



Court Improvement Program

Community Improvement Councils News

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SAVE THE DATE

2018 Community Improvement Council Summit has a New Venue

We will all gather at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa in Reno on September 26–28, 2018, to discuss the hearing quality study, to learn how to navigate the new University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill data tool, and to gain a better understanding of the expectations of the Families First Prevention Services Act. Using the results of the survey conducted by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Courts Judges last month, a judicial planning committee is working to fashion the best Summit thus far.

See you in September!

The 11th Judicial District Hosts Super CIC Meeting – ICWA Training

The 11th JD spans three wide spread counties – Lander, Mineral, and Pershing – making regular, joint CIC meetings difficult. During the 2016 CIC Summit, the 11th JD decided to schedule an annual SUPER CIC to compliment regular quarterly CIC meetings set in each county with the intention of creating consistent court practices and increasing participation and collaboration among the stakeholders.

On April 27th, stakeholders from across the 11th JD gathered from across the three counties and adjacent judicial districts and tribal nations for the second Super CIC. Judge Egan Walker, Adrea Korthase, JD, NCJFCJ Site Manager, and Connie Hickman Tanner, NCJFCJ Chief Program Officer, presented a day-long training on *ICWA Application and Judicial Perspective*. The participants learned about and discussed the salient definitions and im-

portant requirements under the Indian Child Welfare Act, including the court's duty of inquiry, jurisdiction, notice, timeliness, removal, transfer, heightened burdens of proof, active efforts, placement issues, and qualified expert witnesses.

Although it was a very full day including a working lunch, evaluations revealed that the participants were overwhelmingly pleased with the both the instructors and the materials they shared. One Tribal Court Clerk recommended that this training should be shared with the tribal judges. "Thought provoking" was a frequent comment about the training. The majority mentioned that the instructors were not only "very knowledgeable about the subject matter", but were "excellent speakers".

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Nevada Data Tool Available to All CICs

The University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill's *Fostering Court Improvement Data Project* has uploaded Nevada's the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data Systems (NCANDS) and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data into its system. The data have been scrupulously reviewed for accuracy, and it ready for you to use.

During the CIC Summit in September, Christopher Church, JD, MM, Children's Law Center, USC School of Law, will teach you how to navigate

the website, access your county's, judicial district's, or child welfare region's data, interpret the statistics, and use the information to inform your action planning or measure the impact of the changes you have made.

In the meantime, explore Nevada's site at: <http://fosteringcourtimprovement.org/nv/>. Or see what other states' data look like at: http://www.fosteringcourtimprovement.org/state_websites.php.

To locate the reunification survival curve that was introduced during the

last CIC Summit, click on your judicial district in the lower box chart, click on "Discharges" and scroll down. When "Court Improvement" is selected in this same area, a very tight colorful chart pops up. Double click on the chart to view the discrete pieces of data.

Have fun exploring. You cannot break the system. If you would like help, call Kathie, she loves to talk data.

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New Study Shows Nevada has the Highest Rate of Illegal Online Prostitution Ads in the Nation

Public Law 113-183 (Sections 101-105), enacted by the United States Congress in September 2014, amends the federal foster care system to require state child welfare agencies, in collaboration with law enforcement, juvenile justice systems, health care providers, education agencies, and organizations with experience in dealing with at-risk children to develop and implement procedures for identifying, documenting in agency records, and determining appropriate services for children who are victims of sex trafficking or at risk of victimization. In response, Governor Sandoval ordered the establishment of the Nevada Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in May 2016. During the 77th Legislative session, SB488, which expands the Nevada human trafficking laws to include those that facilitate, transport, or advertise victims are guilty of human trafficking, was signed into law.

The Coalition has worked diligently to comply with P.L. 113-183. The Data Subcommittee has found a dearth of data on the degree of the CSEC problem in Nevada.

However, a study recently conducted by Creighton University and commissioned by Awaken*, indicates that Nevada has the highest per capita rate of illegal online prostitution ads in the country. The number of such ads was 63% greater than the next most prolific state – New York and more than twice that of California.

According to the Creighton study, Nevada's commercial sex market takes place within a unique context. Nevada is the only location in the United States in which licensed and regulated brothels coexist with the criminalized commercial sex industry. Contrary to the belief of some, it appears that brothels do not help reduce the rate of sex trafficking in Nevada. The Creighton study found that sex trafficking is embedded in the commercial sex market, much of which occurs online. It also found that more than 13% of Nevada prostituted persons are advertised as under the age of 21. Melissa Holland, Executive Director of Awaken and co-chair of the, advises that many of the clients they serve were first prostituted when they were 13 to 15 years old.

To read the entire study, please cut and paste this link into your browser:
<http://awakenreno.org/be-informed/nvcommercialsextrade/>

**Awaken is a northern Nevada non-profit organization whose mission is to increase awareness and education surrounding the issue of commercial sexual exploitation and to provide housing and restoration for its victims.*

Extensive Toolkit to Prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Available Soon

The Prevention Subcommittee of the Coalition to Prevent the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) co-chaired by Senior Justice Nancy Saitta and Ross Armstrong, DCFS Administrator, has developed an extensive array of toolkits to be included in the CSEC Coalition's CESEC Prevention Resource Guide. The Guide will be hosted on the Nevada Division of Child and Family Services website.

Five toolkits were approved by the CSEC Coalition for dissemination. The Community Toolkit focuses specifically on helping businesses train employees on the CSEC issue. It pro-

vides strategies on how to engage such industries as transportation and hospitality to spread awareness. For example, truck drivers could be required to be certified with Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT). TAT is a non-profit organization that has partnered with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to promote awareness of CSEC and train truck drivers to identify CSEC victims. TAT offers certification courses for drivers to educate them on the sex trade and ways to report traffickers. TAT's certification has become mandatory in some jurisdictions.

Other toolkits include educating

youth about CSEC and how to combat the problem. A separate toolkit addresses how to recognize and protect youths who are at greater risk. Another is designed to help parents, guardians, and out-of-home caregivers create protective environments and resilient kids. The final toolkit addresses how to reduce the demand for CSEC. Studies have found that when demand is reduced, significantly reduces the commercial exploitation of children.

These toolkits are packed with links to various resources and may be useful tools for CICs.

Nevada Child Welfare Team Attending National Convening in Washington D.C.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is hosting a national State Team Planning Meeting in July to bring together 10-member teams from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The purpose is to begin planning both the next five year Child and Family Services Plan (due June 2019) and inform development of the next CIP five-year strategic plans (due June 2021).

Nevada's 10-member team includes representatives from CIP, the Division of Child and Family Services, Clark County Department of Family Services, and Washoe County Human Services Agency. Presentations will concentrate on the Children's Bureau's vision for reshaping child welfare to prevent child maltreatment and unnecessary removal of children from their homes. Discussion will focus on strategies to strengthen families through:

- ◆ Primary prevention and place-based services;
 - ◆ Promoting child and family well-being;
 - ◆ Using foster care as a service for families; and
 - ◆ Creating a competent, healthy, and stable workforce (social workers, attorneys, judges, and service providers).
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Children's Bureau Distributed Court Improvement Program Funds

CIP received notification that the Children's Bureau released funding for both FFY 2018 Training and Data grants in the amount of \$128,765 each. Nevada CIP had previously received FFY 2018 Basic CIP grant in the amount of \$138,001.

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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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