



Nevada's Court Improvement Program

Training Strategic Plan FY 2010 - FY 2014

*Supreme Court of Nevada
Administrative Office of the Courts*



August 2009

<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 2 – STRATEGIC PLAN.....	3
<i>Training Objectives</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Training Strategies and Activities</i>	<i>4</i>
CHAPTER 3 – COLLABORATION EFFORTS	13
<i>Collaboration Efforts to Date.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Planned Collaboration Efforts</i>	<i>16</i>
APPENDICES.....	19
<i>Appendix A – CIP Select Committee Roster.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Table 1 – Table of Collaborative Partners.. ..</i>	<i>21</i>

Chapter 1 – Introduction

The Court Improvement Program (CIP) has existed in Nevada since 1995 and is overseen by the CIP Select Committee. Grant funding is received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families (ACF).¹ Since its inception, CIP has funded numerous successful pilot projects throughout the Nevada Judiciary: Children's Attorneys Project (CAP) Pro Bono Lawyer and Surrogate Education Advocacy, Children's Attorneys Project (CAP) Adoption Subsidy, Great Basin CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), Nevada CASA Association, Inc., Northeastern Nevada CASA, Licensed Kinship Caregivers, Parent to Parent Mentoring, and the Early Representation pilot project, to name a few.

In the past, most CIP efforts focused on the development and implementation of pilot projects in individual courts. During 2003-05, CIP worked closely with the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and other stakeholders to conduct Nevada's Child and Family Services Review (CFSR), develop its Program Improvement Plan (PIP), and conduct the CIP Re-Assessment. Over the past 12 months, CIP has expanded its involvement with the judiciary with more than 40% judicial participation in a CFSR Survey developed and distributed by DCFS staff; an Associate Justice, 9 Judges and Masters, and the CIP Coordinator volunteering (court calendars permitting) in the CFSR in Nevada scheduled for August 31 through September 4, 2009; and an 82% judicial participation in a CIP Survey on representation practice in Nevada. This expansion has worked to help us plan and develop changes statewide that will significantly improve the handling of child welfare cases.

State judicial leadership was established when, in 2006, Chief Justice Robert Rose agreed to chair the Court Improvement Committee, and the Committee was brought under the auspices of the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada as a permanent Standing Committee. The Court Improvement Committee was renamed to reflect a broader scope of its mission. The Committee is now known as *Court Improvement for the Protection and Permanency of Dependent Children*.

¹ For a complete history, please go to <http://www.ssa.gov/history/childb1.html>.

With the appointment of Associate Justice Nancy M. Saitta and her exemplary leadership, the Committee revamped its Mission, Purpose, and Goals Statement in 2009 to: “The Court Improvement Program (CIP) is a multidisciplinary project which seeks improvement of interrelated systems that serve children and families who enter the child welfare system. The program operates through team-oriented court and agency initiatives. The goal of the CIP is to make the systems more effective.”

To maintain focus for CIP initiatives throughout the State, three strategic plans have been developed that focus on: administration and planning; education and training (this document); and data collection, analysis, and sharing. To maximize resources and outcomes, the strategies outlined in the three strategic plans (Basic, Training, and Data) incorporate coordinated and collaborative efforts identified in the first Program Improvement Plan, the statewide Assessment and Re-Assessments, as well as other efforts initiated by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the Judicial Council, the State’s Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Clark County and Washoe County Departments of Social Services, and other entities involved in child welfare issues, both within Nevada and nationally.

A total of 21 strategies, (5 for Training), consisting of 99 activities (21 for Training), were identified to meet the goals and objectives of CIP in Nevada, and are contained in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 delineates the collaborative efforts, performed and planned across Nevada statewide, and with our federal partners and across the nation with other CIP Coordinators, staff from the AOC, Courts, Welfare Agencies, Law Enforcement, Schools, Service Providers, CASAs, University, Bar Associations, Hospitals, Foster and Adoptive Parent and other non-profit Organizations, Service Organizations, Churches, private businesses, and Indian tribes.

