PERFECT VISION FOR PERMANENCY IN 2020

REUNIFICATION, KINSHIP, ADOPTION, INDEPENDENT LIVING, APPLA

ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Shocco Springs Conference Center
May 7th – 9th, 2020

Registration now open for Foster, Adoptive, Kinship Care, DHR Social Workers, and others who would like to attend.
A message from the President

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Alabama Foster & Adoptive Parent Conference May 7th, 8th, and 9th, 2020 at Shocco Springs. There will be lots of good training, fun, and food. You not only get your needed training hours but you get to meet the AFAPA Board and other foster parents. It is always good to be among people with the same interest in Children as you. You will learn from the workshop presenters and other people you meet and make friends with.

When you register online at AFAPA website please include shirt size so we can be sure to have sizes that are needed. If you call Shocco they should ask you your shirt size.

A tentative schedule is in this newsletter. Please check back on AFAPA website and facebook page for updates on schedule and workshops to be presented.

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 would ask that counties schedule events that will not conflict with the AFAPA conference so foster parents don’t have to choose which to attend.

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.

Buddy Hooper
President AFAPA

EVERYONE COUNTS IN 2020

AFAPA has had the opportunity to work with other agencies the past few months to help get the word out about the Census.

The following was taken from the website

www.census.alabama.gov

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census of the United States every 10 years, going all the way back to 1790. The data collected during the census is used in a variety of ways that affect decisions regarding community services provided to residents and the distribution of more than $675 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year. This funding supports local programs for schools, health care, community assistance, infrastructure and other important needs. The census also determines the number of representatives each state will have in Congress.

The census counts every person – both adults and children – living in the United States. This information helps monitor changes in communities and is used to identify and address public service needs such as health care, education, public safety, housing, food, and rural access to broadband.

Starting March 12, 2020, each Alabama household will receive a postcard from the U.S. Census Bureau with instructions for how to complete the census. You may respond in three ways: online, telephone or traditional paper form.

Some households, mainly in rural areas, will receive a traditional paper form during the first mailing while other households, mainly in metro areas, will receive an invitation to respond online first. By mid-April, everyone who has not yet responded will receive a paper form. C

Here is a timeline:

• March 12 – 20: Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.

• March 30 – April 1: The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness over these three days. As part of this process, the Census Bureau counts people in shelters, at soup kitchens and mobile food vans, on the streets, and at non-sheltered, outdoor locations such as tent encampments.

• April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.
EVERYONE COUNTS IN 2020 continued

April: Census takers will begin visiting college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people. Census takers also begin conducting quality check interviews to help ensure an accurate count.

May – July: Census takers will begin visiting homes that haven’t responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

December: The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.

The Census Bureau released the sample copy of the 2020 Census form. The questions are easy to answer and focus on the number of persons living or staying in a household and the basic demographic information about those persons.

Online Response

For the first time, you will be able to complete your census form online using the information included on the postcard. You will be able to fill out your electronic form by using a computer, smart phone or tablet. Alabama Counts is working with agencies and organizations to secure public locations across the state where you may fill out your online census form.

You will also be able to call a toll-free number to complete the census over the phone or request a traditional paper form. This information will be on the postcard mailed by the Census Bureau.

If you do not respond before May 2020, U.S. Census Bureau employees will visit your place of residence to conduct a count.

Safe and Secure

The census is safe and secure. All the information you provide to the U.S. Census Bureau is confidential and cannot be used against you by any government agency or court. Anyone who violates this law faces severe penalties. The law is found in Title 13 of the U.S. Code. More: https://www.census.gov/about/policies/privacy/data_stewardship.html

If you receive something in the mail that resembles a census form, but are unsure, here are a few helpful reminders:

- The U.S. Census Bureau will not mail out letters, invitations or forms related to the 2020 Census until March 12, 2020. Here is a schedule. (PDF)

- Official U.S. Census Bureau letters and surveys, including the 2020 Census, will always be from the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau.

- The U.S. Census Bureau will never ask for a monetary donation, bank account or credit card information.

- If you are unsure about a form, check census.alabama.gov or 2020census.gov. A sample copy of the official 2020 Census form is available on Alabama Counts website. Click here. (PDF)

- If you are still unsure, you may always email Alabama Counts at icount@census.alabama.gov or contact the U.S. Census Bureau’s hotline at 800-923-8282.
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF WORKSHOPS

AFAPA CONFERENCE MAY 7TH – 9TH, 2020

SHOCO SPRINGS CONFERENCE CENTER

1314 Shocco Springs Road
Talladega, Al 35160

Class time and content subject to change

THURSDAY MORNING MAY 7, 2020

Welcome Ceremony and What is AFAPA in Chapel 8am- 8:45am

Workshops 9am- 10:30am
Adoption Subsidy – Amanda Faulk SDHR
Drug Trends – ABC Instructors Lt. Mike Reese and Inspector Neil Fetner
Adoption and Foster Care in the Schools - Carla Whitt APAC

