March 2015 E-Newsletter

WHAT’S HAPPENING

The Nebraska Infant/Toddler Court Improvement Project has become the Nebraska Resource Project for Vulnerable Young Children. The project will remain at UNL-CCFL and will be led by Jessce Cole-Moorman and Kelly Thawbouian. Although no longer part of the CHI/Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative, the project will partner closely with the initiative and will continue working with local teams to address infant and toddler issues in their court cases, including all teams that expressed interest in technical assistance at the 2014 regional conferences. The project can work with teams on a case-level basis in identifying issues and securing services, and on a system-level basis in identifying and addressing barriers.

The Know Your Rights Guide for Older Youth Has Been Re-Written & Re-Printed

Judges and attorneys will soon be receiving copies in the mail, and the PDF is available online. The guide has been expanded to include information on the juvenile justice court process, how to use your voice and how to plan for your future. Judges, attorneys, CASA’s and probation officers can order free copies. All other orderers can order copies at a small cost. To order copies, go to the Publications webpage.

Through the Eyes of the Child is now on Google+!

Follow us on Google+, a social networking site powered by Google, for up to date information regarding events, articles, training, and videos within CFI. Click here to check out our page!

New Website for Services for Indian Children

Looking for culturally appropriate services for Indian children? The Center on Children, Families and the Law (CCFL), in collaboration with the Nebraska ICWA Coalition created a new database of services on the Nebraska Resource and Referral System (RRS). Now, you can identify culturally appropriate services for children and families in two different ways! To read more, click here. Looking for a specific provider or service? Click here to go to the website.

Spotlight Issue

The Intersection of Mental Health and Juvenile Justice Systems - Efforts to Redefine Appropriate Intervention

Kate Hamborg, CCFL legal intern, UNL College of Law student

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In recent years there has been continued criticism of the efforts to address the needs of vulnerable children and families, particularly within the juvenile justice system. Commentators have previously noted, “Juvenile justice profoundly suffers the most glaring gaps between best practice and common practice, between what we know works and what our public systems most often do on our behalf.” Although there have been significant efforts on the federal, state, and local levels to effect positive change, there continues to be significant policy and practice challenges, particularly where the juvenile justice and mental health systems intersect. In order to design and implement improved policies and programs, there must be a better understanding of the mental health issues among the juvenile population. Click here to read more.