Chapter 2 – Strategic Plan

Each of the following strategies links specific activities to one of the three strategic plans, based upon their primary intent. The three strategic plans are:

- Basic [B] formerly referred to as Administration and Planning or [AP] (including planning required for Training and Data)
- Training [T] (this plan) formerly referred to as Education and Training or [ED] and
- Data [D] formerly referred to as Data Collection, Analysis and Sharing [DC]

Training Objectives

In the area of education and training, Nevada's CIP will focus on implementing continuing education and training for judicial officers and court staff involved in child welfare cases, collaborative training of participants in child welfare court events, and assistance in the training of specific stakeholder groups involved in the child welfare arena. The specific objectives in the education and training area are:

- Improve outcomes for children at risk and strengthen families;
- Present collaborative multi-disciplinary training to the judiciary, state and county child welfare agencies, and other stakeholders involved in child welfare matters; and,
- Encourage, and where appropriate, support training for specific stakeholder groups involved in the child welfare arena.

Training Strategies and Activities

The following five strategies have been defined to meet these objectives:

T1: Provide training opportunities for child welfare stakeholders, lawyers, and members of the judiciary to keep current on national trends, federal child welfare law, and best practices

This strategy provides the mechanism for sending CIP representatives and other pertinent child welfare stakeholders to national conferences to stay current in national trends and requirements pertaining to education and training regarding child welfare cases.

T2: Develop and implement continuing education programs and materials for Judges and Juvenile Masters on child welfare issues

This strategy affords judges and juvenile masters who hear child welfare cases meaningful and on-going training opportunities, both within Nevada and at the national level, to remain well-versed in all aspects of child welfare laws and issues, including ASFA requirements, ICWA requirements, and other state and federal statutory requirements.

T3: Develop and implement continuing education programs and materials for court staff involved in child welfare issues

Recognizing the unique demands on court staff involved in child welfare cases, this strategy provides meaningful and on-going training opportunities on aspects of child welfare laws and issues that impact the performance measures, standards, and best practices used by Judges and Court Hearing Masters, to meet ASFA requirements, ICWA requirements, and other state and federal statutory requirements.

T4: Develop and implement collaborative multi-disciplinary training and education regarding child welfare court events and best practices

A critical factor necessary to the enactment of successful systemic changes needed to the overall child welfare process is collaborative training across all stakeholders in the Nevada child welfare arena. This multi-disciplinary training will ensure that all participating

stakeholders are “on the same page” regarding events, processes, outcomes, best practices, and expectations for all players in the various events associated with child welfare cases. This strategy provides the mechanism to enact this collaborative training.

T5: Support training and education for specific stakeholder groupings involved in child welfare court events

This strategy provides a mechanism for CIP to assist child welfare stakeholder groups in developing and holding local training, supporting projects that promote training, or attend pertinent national training, concerning court child welfare issues.

The remaining pages of this chapter delineate each of these five strategies. For each strategy, the necessary activities that must be completed to satisfy the strategy are listed. For each activity, the following is provided: description, accountable party(s), interim benchmarks, completion indicators, and an anticipated timeframe for performing the activity.

