

**Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 2, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Nebraska Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts was called to order at 9:12 at the Hruska Law Center, 635 S 145<sup>th</sup> St, Lincoln, NE, with co-chairpersons Hon. Everett O. Inbody and Hon. Douglas Johnson presiding.

Roll call was taken, as follows:

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Hon. Everett O. Inbody, Hon. Douglas F. Johnson, Lynnette Boyle, Kathy Olson, Marsha Fangmeyer, Hon. Lawrence D. Gendler, Alicia Henderson, Corrie Kielty, Hon. Gary Randall, Hon. Linda Caster Senff, Courtney Phillips, Juliet Summers, Hon. Tom Harmon, Mary Jo Pankoke, Hon. Linda Porter, Christine Constantakos, Liz Neeley, Hon. Anne Paine, Sarah Helvey, Milo Mumgaard, Kim Hawekotte, Hon. Randin Roland, Elizabeth Waterman, Hon. Michael G. Heavican, Ellen Brokofsky, Carole McMahon-Boies, Carla Heathershaw Risko, Julie Rogers, Jeanne Brandner, Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks, Azar Webb III, Dick Stafford

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Sen. Les Seiler, Hon. Michael Piccolo, Hon. Vernon Daniels, Bob Goodwin, Rebecca Harling, Sen. Bob Krist, Doug Weinberg, Sen. Kathy Campbell, Hon. Michael Burns, Hon. Patrick Runge, Hon. Stefanie Martinez, Corey Steel, Hon. Jodi Nelson, Hon. Rachel Daugherty, Dr. Ashley Harlow

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Deb VanDyke-Ries (Nebraska Court Improvement Project), Mary Ann Harvey (Nebraska Court Improvement Project), Matt Lewis (Nebraska Court Improvement Project), Kalissa Holdcraft (Nebraska Court Improvement Project), Kelly Enquist (Nebraska Court Improvement Project), Kari Rumbaugh (Administrative Office of Probation), Chris Triebsch (on behalf of Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks), Josh Henningsen (on behalf of Sen. Kathy Campbell), Eric Asboe, Debora Denny (Office of Dispute Resolution).

Introduced New Members:

- Senator Pansing Books
- Azar Webb III

**I. UPDATES**

**Court Improvement Project – Deb VanDyke Ries, Director**

The CIP has two new employees—Kalissa Holdcraft and Matt Lewis. Kalissa attended the University of Iowa College of Law and is the Project Specialist for the Juvenile Justice Home-Based Initiative, managing the implementation of Multisystemic Therapy and the Boys Town Ecological In-Home Family Treatment across the state. Matt attended Rutgers Law School and joins the CIP as a Project Specialist, focusing on juvenile justice and working with the Through the Eyes of the Child (TEOC) teams.

Court Improvement has focused on its educational offerings this year. In September, CIP hosted the Children’s Summit in Kearney. Over 550 stakeholders were in attendance for the three day conference

on issues related to juvenile justice and child welfare. Survey feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, noting appreciation for the dual focus on child welfare and juvenile justice and enjoyment of networking opportunities. The next Children's Summit will be held in 2019. CIP is currently in the planning stage for its 2017 Regional Conferences. One focus of the conferences will be on implicit bias and institutional/structural racism. CIP will hold four such Regional Conferences in the following areas: Scottsbluff/Gering on September 28, North Platte on September 29, Columbus on October 5, and Omaha on October 6. All dates are tentative at this point, but Court Improvement is creating the planning committee for conference development. CIP is continuing to offer webinar-based educational opportunities. The last webinar was presented on October 21 and featured staff from Right Turn discussing adoption and adoption disruption. The next webinar will be held on January 31 and will feature Sarah Helvey and Juliet Summers providing a legislative overview of bills relating to children. The CIP staff is also engaging in educational opportunities. Mary Ann and Katie attended a Continuous Quality Improvement meeting in Reno to fine tune the Court Observation Tool. Mary Ann, Katie, Deb, Lindy, and others traveled to Washington, D.C. for the national Court Improvement Project meeting in August. This meeting focused on use of data and evidencing impact of work through such data, a review of the requirements for the CIP strategic plans, and an overview of legislation focused on federal CIP issues. Matt traveled to San Jose with Probation staff to learn about juvenile justice approaches and improvements. The CIP staff has been touring through various facilities across the state including YRTC Kearney and Lancaster County Detention Center, with upcoming visits to Project Harmony and the Douglas County Youth Center. Deb feels very strongly that the CIP staff need to see the facilities and speak with the youth housed there.

