



Court Improvement Program

Community Improvement Councils Quarterly News Jan-Mar 2014

Issue 2

April 2014

Save the Date for the 2014 CIC Summit

Inside this issue:

3rd JD Shares ASFA Timeline Chart	2
National Child Abuse Prevention month	2
DCFS Seeking CICs' Input Into Their Next Five Year Plan	2
ASFA Timeline Chart	3
CIP Contact Information	4
Judicial Districts' CIC Future Meetings/ Events Schedule	4

Mark your calendars for October 2 and 3, 2014, in Reno to join your fellow CIC members to learn and plan your next court improvement efforts. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges will be surveying all CIC members to ascertain topic preferences for our time together. Please be certain to respond to this survey to ensure that your ideas are included.

For Additional Information Contact:

Franz Braun, Site Manager at (775) 784-6521 or fbraun@ncjfcj.org

8TH Judicial District Implements Protective Custody Findings and Order Template

As part of its continuing efforts to improve the quality of its hearings, the 8th Judicial District (JD) has created a Protective Custody Findings and Order template which includes all the required NRS and federal findings as well as following best practices. Not only are party noticing, ICWA inquiry,

right to representation, reasonable cause, and reasonable efforts very specifically included, but relative and fictive kin inquiry, and placing siblings together are also outlined. All findings cite NRS. Court orders specific to the case include: necessary searches to locate missing parents, paternity test-

ing, drug testing, appointment of attorneys for the parents and the children, and next court date. It is succinct and inclusive. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please contact Lori Parr, JEA for the Honorable Judge Sullivan or Kathie Malzahn-Bass, CIP Coordinator.

For Additional
Information
Contact:
Lori Parr
[ParrL@clarkcounty
courts.us](mailto:ParrL@clarkcounty
courts.us)

Janice Wolf, Esq., Director of the Children's Attorney Project at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, has been awarded Certification as a **Child Welfare Law Specialist (CWLS)** in the State of Nevada. She has passed the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) Child Welfare Law Examination and satisfied all of the criteria for Child Welfare Law Attorney Certification.

3rd Judicial District Shares ASFA Timeline Chart

For Additional Information Contact:
 Debbie Gilmore
 dgilmore@lyon-county.org
 Sue Sevon
 ssevon@churchillcourts.org

Within 3 days following the 2012 CIC Summit, the 3rd Judicial District (JD) convened a meeting to discuss and problem solve issues pertaining to the timeliness of 432B cases and adherence to timelines set forth in NRS and the Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). As a result, the ASFA Timeline Chart (shown on page 3) was created and is, now, included

in all 432B court files. Its brilliance is that it is low-tech, low-cost, and resolves multiple issues.

At the 72 hour hearing, the dates for the subsequent hearings are set. Attorneys in the 3rd JD are now appointed at the 72 hour hearing and new standard orders appointing counsel and set-

ting arraignment dates included in each file are completed and sent to all attorneys. This process has been so successful in the 3rd JD that the 1st, 9th, and 10th JDs are adopting it. The 10th JD has modified the chart slightly to correspond with its practices.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is [National Child Abuse Prevention Month](#). The theme for this year’s observance is “Making Meaningful Connections.” During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to share their child abuse and neglect prevention awareness strategies and activities and promote prevention across the country. In observance, the National Criminal Justice Reference Service has posted “Special Feature: Child Abuse,” a compilation of publications and resources on the prevalence, prevention, and responses to child abuse

Division of Child and Family Services Seeking CICs’ Input Into Their Next Five Year Plan

The Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) is a five-year strategic plan that sets forth the vision and the goals to be accomplished to strengthen Nevada’s overall child welfare system. A CFSP is required for federal child welfare funding under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act. Title IV-B funding is primarily devoted to child abuse prevention and child protective services, and includes funding for foster youth to attend college and services to foster youth to

help them transition to adulthood. A new CFSP is required for the upcoming years 2015 through 2019.

