

**CINA Court Improvement Committee  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes for  
Friday, June 5, 2015  
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Snowden Training Center**

**Attendance:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge Rindner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge Greene (phone)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge Stephens (phone)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge Guidi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Justice Stowers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge Blankenship
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge MacDonald	<input type="checkbox"/> Judge Devaney	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Judge Moran
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amanda Metivier	<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Johnson	<input type="checkbox"/> Lola Stepetin
<input type="checkbox"/> Anita Alves	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Diane Payne (phone)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carla Erickson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kim Sweet	<input type="checkbox"/> Christy Lawton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Lyford
<input type="checkbox"/> Albert Wall	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linda Beecher	<input type="checkbox"/> Lynn Biggs
<input type="checkbox"/> Francine Eddy-Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Rieger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chad Holt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cheryl Offt	<input type="checkbox"/> Stefanie Winters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Polley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marion Hallum		

Also attending: Kim Guay, FFCA Youth Panel, Natalie Landreth, and Kelley Montgomery

**Review Prior Meeting Minutes**

February 13, 2015 meeting minutes approved unanimously with no changes

**Set Next Meeting Date**

Bob will send out Doodle Poll survey to determine next meeting date

**New BIA ICWA guidelines/regulations – Natalie Landreth, Senior Staff Attorney,  
Native American Rights Fund (NARF), and Chair, CIP ICWA subcommittee –**

- Natalie Landreth reviewed the new ICWA guidelines/regulations from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Her discussion centered on the "ICWA 1979 vs. 2015" document and addressed some of the more significant changes. Ms. Landreth cited Michael Hotchkin's memo as an excellent summary of the updated guidelines/regulations.
- It was recommended making these materials be made available to all judges and for Ms. Landreth to present at a future judicial training. Additionally, it was suggested that CIP draft a "bench card" specific to the updated ICWA guidelines/regulations.

**OCS Administrative Review Process - Carla Erickson, AGO & Kim Guay, OCS**

- Kim Guay and Carla Erickson discussed a possible change to OCS's administrative review process. The review process is a face to face review and according to Ms. Guay, they are time consuming and many of their youth and adult representatives are not attending. Ms. Erickson added that it is a federal requirement to meet every six months (under the Adoption & Safe Families Act), although the feds do not mandate how the review is performed. The information to be gathered is the same that is typically reviewed in court. OCS has formed a workgroup to look into the feasibility of having administrative reviews conducted simultaneously with existing court hearings, in order to create efficiencies in the CINA system.

**Overview of the Preventing Sex Trafficking & Strengthening Families Act - Perspectives on Implementation - Amanda Metivier, FFCA youth panel, and Kim Guay, OCS**

- Amanda Metivier presented an overview of the Preventing Sex Trafficking federal law & its implementation -- she emphasized that sex trafficking and exploitation of foster youth is happening in our state and a specific target is youth at the Covenant House. OCS is rolling out a training to help identify victims and then how to provide services for those victims who have been trafficked.
- An FFCA youth panel also presented with Ms. Metivier to share their stories with the CIP committee and provide their perspectives on implementation of the Act – including aspects such as the new Prudent Parent Standard (“normalcy” for foster youth) and reduction of the use of APPLA as a permanent plan option.

**Report-Outs**

**1. Tribal/State Collaboration Group -**

Cheryl Offt shared about their most recent meeting on May 6. Items on their agenda were - new member orientation, debriefing from previous meeting, new structure of tribal state, OCS adoption regulations and next steps, placement requests, information sharing, OCS child and family services plan, CINA Rule 8 disclosure forms.

**2. Youth Engagement -**

Amanda Metivier provided an update re. the upcoming training September 18, 2015 for attorneys that represent youth in CINA matters. They are working with Bar Association on the training and have an ambitious agenda. One session will be on working out ethics scenarios. CIP is providing funding so that there will be no-cost registration for the all-day CLE.

**3. CINA Education -**

Marion Hallum passed out flyers for the three day October joint Statewide CINA Conference between CIP and Alaska CASA – October 22-25, 2015.

Bob Polley also reported that COP is providing travel scholarship funding for 3 OPA parent attorneys (staff & contract) and 3 PDA parent attorneys to attend the ABA's National Parent Attorney Conference in D.C. in July.

**4. Mediation & Family Group Conferencing -**

Wendy Lyford shared that they are facing a \$75,000 budget cut which puts them in a tough place. Their referrals have doubled but without adequate funding they will be working on changing mediator practices and reducing hours spent on CINA/Adult Guardianship cases.

**5. ICWA -**

Bob Polley, on behalf of Diane Payne and Natalie Landreth, stated that they are still working on a statewide standard for participating telephonically in CINA cases.

**6. CINA Therapeutic Court (CTC) -**

Judge Guidi updated us on the state of the CTC pilot court that has been running since July 2014. They should have their first graduates in the next 60 days. They are still working on improving the referral process and determining eligibility criteria. People in the program have "bought in" and it is meeting their needs. It is a good model and treatment is provided by Akeela.

**2:30 pm**

**Adjourn**