Workshops 10:45am -12:15pm
Hair Care
Adoption Subsidy – Amanda Faulk SDHR
Bullying/Social Media Dangers for Children – ABC Instructors
Lt. Mike Reese and Inspector Neil Fetner
Adoption and Foster Care in the Schools - Carla Whitt APAC

THURSDAY AFTERNOON MAY 7, 2020

Workshops 1:15pm – 2:45pm
Legal and Liability Issues with regard to the State Liability Trust Fund, immunity issues, and litigation prevention tips – Felicia Brooks SDHR Legal
Drug Trends – ABC Instructors Lt. Mike Reese and Inspector Neil Fetner
All About Me – Cheryl Anthony
Preserving and Embracing a Child’s Story – Rachel Roberts

Workshops 3pm- 4:30pm
Bullying/ Social Media Dangers for Children - ABC Instructors
Lt. Mike Reese and Inspector Neil Fetner
Independent Living (ILP) – Bill Benson SDHR
Allegations/Documentation – Jan Casteel SDHR, Martha Hooper AFAPA
Car Seat Safety – Greg Nelson AFAPA
Preserving and Embracing a Child’s Story – Rachel Roberts APAC
Kinship Care – Keith Lowhorne, Buddy Hooper
Foster Parent Trivia and special guest speaker
Chris Hammond former Major League Baseball player. 6:30pm – 8:00pm
FRIDAY MORNING MAY 8, 2020
Welcome Ceremony with pledge of allegiance, State Flag Ceremony, Special Recognitions and Special Speaker Commissioner Nancy Buckner 8am-10am
Keynote Speakers 10:15am - 11:45am
Rhonda Mann Executive Director Voices for Alabama Children 12:00 – 1:00 Room 223
Lunch with County Presidents or other county representative and AFAPA Board

FRIDAY AFTERNOON MAY 8, 2020
Workshops 1:15pm – 2:45pm
Prudent Parenting – Amanda Faulk SDHR
Bullying/Social Media Dangers for Children - ABC Instructors
Lt. Mike Reese and Inspector Neil Fetner
All About Me Advances Class 2 hours – Cheryl Anthony AFAPA
Kinship Care – Keith Lowhorne, Buddy Hooper
Supporting Challenging Children – Brock Sellers APAC
Workshops 3pm - 4:30pm
Allegations/Documentation – Jan Casteel SDHR, Martha Hooper AFAPA
Supporting Challenging Children – Brock Sellers APAC
Drug Trends - ABC Instructors Lt. Mike Reese and Inspector Neil Fetner

Kinship Workshop
Scholarship Awards 6:30 – 7:30

SATURDAY MORNING MAY 9, 2020
What will we do with what we have learned and follow up questions
8:00-10:00
FOSTER CARE TRUST FUND

As a reminder, in the event that a child has specific needs that cannot be met by another funding source such as private or local funds, board payment, or IL funds, a request for assistance through the Foster Care Trust Fund may be appropriate. The ISP team would need to concur the item or service be added to the plan. These may be identified items or activities related to education, artistic development, athletics or other special occasion items or activities.

There are limitations to include inability to purchase items valued at more than $500.00 as well as inability to pay for medical/dental services. These funds cannot be to reimburse expenses already incurred.

If after talking with the county office there is an unmet need for a child, please ask about the possibility of utilizing the trust. Requests must be generated by the county office.

If you have questions or need assistance beyond the county office, State DHR Family Services intake may be able to help. That number is 334-242-9500.

What you need to know about
Adoption Subsidy after age 18

Alabama has elected to continue adoption subsidy payments and Medicaid for certain IV-E eligible children after age 18 and up to 21 years who meet certain criteria. [Code of Alabama 1975 §26-10-26(2)(b)] SDHR, Office of Permanency, is responsible for working with adoptive parents to determine whether federal IV-E adoption subsidy will continue after age 18 and up to 21. In order for federal IV-E adoption subsidy payments to continue after age 18 and up to age 21, professional documentation must be submitted to the Office of Permanency that the child meets one of the two following criteria:

a. The child is determined by a doctor to be physically or mentally disabled; or

b. The adoption subsidy agreement was entered into after the child attained the age of 16 and one of the following criteria applies to the child.
   - Currently enrolled in high school; or
   - Participating in classes in preparation for their GED; or
   - Currently enrolled in college or university, full-time or part-time; or
   - Enrolled in a vocational or trade school; or
   - Participating in Job Corps; or
   - Participating in classes on resume writing and interview skills; or
   - Employed at least 80 hours per month. (youth could be employed part time or full time, at one or more places of employment); or
   - Youth is incapable of participating in any of the above described education or employment activities due to a medical condition;

A letter and a disabled form will be sent to you about a month before your child turns 18 which will list this criteria. At that time, if your child meets one of the criteria, you will mark or fill out the appropriate area or have a doctor sign, and return to SDHR. If you don’t receive the form you should contact SDHR office of Adoption to have one sent to you 334-242-9500.
THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AFAPA CONFERENCE AND REGISTERING

Child Care is not provided at the conference. Children are not permitted in the workshops.