Strategy	Activity	Accountable Party	Benchmarks	Timeline
<p>T 1. Provide opportunities for child welfare stakeholders, lawyers, and members of the judiciary to keep current on to education and training national trends, federal child welfare law and best practices and standards</p>	<p>T 1.1 Send up to three representatives to national conferences</p>	<p>CIP Reps AOC Reps</p>	<p>Participation in national conferences</p> <p>Each participant will report to the CIP Select Committee on the Conference and identify projects/resources that would improve Nevada's judicial system.</p>	<p>Each fiscal year</p>
	<p>T 1.2 Appoint CIP member to work with Youth Advisory Councils as required by FCIA (aka Chaffee)</p>	<p>CIP Reps AOC Reps Child Welfare Agencies</p>	<p>Participation in Youth Advisory Councils Meeting minutes and/or reports prepared and distributed to CIP members</p>	<p>Each fiscal year beginning FY 2008</p>
	<p>T 1.3 Assist in sending foster youth to a national conference sponsored by a National Resource Center. Through scholarships awarded through a competitive process not to exceed \$1,000 each for a maximum of five youth/year.</p>	<p>CIP coordinator CASA Foster Parents Assoc. CIP Select Committee</p>	<p>Announcement of Conference, dissemination of application, review of applications received, and awarding of scholarships</p> <p>Reports to the CIP Select Committee at meeting following Conference</p>	<p>FY 2009</p> <p>Revised: FY-2010</p>
	<p>T 1.4 Send a 5-person team to attend the Judicial Leadership Summit</p>	<p>CIP Reps</p>	<p>Participation in Judicial Leadership Summit and report to the CIP Committee on the Summit any updates on the state plan</p> <p>State Plan Revisions, Training, or other materials from Summit</p>	<p>FY 2011</p>
	<p>T 1.5 CIP Coordinator and other CIP members attend national conferences pertaining to Strategic Planning and annual Court Improvement Program (Agencies and Courts Conf.)</p>	<p>CIP Coordinator CIP Members or their reps</p>	<p>Participation in Annual Agencies and Courts Conference</p> <p>Reports to the CIP Select Committee at meeting following Conference</p>	<p>Each fiscal year</p>

Strategy	Activity	Accountable Party	Benchmarks	Timeline
2. Develop and implement continuing education programs and materials for judges and juvenile masters on child welfare issues	2.1 In collaboration with the Judicial Education unit of the AOC and national consultants, establish a baseline for training curriculum and priorities.	CIP Contractor AOC Judicial Ed Judicial officers DCFS Other stakeholders	Identify baseline training curriculum and priorities by using surveys and/or interviews, reviewing national judicial education standards Training Subcommittees established Baseline curriculum and priority document	Each fiscal year starting Sept. 2008 Revised: ongoing
	2.2 Develop “nutshell” dependency training in conjunction with agency, AOC Judicial Education, correlated with the Judicial Benchbook on child welfare cases for courtroom practice	CIP Contractor AOC Judicial Ed Judicial officers DCFS	“Nutshell” training material outline “Nutshell” training materials and curriculum	Each fiscal year
	2.3 Adapt “nutshell” dependency course as a 4-hour refresher courses (for subsequent years)	CIP Contractor AOC Judicial Ed	“Nutshell” refresher training material outline “Nutshell” refresher training material and curriculum	Each fiscal year
	2.4 Provide training on child welfare issues at annual Family Law Judges and Nevada District Judges Association conferences	CIP Contractor AOC Judicial Ed Judicial officers	Child welfare tracks in conference schedules annually Speakers identified and contracted, as necessary Training evaluation and feedback collected	Each fiscal year
	2.5 Send up to two judicial officers to Child Abuse and Neglect Institute (NCJFCJ) training	CIP Judicial officers	Post dates of conference on CIP website Participation in national conference and reports to the CIP Select Committee at meeting following Conference	Each fiscal year

Strategy	Activity	Accountable Party	Benchmarks	Timeline
3. Develop and implement continuing education programs and materials for court staff on child welfare issues	3.1 Identify and develop baseline training and education material for court staff involved in child welfare cases	CIP Contractor AOC Judicial Ed Court reps	Hire consultant to assist in setting baseline curriculum and priorities Identify baseline training curriculum and priorities by using surveys and/or interviews Baseline curriculum and training materials	Each fiscal year starting FY2009
	3.2 Update training and education material for court staff (for subsequent years)	CIP Contractor AOC Judicial Ed Court Reps	Necessary updates identified Updated child welfare training materials	Every other fiscal year
	3.3 Provide training and/or resources on child welfare issues at Court Administrators and Clerks Conferences	CIP Contractor AOC Judicial Ed Court administrators & reps	Child welfare tracks and/or resources provided in conferences scheduled biennially Speakers identified and contracted, as necessary Training evaluation and feedback collected Resources and materials made available at conference, through request, or on-line Reports to the CIP Select Committee at meeting following Conference	Every other fiscal year