Court Improvement continues to work with the TEOC teams, primarily through Project Specialists, Mary Ann and Matt. TEOC teams are focusing on identifying goals for the upcoming year. One CIP goal is for Mary Ann and Matt to meet with each TEOC team at least once this year.

#### Strategic Plan

Court Improvement submitted their strategic plan to the Federal CIP on November 23. This plan was distributed via email. For the Child Welfare-focused plan, the two main components are the Court Observation Project and a collaborative project with HHS that will focus on timeliness and permanency. Due to the stalling of the federal bill that contains federal CIP funding (Families First Act), there are limitations on Court Improvement's funding that caused a narrowing in the focus of upcoming projects. CIP will finalize its Juvenile Justice-focused plan after the first of the year.

#### Juvenile Justice Home-Based Initiative

The CIP is moving forward with the Juvenile Justice Home-Based Initiative (Initiative). As a reminder, the purpose of the Initiative is to reduce the number of out-of-home placements for justice-involved youth in Nebraska. Both Multisystemic Therapy (MST) and Boys Town's Ecological In-Home Family Treatment (EIHFT) are in-home services for justice-involved youth geared toward supporting parents, families, and communities in steering youth toward pro-social activities, behaviors, and peers. Service providers have been identified based in Omaha, Lincoln, and Norfolk for MST implementation. Boys Town will be expanding its EIHFT programs in the Grand Island/Kearney and North Platte areas. Phase 1 of the Initiative will involve the provision of services in early March. Phase 2 is slated for additional services to be added in late summer. More information on the Initiative can be found on the CIP website or by contacting Kalissa Holdcraft.

#### NE Crossover Youth Initiative

After the Children's Summit, there was a marked increase in interest regarding the Crossover Youth Initiative. Currently, Court Improvement is working with DHHS and Probation to finalize policies. CIP Project Specialists, Matt and Mary Ann will be working with the TEOC teams on statewide implementation. The Georgetown contract has been extended, which will provide tech assistance and support. There are not many other states attempting crossover work on a statewide level.

#### Native and Tribal Connections

Native and Tribal Connections is a high priority area for CIP. Court Improvement applied for a federal ICWA grant but Nebraska was not selected. The office continues to have strong connections with the four federally recognized tribes. Mary Ann works with the ICWA Coalition, and CIP is moving forward with ICWA judicial education through the year. This training will finish in June.

#### Data

Katie Bass, Research and Evaluation Specialist is busy collecting data for a variety of reports. Data guides the work of Court Improvement and TEOC teams. Katie is working on the state trend analysis, and it should be available soon. Upcoming will be work on Court of Appeals data, focusing on termination and details of timeliness. Questions were posed regarding recidivism data. It was suggested to connect with Ann Hobbs, who studied recidivism and diversion. Jeanne Brandner noted that Probation is identifying recidivism in the annual report, as there are barriers to working on that specific data.

#### Other CIP Updates

Court Improvement continues its ongoing meetings with leaders from Foster Care Review Office, Office of Dispute Resolution, Nebraska Appleseed, Nebraska Children and Families, DHHS, Probation, and additional task forces and committees.

