

CINA Court Improvement Committee
Meeting Minutes for
Friday December 16, 2011
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Snowden Administration Building
820 W. 4th Avenue

Attendance:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge Rindner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anita Alves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge Blankenship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linda Beecher	<input type="checkbox"/> Melissa Stone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amanda Metivier
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge Esch	<input type="checkbox"/> Diane Payne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Lyford
<input type="checkbox"/> Christy Lawton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge Tan	<input type="checkbox"/> Judge Stephens
<input type="checkbox"/> Judge Reese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge Devaney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lucille Johnson
<input type="checkbox"/> Susanne DiPietro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carla Raymond	<input type="checkbox"/> Maude Hopson
<input type="checkbox"/> Francine Eddy-Jones	<input type="checkbox"/> Judge White	<input type="checkbox"/> Judge Gleason
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beverly Oskolkoff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Rieger	<input type="checkbox"/> Lynn Biggs

Also attending: Christine Johnson; Travis Erickson (for Christy Lawton); Barb Malchick; Karen Largent (telephonic); Stefanie Winters; Tammy Ketchum-Wallete; and Robert Polley.

Minutes of August 19, 2011 approved.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 23, 2012, 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., in Anchorage

Guest Speaker: Alicia Davis, Principal Court Management Consultant – National Center for State Courts – **Court Performance Measurement in Child Welfare Cases** (*link to Powerpoint slides*)

Review Draft 2-year Strategic Plan

(*link to Strategic Plan*)

Please submit any comments to Robert Polley by 1/6/12

Subcommittee Reports

Family Contact: Linda Beecher provided an update. Subcommittee members did a presentation for BIA workers on 12/1/11. The highlights of the presentation were video clips of workers, a biological mother and a foster parent discussing family contact. Sara Childress took the initiative to obtain the video clips. Subcommittee members have also provided two foster parent training sessions in Kenai and have discussed strategies for proceeding with additional training opportunities, which will hopefully include experienced foster parents as presenters. The subcommittee believes that there are limitations on the scope of

training that can be conducted by subcommittee members and hopes that OCS will take the lead on the provision of Family Contact training.

Mediation & Family Group Conferencing: A written report was distributed and discussed at the meeting. A Mediation & FGC subcommittee is being formed, co-chaired by Wendy Lyford and Karen Largent. Lisa Rieger volunteered to be a member of the subcommittee. Anyone else interested in joining the subcommittee should contact Wendy or Karen by January 1st. In addition, Karen advised that the Child Welfare Collaborative Decision Making Network has developed proposed Child Protection Mediation Guidelines and is seeking comments/feedback on the draft Guidelines. Bob Polley will email the CIP committee members with a link to the draft Guidelines and instructions for providing comments.

Education: Barb Malchick provided an update regarding the Education subcommittee. Current members of the subcommittee are: Judge Roetman; Marjorie Allard; Kim Guay; Marion Hallum; Carla Raymond; Mara Rabinowitz; Tammy Sandoval; and Beth Trimmer. Barb is staff for the subcommittee. They are finalizing the 2012 spending plan, which will include individual and team training scholarships. The list of 2012 training opportunities was updated by Tammy Ketchum-Wallette. The subcommittee is also reviewing a funding request for multi-disciplinary training in Bethel regarding the provision of Risk Assessments in CINA cases involving allegations of sexual abuse. In addition, the subcommittee is discussing a potential joint, statewide CINA conference in October 2012.

The subcommittee has a Curriculum workgroup which is formulating Core Curriculum for new CINA practitioners, in cooperation with the Child Welfare Academy. The workgroup has found the existing CIP curriculum from Colorado to be an excellent model and plans to contract with local experts within Alaska to adapt that curriculum as needed. The projected “kick off” for the first Core Curriculum class is Fall 2013. The workgroup is also developing ongoing training opportunities, such as quarterly continuing education sessions for CINA practitioners, including possible “on-demand” web-based training.

Independent Living Workgroup: A written report was distributed and discussed at the meeting. Barb Malchick and Amanda Metivier led a discussion regarding transitional housing for older youth in state custody and barriers for finding placements meeting criteria for OCS approval. The workgroup is considering

drafting a “white paper” regarding this issue. Per Carla Raymond, regulations related to HB 126 are finalized and she will bring a copy to the next meeting.

Substance Abuse - Shields Initiative: Tammy Ketchum-Wallette is staff for this subcommittee and provided an update. An RFP for a planning grant regarding SHIELDS is forthcoming. Additional discussion will be deferred until the next CIP meeting due to a DBH representative being unavailable.

ICWA: Lisa Rieger (chair) provided an update regarding this subcommittee. The issue of OCS’s definition of “relative” compared to a broader definition under ICWA was discussed. The significance of the Tanana case was also discussed and the benefit of a meeting between state court and tribal court judges regarding the implications of the decision. Per Carla Raymond, following Tanana, OCS has revamped its policies. In addition, the CINA Rules committee has a final version of a new rule awaiting commentary regarding state recognition and enforcement of tribal court orders.

Education and Foster Care: (report deferred)

Rural Issues: Judge Devaney and Travis Erickson provided an update regarding this subcommittee. The subcommittee is looking into the use of Skype for OCS to provide visitation/contact for families geographically separated. It has also discussed the need to increase opportunities for “tele-counseling” for CINA families in rural areas. The possibility of SCRAM units being used as part of an OCS “safety plan” for parents (pre-custody) with their agreement continues to be explored. There is currently no obstacle for OCS to do so, on a case-by-case basis, with a request for funds (RFF). The subcommittee will develop a “workplan” for a potential pilot project, including the option of using CIP funding to obtain technical assistance for the project. Travis advised that OCS has shifted to a regional intake, instead of office-based, system for reports of abuse/neglect and is working to raise awareness of this change in communities statewide.

2:30 p.m. Adjourn