Strategy	Activity	Accountable Party	Benchmarks	Timeline
<p>4. Develop and implement collaborative multi-disciplinary training and education regarding child welfare court law, standards, and best practices</p> <p>4 continued on next page</p>	<p>4.1 Revised: Organize four regional conferences: one half-day training at minimum on specific practice, policy, subject matter, research, best practices, on-going collaboration, and issues identified in the representation surveys, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial leadership regarding change in the treatment of parties involved in child abuse and neglect cases • Safety and risk assessment • ASFA requirements and timeframes • The <i>Resource Guidelines</i> and other best practices in child protection cases • Diligent search • Compelling reasons • Reasonable efforts • Understanding concurrent planning • Purpose, scope, and expectations for each hearing type • Increase parental involvement in case planning • Improve visitation practice • Older Youth • PIP strategies designed to improve the case planning and case review process) • New child welfare agency policies and practices • Substance use and its impact on children, families, and the courts • Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 (MEPA) 	<p>CIP Contractor AOC Judicial Ed Judicial officers DCFS Other stakeholders</p>	<p>Curriculum and training materials updated based upon feedback</p> <p>Trainers contracted or otherwise obtained</p> <p>Training calendar disseminated</p> <p>Attendance at regional training and training evaluation and feedback collected</p> <p>Reports to the CIP Select Committee at meeting following Conference</p>	<p>Each fiscal year starting FY2009</p>

Strategy	Activity	Accountable Party	Benchmarks	Timeline
<p>T4. Develop and implement collaborative multi-disciplinary training and education regarding child welfare court events and best practices (continued)</p>	<p>T 4.2 (Formerly B 2.8) Appropriate funds on an annual basis for local pilot programs relating to improving educational resources for children at risk. 1 grant/year @ \$15K</p>	<p>CIP Other stakeholders Consultant</p>	<p>Identify annual goals and priorities, announce grant funds, review applications and award funds Annual review of pilot programs Report on results Make appropriate recommendations regarding continued funding Assist in obtaining continued funding, as appropriate Revised: Evaluation of pilot project for Educational Surrogates in Clark County</p>	<p>Each fiscal year June 2009</p>
	<p>T 4.3 Annual statewide CASA multidisciplinary conference focusing on issues facing children and families at risk in Nevada for all stakeholders</p>	<p>CIP DCFS AOC Judicial Ed NV CASA Assn UNR/UNLV reps</p>	<p>Curriculum updated based upon feedback Trainers contracted or otherwise obtained Judicial officers and attorneys invited Conferences held annually Training evaluation and feedback collected Reports to the CIP Select Committee at meeting following Conference</p>	<p>Each fiscal year starting FY 2009</p>
	<p>T 4.4 Develop and present targeted training on improving the representation of parents in abuse and neglect proceedings, including trial skills and web based training.</p>	<p>CIP DCFS AOC Judicial Ed AOC IT Consultant</p>	<p>Appoint an adhoc working group to be facilitated by a consultant to develop the curriculum Facilitated meetings Curriculum development Recommendations on curriculum Identify and review web-based training curriculum units Report to the CIP Select Committee at meeting following training</p>	<p>Revised: Oct 2009 April 2010 Revised: May 2010</p>

Strategy	Activity	Accountable Party	Benchmarks	Timeline
<p>T5. Support training and education for specific groups of stakeholders</p> <p>T5 continued on next page</p>	<p>T5.1 Work with stakeholders to develop training programs and materials for stakeholders, including supporting local and statewide pilot projects that show collaborative efforts regarding best practices in child welfare cases, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ASFA mandates and timeframe requirements ▪ The <i>Resource Guidelines</i> and other best practices in child protection cases ▪ Adoption stability ▪ Behavioral Health ▪ Child development ▪ Educational rights/services ▪ Roles and responsibilities ▪ Increase parental involvement ▪ Meaningful visitation ▪ Older Youth ▪ New child welfare agency policies and practices ▪ Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children 	<p>CIP Contractor AOC Judicial Ed Judicial officers DCFS WCDSS CCDFS Foster and Adoptive Parent Associations Lawyers CASA Volunteers Youth Advisory Boards Schools and Universities Other stakeholders</p>	<p>Training opportunities identified, as needed Trainers/consultants contracted or otherwise obtained Curriculum and training materials developed Stakeholders' participation Training held, as appropriate Training evaluation and feedback collected Reports to the CIP Select Committee at meeting following Conference</p>	<p>FY2009 thru FY2014</p>