#### Questions and Comments

Sarah Helvey noted that, regarding Families First Act—which contains federal funding for CIP, there is a final push to attach the funding to the Continuing Resolution. National advocates are calling on people to contact their state representatives at the federal level.

### **Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Update - Courtney Phillips, Chief Executive Officer**

#### News

All directors are in place at HHS. Dr. Williams is now the Public Health Director, and there is a full executive management team. HHS will be focusing on budget management and the legislative packet, which is being compiled and will be sent out.

#### Alternative Response

HHS is working on a continuation for Alternative Response, which expires at the end of 2016. Ideally, Alternative Response will be expanded to the remaining Nebraskan counties (beyond the current 57). HHS data shows children placed in AR are just as safe as those in traditional response. Information regarding the interim and assistance are needed. Also noted, parenting and life skills are much more needed for those involved in Alternative Response.

#### Child Welfare Standards

HHS is still meeting for round three of Child Welfare standards. Currently, we are meeting 6 of the 7 standards across the state.

### Protection and Safety

HHS is taking an approach similar to that taken with respect to Access Nebraska in addressing Protection and Safety. Works groups are being identified, focus groups are underway, and other approaches are utilized to attack protection and safety issues. In these discussions, services continually come up as questions regarding whether the state is getting what it pays for, identification of what services are really available, and how to align services more closely with children's needs. HHS has focused on Intense Family Preservation (IFP) and other service options. The Department is working with CFF and other community services and available resources. In Grand Island, HHS is working on a pilot program with the Department of Labor, focusing on how to assist families in becoming independent. There is a greater emphasis on partnering with existing community resources, such as Slumberland providing furniture to families in need.

### Family Focus Case Management

HHS is focusing on the employment aspect of individuals served through Family Focus Case Management.

### Child and Family Services and Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers

HHS reports much more collaboration with and assistance from Probation in improving the YRTCs. Currently, they are looking at training opportunities to create a consistent process for youth transitioning from HHS care to Probation. Regarding the YRTCs, the number of escapes has decreased. In the first four months of the year there were 29 escapes. In the past 6 months, there were 16 escapes. Other statistics include a decrease in youth on youth assaults, as well as a decrease in the youth on staff assaults. CEO Phillips recognized Mark LaBouchardiere, YRTC Director, and the phenomenal job he has done thus far. HHS expects Mr. LaBouchardiere to continue the good work and create a lot of culture changes. The YRTC staff and HHS continues to work with the Department of Education on educational requirements. Ellen and Courtney are meeting with youth regarding the mindset and thought process of those at the YRTCs.

### Access Nebraska

HHS has done a fairly good job at keeping wait time and timeliness low with Access Nebraska. There was a slip-up in October when the average call wait time went over the goal (5 minutes) by 23 seconds. This increase was attributable to a service outage in the Omaha area, followed by a full statewide outage.

### Behavioral Health

HHS has been focusing on the Children's System of Care program. System of Care leadership groups are still working. There are also 12 work groups looking at key measures of the System of Care. HHS was able to MOUs with key players, due in part to Probation working with juvenile judges. As a result of that work, HHS is able to gain access to more information from the courts and combine it with information from Medicaid, the Department of Education, Probation, and the Division of Developmental Disabilities. Data sharing and usage will be a process because there are no consistent meanings and definitions for data across systems.

### Health Assessment – Needs Assessment

HHS is working on identifying the following things: what services exist; what services are needed; where is the service overlap; and what services aren't producing returns. With respect to Medicaid, the biggest news is Heritage Health going live on January 1. Please encourage individuals to enroll in the plans. HHS is excited to move forward with the integration of behavioral health, primary health, and pharmaceuticals.

