



Court Improvement Program

Community Improvement Councils News July-September 2017

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2018 Community Improvement Council Summit Scheduled

**SAME TIME, SAME PLACE,
ONE YEAR LATER**

September 26 -28, 2018

Please mark your calendars for next September's CIC Summit at the Renaissance Hotel in Reno. Parking was easy, rooms were comfortable, and food was tasty. Please let Kathie know if there were any glitches with the venue that can be improved upon for next year.

75 JOIN TOGETHER IN RENO TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

District Court Judges from across the state gathered at the Judge's Round Table for the CIC Summit to discuss court orders, appeals, reasonable efforts, and warrants. During the next two days, 75 participants representing CIC teams from all 11 judicial districts came together to learn about and discuss the fundamental keys to unlocking the quality hearing door. Christopher Church, JD., Law and Policy Director of the Children's Law Center at the University of South

Carolina, presented a different way of looking at dependency data that provided a deeper explanation of timeliness which is simply an end measure. These additional measures helped the CICs understand some of what takes place to get to these end measures. These statistics will help them plan more effective interventions. Each CIC created an action plan for the upcoming year that included how they are going to monitoring one of their actions.

**For More
Information
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The Investment Opportunity of a Lifetime, One That Carries Little Risk and Promises Great Rewards:

Juvenile Dependency Mediation

These days a good investment is hard to find. During the first year of implementation, the Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program (JDMP) helped 152 children achieve permanency at an average cost of only \$279.59 per child. That is 152 children who are not likely to age out of the system. One hundred fifty-two children who have a better chance at life, at education, and at being loved and wanted.

A study funded by the Jim Casey Youth Opportunities Initiative estimated that the outcome differences between youth aging out of foster care and the general population is nearly \$5,700,000,000 for each annual cohort of youth leaving care. The study looks at three key areas: education, family formation, and criminal justice.

◆ One cohort year graduating at the rate of the general population (87%) would increase earnings over a working life	\$748,800,000
◆ One cohort year unplanned parenthood (71% of females aging out of foster care compared to 34% of general population) based on the cost of first 15 years of life for the first child	\$115,627,350
◆ One cohort year criminal justice costs for a criminal career (males aging out of foster care are 4 times more likely and females 10 times more likely to have been arrested)	\$4,833,736,200
Total for education, unplanned pregnancy and criminal involvement for each cohort year	\$5,698,163,550

In just its first year of implementation, 101 mediations were ordered to JDMP, with only ten in which either parents or attorneys didn't show up, resulting in 91 mediations being conducted across the state. Seventy-seven (77) or 85% of those mediations resulted in full or partial agreement. In the first quarter of the second year of implementation, 48 mediations were ordered with 12 in which parents didn't show or mediation was cancelled, resulting in 36 mediations being held. Thirty-two (32) or 88% of those mediations resulted in full or partial agreement.

The use of mediation is increasing and is successful. At the current rate, it can be anticipated that 2.5 times more mediations will be conducted in the second year of implementation compared to the first year of JDMP, meaning that 380 more children could find permanent, safe homes as a result.

CIP Funding Remains Endangered

As with last year, the current Continuing Resolution which took effect on September 30 only includes \$10 million for the CIP basic grant because it is based on the Congressional Budget Office's FY 2017 baseline budget, not the Omnibus Bill passed last April. The Children's Bureau has confirmed that 75% of the \$10 million basic grant will be awarded in the 1st quarter of the Fiscal Year with the remainder most likely to follow in the 3rd quarter.

The American Bar Association, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the National Center for State Courts, the National CASA Association, and the National Association of Counsel for Children are all working to get the other \$20 million included in the final FY 2018 appropriations bill and have had several positive meetings in the past few weeks with staff in both the House and Senate. They

also continue to advocate for reauthorization of all three grants as part of a longer term solution. At each meeting, they share a two page document outlining CIP successes and benefits across the country and in several states including Nevada.

Nevada's Upcoming Federal Child and Family Services Review

During the CIP Summit the Division of Child and Family Services' Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and Quality Assurance Coordinator, Jan Fragale, presented information on Nevada's Federal CFSR upcoming in 2018. The last CFSR for Nevada was held in 2009. Federal Regulations established this process in 2000 as a means to monitor all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Nevada has conducted CFSR-style reviews utilizing the entire standardized federal instrument called the Onsite Review Instrument (OSRI) since 2015. The review is very intensive requiring detail case file review of both child welfare and court documents as well as interviews with key participants in a case (e.g., the child, foster parent and parents).

Since the review is so intensive requiring many resources to conduct; the State has partnered with Clark and Washoe County for staff resources to conduct the review. Consequently, an increased number of cases can be reviewed, but not to

the level of what is often referred to as "statistical significance". Nonetheless, the Children's Bureau has indicated that states can no longer use "statistical significance" as an excuse for not recognizing the significance of the CFSR.

Alicia Summers, Ph.D., Director of Research and Evaluation for the Capacity Building Center for the Courts advises that statistical significance really only matters when doing statistical analysis or prediction. The CFSR is an in-depth qualitative and quantitative review of cases. The size of the sample is not what makes it representative or not representative of the state. The sample is a *random sample* of cases, which makes it more likely to be representative of the population from which it is drawn (i.e., the entire state of Nevada foster care population). The Children's Bureau further argues that each case that is reviewed in the CFSR reflects the voice of that child, foster parent or parent and that the voice of one

child, one foster parent or one parent in one case is significant. The states have been told to focus on how that one child's and that one family's capacities can be enhanced to ensure that family is safe and stable in their community. If something arises as a significant concern in a small random sample of cases, it is likely representative of a larger issue.

For More
Information
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THE LINE UP:

CIP On-Line Training for the Judiciary, Attorneys, CASAs and Dependency Stakeholders

As part of its strategy to improve legal representation in dependency cases, CIP is offering the following on-line courses:

Dependency Attorney Training: this 5-module training led by Justice Nancy Saitta is designed for all attorneys and CASAs. Since it launched in January 2017, 81 have registered to take the course for 7 CLEs including .5 ethics credits. (Contact: [Robbie Taft / rtaft@nvcourts.nv.gov](mailto:rtaft@nvcourts.nv.gov))

Indian Child Welfare Act Regulations: this 3-module training conducted by Victoria Sweet, Esq., National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, is designed specifically for the judiciary, but appropriate for all dependency court stakeholders. Since its debut on September 5, 2017, 13 have registered to take the course for 2 CLEs. (Contact: [Leyco Rivas / lrvivas@nvcourts.nv.gov](mailto:lrvivas@nvcourts.nv.gov))

The Legal Representation of Children training designed for attorneys representing children in dependency cases has been taped and is expected to launch in the next few months after editing into modules.

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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. July 2015, the 11th JD was created. 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.

**CIP Working for the Protection &
 Permanency of Dependent Children**
 Visit Our Web Site
<http://cip.nvcourts.gov>

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