Strategy	Activity	Accountable Party	Benchmarks	Timeline
T5. Support training and education for specific groups of stakeholders (continued)	T 5.2 Develop short training DVD for existing and newly recruited foster parents on expectations in court	CIP Coordinator CIP Chair CIP Members Judicial or other Court staff Film crew from Universities Foster and Adoptive Parent Associations	Training topics identified as needed Filming crew contracted or otherwise obtained Training DVD developed and disseminated Training evaluation and feedback collected Reports to the CIP Select Committee at meeting following Conference	FY 2010
	T 5.3 Develop short training DVD for youth in foster care on expectations in court in support of B 2.10 activity	CIP Coordinator CIP Chair CIP Members Judicial or other Court staff Film crew from Universities Youth Advisory Board reps.	Training topics identified as needed Filming crew contracted or otherwise obtained Training DVD developed and disseminated Training evaluation and feedback collected Reports to the CIP Select Committee at meeting following Conference	FY 2011
	T.5.4 Appropriate funds on an annual basis for local pilot program relating to improving post adoption services in support of findings of B 2.10 activity	CIP Other stakeholders Contractor	Announce grant funds, review applications, and award funds Report on results (data) collected to CIP Committee Annual review of pilot programs	Each fiscal year beginning 2010

Chapter 3 – Collaboration Efforts

Collaboration Efforts to Date

The Nevada CIP has a long history of working with DCFS, the Child and Family Services Divisions of Clark and Washoe Counties, and representatives from other stakeholder groups [e.g., attorney groups representing children and parents and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)]. Since the inception of CIP, the heads (or designated representatives) of these agencies and organizations have been members of the CIP Committee. Either the Chief Justice or a Justice of the Supreme Court has chaired the Committee.

The three CIP Strategic Plans have been developed to closely align and compliment the PIP goals for Nevada relating to the courts. To foster more complete communication and exchange of ideas, CIP and DCFS, Clark County Department of Family Services, and Washoe County Department of Social Services hold monthly status and planning meetings to review and coordinate efforts articulated in the PIP and the CIP Strategic Plan(s). In the past 5 years, CIP has either completed or started 15 strategies and numerous activities that involve collaboration with Courts in all 9 judicial districts, DCFS, Washoe County Department of Social Services (WCDSS), Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS), Clark County's Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (LACSN), Washoe County's Sierra Association of Foster Families, Washoe Legal Services, Clark County's Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevadans (VARN), statewide and local CASA Programs across the state, National Resource Centers, and other state Court Improvement Programs and Child Welfare Agencies. Court representatives have participated in the previous two Title IV-E Foster Care Eligibility Reviews conducted in Nevada. This participation has included judges, masters, and AOC personnel. The Court Improvement Program Coordinator served as a reviewer for the entire IV-E review process conducted the first week of June 2008, and will serve as a reviewer for the CFSR in August 2009.

Nevada CIP is also collaborating with the Nevada Division of Children and Family Services on a funding opportunity authorized by the Promoting Safe and Stable Families (PSSF) Program. The funding opportunity, a Regional Partnership Grant on methamphetamine or other substance abuse, known as the "Meth Grant" was awarded to Nevada. The Child and

Family Services Improvement Act (Public Law (P.L.) 109-288) reauthorized the PSSF program through FY 2011 and is designed to increase the well being of, improve permanency outcomes for, and enhance the safety of children who are in out-of-home placement as a result of a parent's or caretaker's methamphetamine abuse or other substance abuse. This 5-year grant for over \$1 million allocated \$30,000 for the first year to the Court Improvement Program for their agreement to collaborate with the Attorney General's Office to conduct training for judges and other key stakeholders, such as prosecutors and law enforcement. Due to budgetary and staffing restraints, the Attorney General's Office recommended that funding slated for distribution to them be allocated to the Court Improvement Program, which did occur.