### Division of Developmental Disabilities

HHS is working with federal partners to update the waiver. This will be a process involving the rewriting of service definitions and unbundling of outdated rates that are currently not in compliance. HHS is shooting for a January rate, but it likely won't happen until March because an outside rate is involved. The Division is working to identify how to improve application and review time for licensing and eligibility. That process of review involved looking at the overall timeline and requirements. There is currently a big onus on families to collect information although HHS often has some data already. To combat this, a consent form will be utilized for families. This should cut down application time by 75% (in term of the number of days for application time for developmental disabilities).

### Questions/Discussion

Questions were posed regarding the effort for information exchange between HHS, Probation, and the Department of Education. HHS reports that communications between systems is still a struggle and there is a long way to go; however, the exchange and collaboration is absolutely improving. In working to help individual children, this communications across systems is key. It was noted that in an effort to gain access to important data, every judge in a juvenile justice district signed an order so information can be shared. That data is still being compiled. The judges have been receptive to requests and this assists various offices in focusing on the kids and what they need. Additionally, HHS and FCRO are working together on information gathering. Youth Impact Douglas County and Crossover have been exchanging information that is confidential but for the good of the family. By increasing the lines of communication and data sharing, the numerous data requests should go down and improve efficiency, as each request takes away from the day to day tasks and work of the offices.

An attendee asked why pre-adjudication services for 3A families in District 12 were no longer available. HHS is looking into why that occurred.

Questions about efforts looking into Child Protective Services worker workload and case management were posed. HHS is under the impression that to pursue a study on that, there needs to be an improvement on process before identifying the caseload issues. There is an internal working group at HHS looking at this.

### **Probation Update – Ellen Brokofsky, Director**

The Administrative Office of Probation (AOP) is working with DHHS to assess their service array and figure out whether the correct services are available to target the needs of their clients. They are also working to make sure that the services are evidence based. As reform has only been underway since 2014, it will take some time to make sure services match need.

### Projects

- Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) are both aimed at ensuring that kids do not become further involved with the system than needed.
- Probation is currently looking at what can be done for youth with status offense. Research shows that these youth tend to stay in the system longer than those with delinquent behaviors. In Nebraska, we have a lot of status youth in our system. One thing Probation is looking at is the San Jose Model Court and Probation sent some staff to study it. Their population is similar to the state of Nebraska, but they have much fewer youth on probation and no status youth. Probation would like to follow their example.

- There is currently a Family Group Conferencing pilot for status youth in Douglas, Lancaster, and Dodge Counties. Probation is using an idea that already exists to keep kids out of the system. This has been happening for a year in Lancaster and it is going well.
- Probation is working with the Fee for Service Advisory Committee to make sure there are options for the Judiciary to keep youth in their homes, decreasing the number of youth in out of home care.

The AOP was audited this last year. Overall it was a good experience because it gave them ideas of how to improve. The auditors also said everyone they spoke to really understood the big picture. AOP also released service definitions which are a precursor to System of Care, in which AOP is actively involved.

An overall, big picture goal is that they systems that work with youth and families not be siloed, but that as a state, we can all work together.

### **Sen. Pansing Brooks - Legislative Update**

This session, she is looking at:

1. *Tweaking the right to counsel.* Right now, there is only right to counsel for kids in 150,000 population and above.
2. *Human Trafficking.* This year, she will work on expungement for those convicted of prostitution as well as increasing punishment for traffickers and purchasers.
3. *Expungement.* – Sealing of records is not currently done uniformly across the state. This year, she will look into a study on expungement to see if action needs to be taken.

### **BREAK**

### **Probation (cont.) – Jeanne Bradner and Kari Rumbaugh**

Probation's annual report was released today. Because this is the first annual report, it is a baseline. A special thanks was extended to Judge Porter for her careful editing. Ms. Rumbaugh led the Commission through the annual report, which is available on the Probation website.

The group discussed some specific questions in regards to the report, including that when looking at overrides, they can be separated by intake and warrant, discharge is broken out by type of probation offered, and crossover youth are not in this report, but AOP will get a monthly snapshot – right now there are 170 youth who are dually involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. There was also discussion about the definitions of out of home placement, as it is not defined the same by all agencies that serve children and families in Nebraska. Successful discharge from probation can also be defined differently in different districts.

