



## THROUGH THE EYES OF THE CHILD INITIATIVE

A NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT JUVENILE COURT PROGRAM



### SPOTLIGHT TEAM

[Click here](#) to read about the latest Spotlight Team.



### CASELAW

[Click here](#) for current juvenile caselaw updates.



### NEWS

[Check out](#) up-to-date Nebraska and National news articles.



### LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Get the latest information on Nebraska Legislative Updates [here](#).



### EVENTS/TRAININGS

[Click here](#) for upcoming training and event dates.



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Follow our CIP Director Katie McLeese Stephenson on [Twitter](#).

## 2015 REGIONAL CONFERENCES UPDATE

This year's Regional Conferences

### **WILL BE HAPPENING**

but will be taking place a little later in the year than usual.

**Stay on the lookout for more information in the coming months.**

## CHANGE IN • Reimbursement • POLICY

Our reimbursement policy has changed.

[Click here](#) for more information.



Kids and Judges Day  
**Friday, July 31**

11:30 am - 2:30 pm

[Click here](#) for more information



NEBRASKA COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

[Click here](#) to go to our website.

## June/July 2015 E-Newsletter

### WHAT'S HAPPENING



THE COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT  
**WELCOMES**  
KATIE MCLEESE STEPHENSON

### Greetings from the Court Improvement Project,

We hope that your summer is going well and that in addition to the important work that you do on behalf of children, youth and families you have the opportunity to fit in some time to rest and rejuvenate yourself! I began on June 1st which was the same day that Sarah Frankel and Kelly Engquist moved over to the Capitol from the CCFL at the University. The staff of the Office of the Courts and Probation have been great in helping us to adjust to our new digs. Please know that what has not changed is our commitment to further the great work of the CIP and offer continued support and technical assistance to you and the Eyes of the Child Teams across the state. I am prioritizing making connections, getting staff hired and we are starting to plan the fall regional conferences. If we have not met yet I hope to meet you soon. Please let us know how we can be helpful to you. Thanks for all you do and happy summer!

[Katie McLeese Stephenson](#) | Director for Nebraska Court Improvement Project

### Court Improvement Project Meeting: National Convening on Trafficking and Child Welfare

Washington D.C. June 9-11, 2015

What happens when six Nebraskans, from six different agencies and perspectives head off to Washington, DC for a Court Improvement Project (CIP) meeting on Human Trafficking?



We found out that our interests and beliefs are more similar than different, and we make a pretty good team. You were represented in Washington, DC June 9-11th by Nathan Busch, DHHS; Jeanne Bradner, Juvenile Probation; Stephen O'Meara, Attorney General's Office; Kathy Thomsen, FBI; Meagan Malik, Omaha Women's Fund and me (during my second week on the job). We were pleased to spend time with Vicky Weisz at the meeting (she is consulting with the group that was hosting the meeting) and she was able to join us for some state breakouts and provide an important perspective on Nebraska and CIP.

[Click here](#) to read more about Katie's D.C. Trip.



### Victim Offender Conference Overview

On June 22, mediators from five of the six state mediation centers gathered together for the beginning of what would be a three-day training on Victim Offender Mediation. This training was put on by the Office of Dispute Resolution in accordance with its Juvenile Victim Offender Mediation Expansion Project. Through a grant with the Sherwood Foundation and matching funds from the Judicial Branch, an enhanced version of the Victim Offender Mediation project is being piloted in Douglas County and the 12th Judicial District. The training was conducted by **Dr. Mark Umbreit** and **Ted Lewis** of the University of Minnesota's Center for Restorative Justice.

[Click here](#) to read more about the conference.



### Douglas County Juvenile Court celebrated its 6th Annual Summer Family Picnic

The Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County celebrated its 6th Annual Summer Family Picnic on June 6th at Boys Town's Great Hall.



The celebration is all about the success stories of youth and parents who have turned their lives around and are reunited. That's the story for the majority of our juvenile justice and child welfare families.

The youth and parents, and other supportive family members, enjoy a free cookout, games, music, face painting, crafts, meeting firefighters (free fire helmets!). Volunteers from nearly every aspect of court help put on the event. Boys Town is very generous to provide a beautiful and safe setting for the picnic.

We realized that the youth and parents we serve deserved recognition and credit for their hard work to improve their lives. We also commend probation, NE Dept. Health and Human Services, NE Families Collaborative, social workers, court personnel, mental health and substance experts, attorneys, CASA for Douglas County, and many others for bringing children and parents back together.

Because our work continues, we will continue to hold the Summer Family Picnic in the future.