Due to circumstances including staffing issues, the first year meth grant funding was requested to be rolled over to the second year. A budget and plan for the second year showing collaboration with the Sierra Association of Foster Families, who was to host the National Foster Parent's Association conference in Reno, NV, May 3-9, 2009, was collaboratively discussed, prepared, and submitted. The CIP Coordinator prepared and submitted application and was granted a block of time to present a 6-Hour Institute at the annual education conference, with the title of the workshop "Dependency Court Proceedings, Roles and Responsibilities: The Special Case of Methamphetamine." With the goal to increase the well-being of, and improve the permanency outcomes for children affected by methamphetamine or substance abuse, Court Improvement Program staff teamed with Sierra Association of Foster Families, the Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association, the Division of Child and Family Services, and the National Foster Parents Association, to host the one-day Institute on May 4, 2009.

The institute provided a comprehensive and in-depth picture of the impact of methamphetamine on Nevada families, with presentations by experts on assessment, treatment, and community resources. The agenda included a structured presentation by subject matter experts and an open discussion facilitated by panels to strengthen understanding of the importance of all partners involved with families experiencing substance abuse. Presenters had varied backgrounds. They were from Child and Family Futures, Tru Vista, WestCare, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washoe County Department of Social Services,

University of Nevada-School of Medicine, and Sierra Association of Foster Families. A 7-member panel and moderator concluded the day. The Moderator was a national consultant with the National Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues, American Bar Association (ABA) Center on Children and the Law, and the panel consisted of a Mental Health Court Judge from the 1st Judicial District, the Specialty Moms Court Judge in the 8th Judicial District, the Office of the Attorney General, the Washoe County Public Defender's Office, Washoe Legal Services, a Specialty Court Coordinator from the 8th Judicial District, and the Washoe County Department of Children's Services.

Collaborative work on this was by the CIP Coordinator, the Program Services Director for the National Foster Parent Association, the Director of Sierra Association of Foster Families, a Clinical Program Planner from the Division of Child and Family Services, a Consultant for the Division, the President of the Clark County Foster Parent's Association, and a foster parent. Additional outreach and collaboration was completed when the CIP Coordinator made arrangements and then attended a Board of Directors meeting of the Sierra Association of Foster Families. The support of the AOC, including the Budget Manager, Accountant, Accounting Assistants, and our part-time contract Assistant, made the time-consuming process work as smooth and efficient as possible.

Utilization of this funding also allowed for the filming of the training institute, and sections will be used to develop a training video on this subject that can be disseminated throughout the state upon its completion.

Additionally, this funding made possible, the attendance of participants from the following agencies at the National Association of Drug Court Professionals in Anaheim, CA, in May 2009: Carson City District Attorney's Office; Carson City Alternative Sentencing Department; Las Vegas Municipal Court; White Pine County District Attorney's Office; Reno Municipal Court; Parole & Probation; and District Attorney, 6th Judicial District.

Throughout the years, CIP has provided funding to several education and training efforts for stakeholders in child welfare cases as well as jointly sponsored workgroups to discuss pressing issues in the child welfare arena. (Please see attached Table of Collaborative Partners for listing of specific names and associated businesses).

Planned Collaboration Efforts

In early 2006, in an effort to expand its influence throughout the state, it was decided that the CIP committee should be brought under the framework of the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada.

In 2008, the CIP committee was expanded to include a tribal judge from the Duckwater Shoshone tribe in Ely, and two private attorneys; one a private practice attorney in Northern Nevada who has had first-hand experience in taking an extremely complex dependency case pro bono, and a private attorney in practice in Southern Nevada, who was recently honored at the Pro Bono Awards Ceremony in Clark County as an attorney having donated 100 or more hours of her time. For the first time in the history of Nevada CIP, a member of the Nevada Assembly was appointed, Debbie Smith.

