



Court Improvement Program

Community Improvement Councils Quarterly News January-March 2016

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Save the Date
2016 Community Improvement Council Summit
September 28-30, 2016

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The judges will be receiving a survey conducted by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to help identify 2016 CIC Summit training topics in the next few weeks. If you have ideas, please let your judges know.

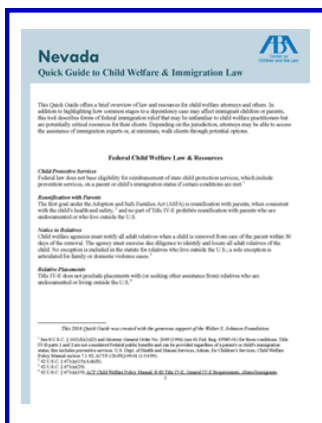
Judicial Training a Huge Success

The “Best Hearing Practices in Child Abuse and Neglect cases for Nevada” was proclaimed outstanding by all in attendance. Judges Stephen Rubin (retired) and Judge Michael R. Key, Troup County, GA. engaged 13 judges and masters from

across the state about the value of involving children in the process, the importance of and how to make all the required findings at all hearings, improving reasonable efforts findings, and the role of a judicial officer and leader-

ship. Training participants projected that permanency and timeliness, outcomes, and greater accountability will improve in their courtrooms as a result of this training.

Nevada Quick Guide to Child Welfare and Immigration Law



CIP worked with the ABA Center for Children and the Law to develop an attorney’s guide to child welfare and immigration. The Quick Guide offers a brief overview of law and resources for child welfare attorneys and others. In addition to highlighting how common stages of a dependency case may affect immigrant children

and their parents, this tool describes forms of federal immigration relief that may be unfamiliar to child welfare practitioners. The Guide is available on CIP’s website. Copy and paste the link listed below then click on the “Quick Links” under Resources and Articles.

For More Information
Contact:
Kathie Malzahn-Bass

Dependency Mediation is **GROWING** in Nevada

Best Training **EVER!**



That pretty much sums up the reaction to the CIP funded dependency mediation training. On March 7 – 11, 20 people, nominated by district court judges across the state, completed a 40 hour dependency mediation course taught by Margaret M. Crowley, Esq., a certified mediator and mediation instructor. All participants reported that the instructor’s knowledge of material, organization, content and relevancy of materials and clarity of course expectations were outstanding. Comments about the training included: “wonderfully organized and informative,” “one of the best trainings I have been to on ANY subject,” and “great mix of lec-

ture, role play, and PowerPoint – kept interest high and facilitated learning.” Five mock mediations were conducted to ensure that all trainees had the opportunity to practice their mediation skills. Highly experienced mediators observed these mediations to determine which of the trainees had the skillset to be able to effectively handle dependency mediation. Dependency mediation is not for everyone. The intent is to invite only those trainees most likely to be successful to join the statewide dependency mediation panel.

WHAT’s NEXT? Statewide Dependency Mediation

Prior to the mediation training, CIP applied for a two-year federal pass through Victims of Crime Act grant from the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) to fund implementation of a statewide dependency mediation program. DCFS has received 56 applications for the \$17.49 million that has come into the State for July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2018. CIP will be notified the first week of May if it receives the \$239,300 for which it applied for the two-year period. The intent of creating a statewide program is to ensure that dependency mediation is implemented consist-

ently with fidelity to best practices throughout the state.

Several judges are so delighted with the possibility of including dependency mediation in their arsenal of best hearing practices that they are already finding ways to fund dependency mediations in their judicial districts. Margaret Crowley is providing these newly minted mediators with guidance and mentoring to ensure that the program is properly implemented.

**For Additional
Information
Contact:
Kathie Malzahn-Bass**

The Laws: They Are a Changin'

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) In December 2015, Congress reauthorized the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). For the first time, it contains key protections for students in foster care to promote school stability and success, and requires collaboration with the 2008 Fostering Connections to Success dual-agency responsibility for support-care. School stability protections include: ment in school and transfer of school records transportation when necessary. Per ESSA, funded from the McKinney-Vento Homeless 432B during the upcoming legislative session. ber 10, 2016. Nevada and Delaware have an extension until December 10, 2017 to allow sufficient time to remove the phrase “awaiting foster care placement” from their state child welfare statutes.

LAWS
you need to
KNOW

between education and child welfare. Together cess and Increasing Adoptions Act, ESSA envi- ing the educational success of students in foster remaining in the same school, immediate enroll- if a move is in child’s best interest, and school foster children will no longer receive services Assistance Act. This requires modification of Implementation timelines are short - by Decem-

Nevada CSEC Coalition



The implementation of the **Prevent- ing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act** (P.L. 113-183) was to be phased in over a two-year period after it was signed into law in September 2014. Most of the improving foster child opportuni- ties and supporting permanency por- tions of the act were codified in NRS and implemented by September 2015. The protecting children and youth at risk of sex trafficking portions of the act were to be phased in over two years. The Statewide Action Plan to

Prevent Commercial Sexual Exploita- tion of Children (CSEC) was submitted to the Children’s Bureau last Septem- ber. This year, states must demon- strate to the Secretary of Health and Human Services that child welfare is implementing the plan. To accomplish this, Nevada Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) has recently contracted with Sierra Mountain Be- havior Consulting to coordinate the Coalition to Prevent CSEC and its committees. Their initial focus will be on developing a response protocol and training.

If You Would Like to Join One of the CSEC Committees Contact: Kathie Malzahn-Bass

Help Tackling Child Sex Trafficking in Nevada

CIP spearheaded a multi-agency re- quest for help addressing the child sex trafficking problem in Nevada. CIP along with the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) and the De- partment of Education submitted a successful application to request tech- nical assistance with the implementa- tion of the commercial sexual exploi- tation of children portion of P.L. 113- 183. The State of Nevada is one of six jurisdictions in the country selected to

participate in a new federal initiative to assist states serve at-risk youth who are involved in multiple systems. The Center for Coordinated Assis- tance to States within Georgetown University will assist Nevada’s multi- disciplinary team develop stronger formal relationships and structural alignments to improve system pro- cesses and outcomes for child victims of sex trafficking.



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

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