

Minnesota Judicial Branch

Minnesota Department of Human Services



Children's Justice Initiative

CJI is a collaboration between the Minnesota Judicial Branch and the Minnesota Department of Human Services designed to improve safety, permanency, and wellbeing outcomes for abused and neglected children and their families

Right from the Beginning: Permanency Planning 2013

A statewide conference designed to equip child protection system stakeholders with the substantive law and practice skills necessary to understand and implement concurrent permanency planning using a trauma lens

Friday, November 1, 2013
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM

River's Edge Convention Center
10 Fourth Ave. South
St. Cloud, MN 56301
320-255-7272

<http://www.stcloudriversedgeconventioncenter.com>

Conference Goals

Neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse are traumatic experiences for children. Removal from home and entry into foster care is also a traumatic event for a child. The trauma is intensified if a child is separated from her siblings, placed in a stranger's foster home, moved from foster home to foster home, or moved from school to school. When planning for a child's safety and permanency, the child protection system must focus on:

- Responding to and mitigating the effects of trauma
- Encouraging healing
- Reducing the number of adverse childhood experiences
- Preventing or minimizing further trauma to the child

This conference will address the use of trauma-informed strategies for concurrent permanency – right from the beginning of each child's placement.

Who Should Attend

This conference is **NOT** just for CJI team members. While CJI team members are especially encouraged to attend, all child protection system stakeholders are invited to attend, including judges, county attorneys, social workers, guardians ad litem, attorneys for parents and children, tribal court judges, tribal social workers, foster parents, educators, chemical health and mental health professionals, and other stakeholders. This conference is listed on the approved Judicial Education Plan for judges and court administrators.

Registration Deadline / Online Registration Form

The registration deadline is **Friday October 18**. Due to space limitations, "walk-ins" on the day of the conference will NOT be accepted. [Click here to go to the online registration form.](#)

Limited Capacity

Capacity for the conference is limited to 400 people. Registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis – plan on registering early to ensure your registration is accepted. A waiting list will be implemented in the event space becomes available due to cancellations.

Cost - FREE

The cost for this conference is **FREE**: no charge for registration, lunch, breaks, materials, and continuing education credits.

Cancellation / No-Show Fee Policy

Registrants who learn they are unable to attend the conference should immediately notify Cheryl Gackstetter at cheryl.gackstetter@courts.state.mn.us or 651-205-4790 to cancel their registration so those on the waiting list can be told of the opportunity to attend. Registrants who submit a cancellation notice on or before Monday October 28 will not be charged an administrative fee. **Registrants who do not attend and who do not submit a cancellation notice on or before October 28 will be charged a \$50 administrative fee, unless a request for a special exemption is granted.**

Continuing Education Credits

Application has been made for continuing education credits, including credits for Continuing Judicial Education (CJE), Court Management Education (CME), Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), Board of Social Work (BSW), and Continuing Legal Education (CLE). Information about the number of credits actually approved will be provided at the conference.

Parking

Parking for the River's Edge Convention Center is available in the ramp located below the building. A \$5.00 fee for the River's Edge parking ramp must be paid when you enter the ramp. If you stay overnight at the Best Western Kelly Inn or Le St. Germain Hotel, you may park at the hotels which are next door to the convention center.

Dietary or Other Accommodations

Please use the online registration form to identify any dietary or other accommodations you may require.

Lodging

Room blocks are being held at the hotels listed below. Both hotels are directly across the street from the River's Edge Convention Center. Special rates of \$83 plus tax (single occupancy) or \$93 plus tax (double occupancy) are available if you notify either hotel that you are making reservations as part of the "CJI Permanency Conference." You are responsible for making your own lodging reservations and for paying all lodging costs.

Le St. Germain Hotel

404 St. Germain West
St. Cloud, MN 56301
Phone: 320-654-1661

[Click here for website](#)

Best Western Kelly Inn

100 Fourth Ave. South
St. Cloud, MN 56301
Phone: 320-253-0606

[Click here for website](#)

Location and Directions

River's Edge Convention Center

10 Fourth Ave. South
St. Cloud, MN 56301
320-255-7272

[Click here for website](#)

For directions from a specific starting point, try using [MapQuest](#).

From the East on Interstate Highway 94

1. Take I-94 to Highway 15 N
2. Turn right at Highway 23
3. Turn left at 5th Avenue S
4. Turn right at 1st Street
5. The convention center will be straight ahead on the left

From Highway 10

1. Take Highway 23 W. to 4th Avenue
2. Turn right at 4th Avenue
3. The convention center will be on the right

From the West on Interstate Highway 94

1. Take I-94 to Highway 15 N
2. Turn right at Highway 23
3. Turn left at 5th Avenue S
4. Turn right at 1st Street S
5. The convention center will be straight ahead on the left.