In early 2009, the CIP Select Committee was further reconstituted. The Director of Washoe County Department of Social Services retired from his position, and although he resigned from the committee, he was asked by CIP Chair Justice Saitta, and did agree, to work with CIP in an ongoing advisory capacity. Two CASA program directors, one from Washoe County and one from Clark County, stepped down from the committee and recommended that the statewide CASA Executive Director be appointed as he could represent the all CASA programs throughout the state. Judge Michael Gibbons also ended his service to the CIP committee on January 31, 2009, after having served since its inception in 1995. He said he believed that there will be a rural judge representative with Judge Puccinelli continuing on, so the committee would receive effective input. Judge Gibbons also said he would continue to be involved in this field as a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and as a Board member with the Nevada State CASA Association. The final change in the membership came with Tammy Tovey-Stephenson, Deputy Attorney General stepping down, but also agreeing upon appointment by Justice Saitta, to Co-Chair an Education Subcommittee with Judge Deborah Schumacher from the Second Judicial District Family Court. The final addition to the Select Committee is Cindy Pyzel, Deputy Chief Attorney General. Cindy's extensive history with the Nevada Attorney General's Office and working with the Division of Child and Family Services will make her a valuable member of the committee. (Please see Appendix A for an up to date CIP Select Committee Roster).

During the next year, the CIP Coordinator will visit most of the nine judicial districts, and if possible, the CIP Chair, State Court Administrator, the statewide CASA Director, and possibly a retired juvenile court judge will join her. The purpose of these meetings is to strengthen collaborative efforts at the local level. As a result of the CIP coordinator's participation in the IV-E review, more representatives from the courts and private attorneys have indicated a willingness to participate in the IV-E review and CFSR processes. On a national level, collaboration has taken place between numerous states involved in the National Data Exchange Project. Nevada started with the collaboration between CIP and the National Center of State Courts (NCSC). This project has grown now to include multiple states and multiple stakeholders from multi-disciplinary entities.

Staff from the AOC has met with the Judicial Tribal Consortium, an informal group of local, state, and tribal officials throughout Nevada, several times a year focusing on court-related matters, including the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) and child welfare issues. Most recently, a 1-day Regional Roundtable was sponsored by the Nevada Indian Commission and Division of Child and Family Services working with Casey Family Programs on July 27, 2009, in Reno, NV. The CIP Coordinator, along with CIP Consultant Joanne Brown, attended the one-day roundtable, and at the conclusion of the meeting, attendees were appreciative of the participation and offer to assist in future endeavors. This resulted in an inquiry about from the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc., to attend, make presentation, and/or participate in the 44th annual ITCN Convention in November 2009.

Discussions have also been held with CIP Member Judge Teresa Sprouse to discuss working together on needed projects with our tribes such as foster care, including recruitment, retention, training, and funding; domestic violence training with the emerging focus on our children that are in and around domestic violence and the issues of perpetrators who do not see themselves as a batterers; developing CASA programs; lack of nearby resources; identifying needs and sponsoring training around ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act); and because tribes are different, two areas of need are around legislation and education.

In August 2009, meeting and collaborating with the entire "team" that attended the Annual CIP Meeting of Agencies and Courts affirmed our commitment to one another to continue working together. Attendees included an AOC Deputy Director, CIP member and Attorney at

Law, CIP Coordinator, Assistant Director of Clark County Department of Family Services (CCDFS), Rural Region Social Services Manager for the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Child Protection Services Manager for DCFS, Director of Washoe County's Department of Social Services (WCDSS) - Children's Services, Adoptions Specialist from DCFS, Supervisor from WCDSS, and Manager from CCDFS.

On a national level, sharing of information occurs continually through the use of the CIP list serve and through our National Resource Center partners. This has proven helpful in gathering information on the Early Representation pilot project, conversing with CIP coordinators from different states on how they are progressing on projects, sharing ideas and developed materials, and providing information on additional funding opportunities.

(Please see attached Table of Collaborative Partners for listing of specific names and associated businesses).

These joint ventures show what success can be achieved when forces are joined together, not only on a local basis, but across the nation, as we all work to tackle issues common to every state.