Check with your county about possibility of them finding alternate care for children.

DHR approved foster homes can apply for mileage reimbursement to and from conference. Others need to check with you approving agency for what they might offer.

At least 15 training hours will be available for conference. You may choose to attend just one day. The number of training hours are 1 ½ hours per workshop. You could get 6 hours during day on Thursday and 6 hours on Friday, and 2 hours for Saturday. Additional hours given for Thursday night and Friday night programs.

Registration is $35 per person to cover registration costs and materials handed out. You can register online at afapa.org or by calling Shocco Springs 800-280-1105.

You many choose to commute or spend the night. If you spend the night 2 nights of double occupancy are free. If you choose to not share a room or if you stay 3 nights there will be additional costs which you will see when you go to register.

1. You will receive a Training Certificate with a list of classes on back. Be sure you have the class you attend stamped by one of the Workshop Monitors. Your Certificate must have your name on the front of it before it can be Stamped. Once you have all your workshops stamped take a picture of it with you name showing for your records. If possible make a copy to keep in your records.

2. In order to receive training hours you must not be more than 10 minutes late for a class or leave before the class is over.

3. Foster Parents be sure you sign the training data sheet at the registration table.

4. For Social Workers and others wanting CEU’s. Be sure sign in and put your address on the sheet. CEU forms will be available Friday after last class at registration desk.

5. All Display tables will be in the Bagley Center.

6. Family Store will be open in the Annex building next to the Chapel. Check sign on door for times. Take what you need for your family but please be respectful of others so that everyone has a chance to get what they need. Some items are free and some are priced for sale. At the end of conference Local Foster Parent Associations are welcome to take what is left back to their counties to give out.

7. The Silent Auction is being presented again this year with proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund. More than $6000 was raised last year with Silent Auction and raffles. We need additional funds so we can give more scholarships.

8. Thursday night Foster Parent Trivia game. Limited space for participants so be sure to sign up. Those chosen to participate will be announced at beginning of program. New this year is Special Guest Speaker. Chris Hammond former Major League Baseball player will be present to speak and will also be available for pictures and autographs.

9. “It’s All About Me” Learn how to help create a scrap book for your children that tells the story about them. Limited attendance for this class. You must sign up at registration desk. Thursday class is 1 ½ hour the Friday Class is an extended class 3 hours long.

10. A drawing for $1000 Reimbursement Scholarships foster or adoptive parents to attend either the NACAC conference in Toronto, Ontario, Canada August 27th to 29th, 2020 or the National Foster Parent Conference in Orlando Florida June 18 to 21, 2020 in Reston, Virginia will be held Friday Night during Scholarship Awards Program. You must sign in to be eligible for the drawing. If chosen you must pay for all your expenses including registration to the conference you choose. You must submit proof of your attendance and copy of receipts to Darla Nelson Treasurer AFAPA to receive your $1000 reimbursement. Scholarships awarded 1 per family. Please sign up in the Bagley Center at the Alabama Foster Adoptive Parent table.

11. Please attend the Friday night Scholarship Awards program in the Chapel right after dinner.

List of Workshops schedule to be presented.

- Adoption Subsidy
- Drug Trends
- Adoption and Foster Care in Schools
- Hair Care
- Legal and Liability Issues for Foster Parents
- All About Me
- Preserving and Embracing a Child’s Story
- Independent Living Program
- Allegations/Documentation
- Care Seat Safety
- State of Foster Care in Alabama
- Voices for Alabama’s Children
- Prudent Parenting
- Bullying/Social Media
- Supporting Challenging Children
- Kinship Care
Chris graduated from Vestavia Hills High School and attended Gulf Coast Community College before being drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in 1990. Hammond first appeared in the Major Leagues during the 1990 season where he pitched three games for the Cincinnati Reds. In 1991 during his rookie season, he appeared in 18 games and posted a 7 & 7 record with a 4.06 ERA. During his 14-year major league career, Hammond spent time on the rosters of the Cincinnati Reds, the Florida Marlins, the Boston Red Sox, the Atlanta Braves, the New York Yankees, the Oakland Athletics, and the San Diego Padres. In 2002, Chris appeared on the Atlanta Braves roster for 63 games. He became one of only three MLB pitchers to record an ERA below 1.00 (.96). Before his retirement in 2006, Chris appeared in 441 games and recorded a career ERA of 4.14. Chris retired to Randolph County in 2006 with his family. Chris is very active with the “Chris Hammond Youth Foundation”, a Christian-based charity, and his church.