Dr. Weiner is currently working on validating the YLS, which is the tool that Probation uses to decide level of supervision required. There was also discussion about how the YLS is not always the right tool for status youth, but there is the pilot in Lancaster where the JIF is being used. There has also been a significant drop in status filings since LB 482.

- I. New Business
  - No new business

## II. Presentations

### **B2i Update – Mary Jo Pankoke & Nanette Simmons**

As an introduction, the B2I program generally involves helping youth to find employment, begin enrolling in educational opportunities, learning how to budget and manage finances, and seeking out volunteer opportunities in their communities. There has been a push to extend foster care programming for those youth beginning to transition out of the system.

Currently, the B2I program is bringing in roughly seven new participants each month. Due to the interstate compact held between Nebraska and other state, eighteen Nebraska youths are currently in B2I out-of-state and Nebraska is home to three B2I youths from other states. Additionally, 43% of participants are employed, 33% are in school, 20% are working to remove barriers to school enrollment and employment, thirty-seven are parenting (both males and females), and fifteen are pregnant (one with her third child).

In response to a question about the B2I uptake rate, it was reported that, while this number isn't recorded by B2I, DHHS data suggests that around 89% of those eligible chose to engage in B2I. Further commentary relayed that the program tended to be more popular in urban areas.

Further, the report of the B2I advisory committee, tasked with considering whether the program should be expanded to include the juvenile justice population, was highlighted and discussed. Generally, the committee believes that, due to the history of abuse and neglect associated and high risk of homelessness and recidivism with the juvenile justice-involved youth, expansion of B2I to include them would be a positive change.

This change could also be reflected fiscally in AOC cost savings down the road. Therefore, recommendations to expand B2I are being explored by the committee which sees the following as viable avenues of pursuit: (1) opening the entire B2I program open to juvenile justice youth; (2) provision of case management of these youth only; or (3) provision of "navigator services" to these youth in the hopes that it connects them to services in the community that could help them. To this end, Senator Kate Bolz proposed a bill to the legislature which would have allocate funding to expand B2I to the juvenile justice population. The bill made it out of committee, but was not priority tracked and did not go to the floor for a vote.

Despite this, the advisory committee will seek ways to expand this program with the following design criteria for involvement in the B2I program in mind:

- youth must be in a court ordered out-of-home placement as they age out on the their nineteenth birthday and prior to aging out, they need a hearing that services are needed and that the youth receiving those services would be in the youth's best interests;
- youth that receive charges just prior to ageing out of the system would also be eligible; and
- DHHS and probation will need to work together to draw IV-E funding for these youth.

Thus, moving forward:

- the IV-E funding penetration and draw down rate must be increased;

- policies must be developed for the B2I program which will help find balance of support and accountability, such as income verification, paystub submission, and help removing barriers to employment;
- data and outcomes need to be tracked and analyzed to determine program efficacy;
- research and rework of State and Federal regulations, such as those that require in-person visits which can be expensive for out-of-state youth;
- determining the correct case load; and
- Sen. Bolz will be introducing another bill in the future with the aim of securing my B2I support.

A discussion ensued about IV-E funding and reasons why penetration was declining. Reasoning included minimum wage employment now doesn't qualify for these funds and that Nebraska's low ADC rate exacerbates the IV-E problem dramatically.

### **Normalcy Taskforce – Sarah Helvey, Chair**

The Normalcy Taskforce was created as part of the Nebraska Children's Committee formed in response to LB 746 and provides reports and recommendations about normalcy projects and initiatives. There are five subcommittees and over one hundred stakeholders involved at present.

The Community and Family Voice Subcommittee has been working to develop a Bill of Rights for foster youth and is examining issues related to resources for normalcy activities in keeping with the reasonable and prudent parent standard which required increased access to activities and resources.

