

Children's Justice Initiative

Agenda

Friday, November 1, 2013

River's Edge Convention Center, St. Cloud, Minnesota

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

- 7:30 – 8:30** **Registration and Networking**
Carlson Hall – 1st floor (main conference room)
- 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 Gueinzius, 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

Carlson Hall – 1st floor (east side of main conference room)

1:00 – 2:00

Breakout Sessions – Round 1

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

Stockinger Suite – 2nd floor

- ❖ *Deb Beske Brown, Minnesota Department of Human Services*
- ❖ *Samantha Gemberling, Wolf, Rohr, Gemberling & Allen, PA.*
- ❖ *Geoff Hjerleid, 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 include 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**

Opportunities Suite – 1st floor

- ❖ *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**

Carlson Hall – 1st floor (main conference room)

Ann Ahlstrom, State Court Administrator's Office

- Preparing for the Permanency Progress Review Hearing (PPRH) right from the beginning of the child's placement
- Importance of relatives at the PPRH
- 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 PPRH
- 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 PPRH

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

Wilson Suite – 2nd floor

- ❖ *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**

Herbergers Suite – 2nd floor

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

Carlson Hall – 1st floor (east side of main conference room)

2:15 – 3:15

Breakout Sessions - Round 2 (*repeat of session 1 breakouts*)

6. **Reducing Trauma for Children by Preserving Connections: Relative Involvement**
Stockinger Suite – 2nd floor
7. **Reducing Trauma to Children by Ensuring Involvement of Fathers**
Opportunities Suite – 1st floor
8. **Reducing Trauma to Children by Early Concurrent Planning: The “New” Permanency Progress Review Hearing for ALL Children**
Carlson Hall – 1st floor (main conference room)
9. **Reducing Trauma to Indian Children: Working with Tribes and Permanency in Indian Country**
Wilson Suite – 2nd floor
10. **Youth in Foster Care Ages 16 to 21: Addressing Trauma, Building Connections, and Achieving Permanency**
Herbergers Suite – 2nd floor

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
Carlson Hall – 1st floor (main conference room)

- ❖ *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