The DCFS is seeking the CICs’ input into this plan, specifically around the development of measureable objectives and activities for the following goals:

1. Children and youth will be SAFE in out-of-home placement;

- 2. Children and youth will be SAFE in their own homes;
- 3. Children and youth will have improved well-being;
- 4. The State will be able to identify the strengths and needs of the child protective service delivery system;
- 5. Children and youth will have permanency and stability.

This is a tremendous opportunity for the courts to have input into the future of our child welfare system. If you

haven’t already been contacted for input, please contact Jan Fragale for information on how your voice can be heard.

For Additional Information Contact:
 Jan Fragale
jfragale@dcsf.nv.gov

ASFA Timeline Chart

*For full sized chart see article on page 2 for contact information

Case No: _____

Department: _____

Case Name: _____

Timelines

72 hour hearing/Removal

- * Appoint Attorneys for all parties
- * Set for Arraignment (Admit/Deny) hearing on 3rd L&M from 72 hr hrg
- * Order appointing attorneys and setting hearing for arraignment on Petition (3rd L&M at 1:30 pm)

Date of Removal /
Date of 72 hr Hrg

7-10 Days
Petition filed

Date Petition Filed

ARRAIGNMENT
(Either Dept)
(no DCFS report needed)

Date of
Arraignment

DENY

**ADJUDICATORY /
EVIDENTIARY HEARING**
Must occur within 30 days of
filing of petition

Date of
Evidentiary Hrg

ADMIT

FINDING
Set Dispositional Hearing
(2 weeks)

NO FINDING
Dismiss

DISPOSITIONAL HEARING
(within 60 days of removal)
*DCFS to provide safety plan, condition for
return, reasonable efforts and case plan*
*Set dates for 6 mo and 12 mo permanency
hearings

Date of Dispositional Hrg

Date of 6 mo review hearing

Date of 12 mo permanency hrg

**NEVADA SUPREME COURT
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
COURT IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
201 S. CARSON STREET, SUITE 250
CARSON CITY, NV 89701**

Katherine Malzahn-Bass
Court Improvement Program Coordinator
Phone: 775-687-9809
Fax: 775-687-9811
Email: kmalzahn-bass@nvcourts.nv.gov

Robbie Taft
Administrative Assistant III
Phone: 775-687-9812
Fax: 775-687-9811
Email: rtaft@nvcourts.nv.gov

In 2010, each of the State's ten judicial districts created a Community Improvement Council (CIC) that focused on identifying barriers to timely permanent placement of children at risk. The CICs have been meeting regularly in their communities and at annual Summits where they have learned to interpret data specific to their districts, while creating strategies to reduce the amount of time that it takes to move cases involving children at risk through the court process. The overriding focus, in addition to the safety of the child, is to create an environment where the best decisions are made for each child.

Visit Our Web Site

[http://www.nevadajudiciary.us/
index.php/
courtimprovementprogram](http://www.nevadajudiciary.us/index.php/courtimprovementprogram)

**CIP Working for the Protection &
Permanency of Dependent Children**

Judicial Districts' CIC Future Meetings/Events Schedules

Judicial District	Meeting / Event	Date	For Additional Information Contact
1 st JD	CIC Meeting	April 28	Maribel Gutierrez mgutierrez@carson.org
2 nd JD	CIC Meeting	May 5	Rachel Anderline Rachel.Anderline@washocourts.us
3 rd JD	CIC Meeting	April 28	Debbie Gilmore dgilmore@lyon-county.org
4 th JD	CIC Meeting	4th Friday of every month	Julie L. Thuemler jthuemler@elkocountynv.net
5 th JD	CIC Meeting	3rd Wednesday of every month	Tim Sutton tsutton@co.nye.nv.us
6 th JD	CIC Meeting	April 22	Rosa Sanchez rosas54@hcdenv.com
7 th JD	CIC Meeting	April 17	Faye Cavender fcavender@dcs.nv.gov
8 th JD	CIC Meeting	April 29	Lori Parr parrl@clarkcountycourts.us
9 th JD	CIC Meeting	May 29	Bobbie Williams bwilliams@douglas.nv.gov
10 th JD	CIC Meeting	June 17	Sue Sevon ssevon@churchillcounty.org