From Highway 15

1. Follow Highway 10 S. to Highway 23 W
2. Turn right at 4th Avenue
3. The convention center will be on the right

Questions ? ? ? ?

Questions regarding the agenda and content of the conference should be addressed to:

Judy Nord, CJI Manager
State Court Administrator's Office
Phone: 651-282-3972
E-mail: judy.nord@courts.state.mn.us

Ann Ahlstrom, CJI Manager
State Court Administrator's Office
Phone: 651-297-7114
E-mail: ann.ahlstrom@courts.state.mn.us

Questions regarding registration, cancellation procedures, or other conference logistics should be addressed to:

Cheryl Gackstetter, Court Services Division
State Court Administrator's Office
Phone: 651-205-4790
E-mail: cheryl.gackstetter@courts.state.mn.us

Agenda

7:30 – 8:30

Registration and Networking

8:30 – 8:40

Welcome and Overview of Conference

Hon. Michelle Dietrich, Assistant Chief Judge, 5th Judicial District

8:40 – 9:00

Why Focus on Trauma in Concurrent Permanency Planning?

❖ *Hon. Lorie S. Gildea, Chief Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court*

❖ *Lucinda Jesson, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Human Services*

9:00 – 10:30

Concurrent Permanency Planning: Using a Trauma Lens to Engage Families and Improve Child Wellbeing Right from the Beginning

Kristine Buffington, MSW, LISW-S, Clinical Consultant Valko & Assoc., Toledo, Ohio

- Basic principles of concurrent permanency planning
- How concurrent permanency planning principles work to reduce child trauma
- Trauma, addiction, and how the timelines of recovery work with concurrent permanency planning
- How to promote resiliency in children
- What judges need to know and do in the courtroom to address the child's trauma

10:30 – 10:45

Break

10:45 – 11:45

Using a Trauma Lens in Developing, Implementing, and Reviewing the Out-of-Home Placement Plan: Key Stakeholder Roles

❖ *Facilitator: Hon. Michelle Dietrich, Assistant Chief Judge, 5th Judicial District*

❖ *Anne Gueinzus, Children's Law Center of Minnesota*

❖ *Hon. Mark Ireland, Ramsey County District Court*

❖ *Janine LePage, Crow Wing County Attorney's Office*

❖ *Alex Miller, 5th District Guardian Ad Litem Program*

❖ *Jessica Ryan, Bluedog, Paulson & Small*

❖ *Leslie Yunker, Dakota County Social Services*

❖ *Patricia Zenner, Zenner Law Office*

- Requirements of the out-of-home placement plan (OHPP)
- Process to produce a quality OHHP designed to address trauma
- How each stakeholder contributes to developing, supporting, and monitoring implementation of the OHPP
- Developing measureable goals in the OHPP
- How the court uses the OHPP to review progress, including using the OHPP to benchmark progress towards permanency
- Each stakeholder's role when the OHPP is not working

11:45 – 12:45

Lunch

12:15 Luncheon Talks: Information From the State it Might be Helpful to Know

Interstate Compact on Placement of Children (ICPC)

Mical Peterson, Minnesota Department of Human Services

- Purpose and mechanics of the ICPC: working with DHS to accomplish completion of the home study and obtain placement approval

Adoption Assistance

Christeen Borsheim, Minnesota Department of Human Services

- Purpose and mechanics of Adoption Assistance – what you need to know if you are making the application

Emergency Placement with Relatives and Licensing Relatives for Foster Care

Deb Beske Brown, Minnesota Department of Human Services

- How and when counties can place children with relatives without full licensure; what is different about licensing process for relatives; what is a non-safety related waiver?

12:45 – 1:00

Break

1:00 – 2:00

Breakout Sessions: Legal Requirements and Key Social Services Practices to Reduce Trauma – Right from the Beginning *(each session will be held twice)*

1. Reducing Trauma for Children by Preserving Connections: Relative Involvement

❖ *Deb Beske Brown, Minnesota Department of Human Services*

❖ *Samantha Gemberling, Wolf, Rohr, McKenzie and Gemberling, P.A.*

❖ *Geoff Hjerlid, Olmsted County Attorney's Office*

- Importance of engaging relatives in reducing trauma to children who are in foster care
- Elements of a comprehensive relative search
- Legal requirements for identification, notification, and engagement of child's relatives
- Required court findings regarding relatives search and engagement throughout the child's foster care placement
- How to talk to parents and relatives about concurrent planning and why relatives are important to the child from the very beginning of the child's placement
- How to support relatives as participants in court