Judicial Council of the State of Nevada
COURT IMPROVEMENT FOR THE PROTECTION AND PERMANENCY
OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN (CIP) SELECT COMMITTEE

(Revised August 27, 2009)

Justice Nancy M. Saitta, Chair
Supreme Court of Nevada

Diane J. Comeaux

Administrator
Division of Child and Family Services

Judge Cynthia Dianne Steel

District Court Judge
8th Judicial District Court/ Family Division

William "Bill" E. Fowler

Executive Director
Nevada CASA Association, Inc.

Ron Titus

Director and State Court Administrator
Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Tom Morton

Director
Clark County Dept of Family Services

Erika Pike Turner, Esq.

Attorney at Law
Gordon Silver

Kathleen M. O'Leary

Chief Deputy Public Defender
Washoe County Public Defender's Office

Janice Wolf, Esq.

Attorney at Law
Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada

Judge Andrew Puccinelli

District Court Judge
4th Judicial District Court

Members Emeritus

Judge Michael Gibbons

District Court Judge
9th Judicial District Court

Cynthia "Cindy" Pyzel

Chief Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Nevada Attorney General

Mary Herzik

Director
Washoe County CASA

Kevin Schiller

Director
Washoe County Dept of Social Services

Tammy Tovey Stephenson

Senior Deputy Attorney General
Office of the Nevada Attorney General

Judge Deborah E. Schumacher

District Court Judge
2nd Judicial District Court

Pat Thacker

Director
Clark County CASA

Assemblywoman Debbie Smith

Assembly District 30, Nevada

Chief Judge Teresa Sprouse

Tribal Judge
Duckwater Shoshone Tribal Court

Committee Staff

Sheryl A. Overstreet

Coordinator
Court Improvement Program (CIP)
Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Robbie Taft

Assistant
Court Improvement Program (CIP)
Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Table of Collaborative Partners for Training Grant

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Individual Names</u>
Administrative Office of the Courts	Michael Bell Deanna Bjork Vickie Elefante Patricia Hudgins Hans Jessup Joyce Kiel Evie Lancaster Jan McGinty Scott Sosebee Robin Sweet Tina Tubridy Anna Verbanac
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Norma Moyle
Child and Family Futures	Ken DeCerchio Theresa Lemus
Clancy Productions	Gwendolyn Clancy
Clark County Foster and Adoptive Parent Association	Phil Lankford
<u>Courts</u> 2nd Judicial District Court 7th Judicial District Court 8th Judicial District Court Carson City Justice/Municipal Court Las Vegas Municipal Court Reno Municipal Court	Joey Orduna Stephen Bishop Judge Jennifer Elliott Michael Lea Pam Towers Rory Planeta Judge John Tatro Greg Walls Rick Baltierra Scott Coppa Mashal Malik Terri Vaus-Wong
Department of Public Safety State Parole & Probation	Robin McGahuey
Division of Child and Family Services	Paul Bowen
Foster Parent	Anita Stephens
Lander County District Attorney's Office	Hy Forgeron
National Foster Parent's Association	Christin Kundert
National Resource Center on Legal & Judicial Issues	Joanne Brown Nancy Miller
Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence	Elizabeth Stoffel Sandra-Mae Pickens
Office of the Attorney General (Reno)	Sharon Benson
Office of the District Attorney (Carson City)	Mary-Margaret Madden Neil Rombardo
Sierra Association of Foster Families	Joseph Galata Mary Sondgrath Jerry Trigueros Shelby Young

Table of Collaborative Partners includes individuals who have at some time worked on a CIP-related project, including our contract and subgrant partners, and/or individuals or entities who share our common goal(s).

Tru Vista	Crystal Hallock
University of Nevada - School of Medicine	Dr. Melissa Piasecki
Volunteer Attorneys for Rural Nevada	Valerie Cooney
Washoe County Department of Children's Services	Jeanne Marsh
Washoe County District Attorney's Office	Lance White
Washoe County Public Defender's Office	Paige Dollinger Jennifer Rains
Washoe Legal Services	Karen Palmer Karen Sabo
West Care	Jennifer Hatterman Delores Wirth

Table of Collaborative Partners includes individuals who have at some time worked on a CIP-related project, including our contract and subgrant partners, and/or individuals or entities who share our common goal(s).