In Memory of:

Ms. Rose Bell Hardin Mills
April 27, 1943 - August 3, 2009
School Social Worker
Jefferson County Schools
Retired in 2003 after 29 years
of service

Youth Suicide Resources (cont. from page 3)

The site features a Powerpoint that can be downloaded and used regarding better engaging school administrators in youth suicide prevention at http://www.wellaware.org/pdf/Well_Aware_Webinar.pdf

The Well Aware foundation also provides information regarding the role of bullying in youth suicide and state legislation requiring that school districts establish anti-bullying policies. These initiatives provide an opportunity for school social work involvement. <http://www.wellaware.org/pdf/casestudy.pdf>

WEB RESOURCES

Kentucky Suicide Prevention Group: Preventing Suicide—Kentucky's Plan can be accessed at:
<http://mhmr.ky.gov/mhsas/kspg.asp>

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org