

Letter from Dr. Wakefield

We are now ending the third week of the General Medical Council Hearings in London, and I am counting down the hours before my return to Texas and our work at Thoughtful House. The extraordinary support of families, friends, and colleagues has been a lifeline for which I am most grateful. Memories of the rally on the opening day will remain with me always.

I am not in a position to say much about the progress of the hearing at this stage, except to reiterate that all charges of wrongdoing are denied, and are being vigorously challenged by my outstanding legal team.

In the meantime, the devoted Thoughtful House staff continues to provide the kind of care to affected children and their families that has been long overdue from conventional sources. I am very proud of what we have achieved together.

Stay strong, and thank you.

New Staff at THCFC

Erica Strange has been appointed the CARD/Austin Managing Supervisor. She has a master's degree in Psychology from Pepperdine University, and has completed the course work and practicum to sit for the Board Certified Behavior Analysis exam this fall.

Missy Olive, PhD, BCBA,



Thoughtful House

Center for Children

has joined the CARD Austin team as the Manager of Research and Development. Author of over twenty book chapters and articles in peer-reviewed publications, she serves on the Editorial Boards of the *Journal of Early Intervention*, *Topics in Early Childhood Special Education*, and *Exceptional Children*; she has been active in university teaching and research throughout her career.

Missy comments, "I am very excited about my work at CARD. Autism is a multi-symptomatic condition that requires treatment from many disciplines, and the collaboration between CARD and Thoughtful House is a model of providing such treatment. Moreover, the research that we complete by studying combined treatments will better inform services for children in the future."

Vaccine Hearing in DC

Theresa Cedillo writes: "June 11, 2007 marked the first day of the first test case

(Michelle Cedillo v. Secretary Health and Human Services) in the US Court of Federal Claims for the Omnibus Autism Proceeding, which is to determine if vaccines play a role in autism and related medical conditions.

My daughter Michelle, her father Michael, grandfather Phillip, and I traveled from Arizona to Washington D.C. to be present for the hearing. For two and a half weeks we listened to detailed testimony by experts from both sides.

Michelle was able to attend the hearing on the first and last days. Special Master Hastings, who led the proceedings, was exceptionally respectful and sympathetic not only to Michelle and to us, but to the other affected families as well.

We were overwhelmed by the kindness and support of people we met during our time there. I think that as a community, our children have won a place in the hearts of the general public--more so than I ever thought. We were honored by the privilege of speaking on behalf of Michelle and other injured children. It was an extraordinary experience, and something we will never forget."

A ruling in the case may still be one or two years off. (*Michelle is a patient of Dr. Krigsman, Dr. Jepson, and Kelly Barnhill of THCFC.*)