2. **Reducing Trauma to Children by Ensuring Involvement of Fathers**

❖ *Nancy Jones, Hennepin County Attorney's Office*

- ❖ *Kevin McTigue, Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department*
 - The importance to children of involving fathers, in every case, right from the beginning of the child's placement
 - Who is a legal father and how fathers are different from other "relatives"
 - Best practices to ensure fathers are involved in every case: at petitioning, at case planning, at hearings
 - Providing services to fathers right from the beginning
 - Legal requirements for permanency orders when there is no legal father

3. **Reducing Trauma to Children by Early Concurrent Planning: The "New" Permanency Progress Review Hearing for ALL Children**

Ann Ahlstrom, State Court Administrator's Office

- Preparing for the Permanency Progress Review Hearing right from the beginning of the child's placement
- The importance of relatives at the Permanency Progress Review Hearing
- Out-of-home placement plan review requirements
- Principles of full disclosure and reducing trauma to children and families: there should be no surprises about the agency's assessment of the parents' progress toward reunification and Plan B at the Permanency Progress Review Hearing
- Supports and services upon return home or after a legally permanent alternative home is ordered
- Child wellbeing and building the child's social and medical history
- Making referrals through the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children and involving out-of-state relatives
- Required court findings from the Permanency Progress Review Hearing

4. **Reducing Trauma to Indian Children: Working with Tribes and Permanency in Indian Country**

❖ *Rebecca McConkey-Greene, White Earth Band of Ojibwe*

❖ *Lisa Pollak, Fond du Lac Band*

❖ *Melissa George-Humphrey, Descendent of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe*

❖ *Ted Waukey, Mille Lacs Band*

- What does "permanency" mean in Indian Country?
- From a tribal perspective, why do we transfer jurisdiction from district court to tribal court to achieve permanency?
- From a tribal perspective, why is it important to achieve permanency in a culturally-respectful manner?
- How does everyone benefit from the process?

5. **Youth in Foster Care Ages 16 to 21: Addressing Trauma, Building Connections, and Achieving Permanency**

Melissa Sherlock, Minnesota Department of Human Services

- The value of permanency: achieving the highest possible level of legal, physical, social/emotional, and cultural permanency for youth
- Strategies for achieving permanency:
 - Permanency Roundtables
 - Child-specific recruitment
 - Engaging youth
 - Unpacking the "no," including busting myths about who gets "free" education and other "benefits" from being in foster care to age 18 or past
- Legal permanency for youth, including newer legal options for some youth:
 - Re-instatement of parental rights
 - Adult adoption
- Rights and court review requirements for youth who continue in foster care:
 - Youth under state guardianship
 - Youth in the agency's permanent custody
- Importance of having youth in court
- Required court findings

2:00 – 2:15

Break

2:15 – 3:15

Breakout Session 2 (*repeat of session 1 breakouts*)

6. **Reducing Trauma for Children by Preserving Connections: Relative Involvement**

7. **Reducing Trauma to Children by Ensuring Involvement of Fathers**

8. **Reducing Trauma to Children by Early Concurrent Planning: The "New" Permanency Progress Review Hearing for ALL Children**

9. **Reducing Trauma to Indian Children: Working with Tribes and Permanency in Indian Country**

10. **Youth in Foster Care Ages 16 to 21: Addressing Trauma, Building Connections, and Achieving Permanency**

3:15 – 3:20

Break

3:20 – 4:15

Lessons from the Bench: CJI Judges Advise Stakeholders What They Need to Make Decisions about Child Safety, Permanency, and Wellbeing

- ❖ *Facilitator: Hon. John Rodenberg, Minnesota Court of Appeals*
- ❖ *Hon. Michelle Dietrich, Lyon County, 5th Judicial District*
- ❖ *Hon. Kevin Eide, Carver County, 1st Judicial District*
- ❖ *Hon. Michelle Lawson, Clay County, 7th Judicial District*
- ❖ *Hon. Gerald Seibel, Stevens County, 8th Judicial District*
 - **Trauma:** What information do judges need from the stakeholders regarding the trauma experienced by the child and parents?
 - **Fathers:** What are the questions judges want stakeholders to address regarding the child's noncustodial/nonresident parent?
 - **Relatives:** What information do judges need to support findings that relatives are identified, engaged, considered for placement, and involved in planning for the child?
 - **Children in court:** How can children participate in hearings in an age-appropriate, comfortable, and meaningful way?

4:15

Wrap Up and Adjourn

This conference was funded through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, State Court Improvement Program, Grant No. 12-01-MNSCIP awarded under the provisions of Section 438 of the Social Security Act; Section 7401 of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-171); Titles IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act; and the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act Public Law 112-34).