The Grievance Subcommittee has been working to examine and survey the existing grievance process and rights notification processes, as well as attempting to identify what the ideal grievance process looks like. Using this information, the group would like to develop a new grievance navigator tool in the next 60 days.

The Normalcy Subcommittee is making the recommendation that congregate care facilities need to develop normalcy plans for their group care settings. Further, this subcommittee also recommends programming in juvenile justice, developmentally disabled, and mental health facilities.

The Training Subcommittee has developed a list of groups that need to receive trainings, as well as determined what standards need to be included in training and what overall standards should be met by the training.

The Trafficking Subcommittee is working to target runaways and developing best practices for helping youth missing from care.

Lastly, it was reported to the group that Sen. Howard has done an interim study on the impact of the Strengthening Families Act and wants to introduce legislation that will adopt both the recommendations of that study and those of the Taskforce.

A discussion followed about whether LB 746 is being followed and whether adherence was being documented. It was remarked that the state statute was drafted as closely to the federal as possible, but implementation is ongoing and early. As a result feedback is welcomed by the Taskforce.

### III. Subcommittee Reports

#### **Case Progression Standards – Hon. Linda Porter, Chair**

This will be a final report to supplement the earlier report already supplied by the subcommittee. The subcommittee is presenting case progression standards to the overall committee with the intention that, if adopted into the court rules, will allow the courts to determine whether certain benchmarks are being met in child welfare and juvenile justice cases. These standards may be hard to meet, but the subcommittee tried to create a standards that would be both fair, within reach, and in keeping with the “if this were your child” rationale embraced by the subcommittee.

The recommendations were then submitted to the committee for adoption. A motion was made for adopted and seconded. No further discussion followed for or against adoption, and the vote to adopt the standards passed by a unanimous vote in favor among those present.

#### **Family Court Pilot – Hon. Douglas Johnson, Chair**

The Family Court Pilot is a concept of “one judge, one family” which has been adopted by many other jurisdictions. This subcommittee was tasked with determining if that model would be applicable to courts in Nebraska. An initial proposal and list of factors to consider was present to and approved by the Supreme Court. Thus, the grant application is moving forward to fund the project and help determine which model would best suit the state. Funds would support site visits, meetings, recommendations for a pilot, and a study by the University of Nebraska – Omaha to measure outcomes, costs, and efficacy.

A discussion took place about whether this would result in change to the criminal code. Further discussion expressed a belief that a family court that tackled custody and attempted to triage cases would be necessary, but will likely include divorce proceedings. Similarly, probate will likely also be a matter for the family court with a degree of flexibility needed by the courts. One issue raised with no clear solution was attorney education and the location of qualified lawyers for these courts. In conclusion, the subcommittee asserted that a comparison study will be undertaken of the pilot courts and existing courts, as well as jurisdictional comparisons.

#### **Education Subcommittee – Hon. Lawrence Gendler, Chair**

The Educational Subcommittee has met for about eighteen months and created a court education report which is now part of the predisposition report process. The subcommittee also reported on several federal law changes and their effects locally, including:

- a need to change the Court Education Form to reflect the law changes regarding transportation and admission, also number of school changes can be included on revised form;
- the federal act requires admission even if paperwork/documentation is unavailable or incomplete;
- state is developing its own rules to match the federal changes;
- a new superintendents letter to inform schools of the change is being drafted; and
- all other changes will be submitted to the committee for adoption.

Questions followed about whether a transportation plan had been developed yet, to which the subcommittee reported that the details had not been ironed out at present.

#### **Tribal Update – Mary Ann Harvey for Hon. Patrick Runge, Chair**

The Court Improvement Project has been working with the ICWA partners to identify representatives for the four federally recognized tribes with the hopes that this will foster increased collaboration. These partners have been identified and a meeting will take place in January. Additionally, AOC JUSTICE staff is currently working to make sure that tribes can e-file and receive e-notices for filing cases.

Previous work items include the ICWA Judiciary training, the Nebraska ICWA Coalition, the South Dakota ICWA expert trainings, attending the Winnebago Through the Eyes of the Child meeting whose team has set up a one-stop for juvenile justice youth, and attending regular CQI meetings with DHHS and tribes monthly. More TTEOTC teams for other tribes is something that will be discussed at future meetings.

#### **Guardian ad Litem Subcommittee – Chris Costantakos, Chair**

There is some new training online on the JBE website. B2i and ICWA courses are included, but need to be updated to reflect legislative changes. JBE has new staff on board to work on this project. There may be more changes with the upcoming legislative session – stay tuned.

#### **Children in District Court and Parenting Act Subcommittee – Hon. Gary Randall, Chair and Debora Denny**

The Center for State Courts had an evaluation done in Nebraska and there were recommendations. The thirteen recommendations for Parenting Act mediation have been addressed.

Domestic relations data sheet:

It is currently a work in progress, but will hopefully be able to track mediation, custody, and the parenting plan in the JUSTICE system. Ideally, the Subcommittee would like for there to be a screen on JUSTICE to work with all of these different pieces of information. Jennifer Rasmussen is open to creating a screen, but the Subcommittee is working on a product to give to her. A copy of the proposed data sheet was provided, but the drop down menus did not print off – those will allow the system to reflect modifications.

Temporary Custody in District Court Subcommittee:

This is a Subcommittee of this Subcommittee with some additional members. The group recognized that in busy jurisdiction, temporary orders may be the orders that stand for years on a case. There is a need to streamline the process and allow for ADR to be the primary method of handling these types of cases. There have been community meetings and also the Subcommittee got input from all District Court Judges about the issue and Judge Bishop is in the process of writing a white paper on the topic. There will need to be some work done around temporary custody in protection order cases to create guidelines.

### Triage

The Subcommittee is currently studying this issue. If there is a triage system, the system would be able to function more efficiently. In Colorado, a triage tool was created. The Nebraska group is looking at that tool to see if it could help to streamline the process here. For example, if there is a family where most things are not contested, their case could be dealt with more quickly. And, in a system with many self-represented individuals where some cases are very difficult, it would be helpful to the system to be more efficient.

### Discussion

The Committee discussed that there are cases where noncustodial parents do not believe their voices are being heard and that it is important to ensure these discussions are part of the work of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee is working to make sure that data reflects the types of custody that are actually being awarded and that parenting plans reflect what actually works for a family.

### **Juvenile Court Defense Standards – Hon. Inbody**

This is a new Subcommittee. Hon. Linda Caster-Senff and Sarah Helvey from Nebraska Appleseed will be the co-chairs. The membership includes: Hon. Mike Burns, Hon. Anne Paine, Hon. Vern Daniels, Hon. Tom Harmon, Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks, Kim Hawekotte, Marsha Fangmeyer, Alicia Henderson, Carole McMahon-Boies, Juliet Summers, Liz Neeley, Dennis Marks, Milo Mumgaard, Christine Henningsen, and CIP staff Matt Lewis.

This Subcommittee will be creating standards for all attorneys in Juvenile Court. Please contact Judge Inbody if there are questions.

### **Guardianship – Hon. Thomas Harmon, Chair**

Nothing to report at this time.

### **IV. Juvenile Judges Training Curriculum – Carole McMahon-Boies**

The Supreme Court appointed a Committee to develop curriculum for judges with juvenile jurisdiction. The proposed curriculum will be emailed out for comment. It will be taken to the Supreme Court in December for approval.

**Next meetings:** June 2, 2017 at the JBE/CIP office in Lincoln, 5001 Central Park Dr.  
December 1, 2017 at the JBE/CIP office in Lincoln, 5001 Central Park Dr.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23pm.