



# OCR Broomfield Conference

## Cornerstone Advocacy Part 2: Services and Education

### September 13 - 14, 2010

We encourage donations to the “*Alexandra Covino College Fund*” in the amount of \$75 for OCR attorneys and \$125 for non-OCR attorneys for each day of the conference. The cost is waived for Judges and Magistrates. One donation covers both days for OCR attorneys. Jim Covino (1946-2010) was a Colorado attorney who dedicated his legal career to the pursuit of justice for those less fortunate in society, including children involved in the court system. He served as a founding member of the OCR Board and played a pivotal role in shaping the organization and GAL practice into what it is today.

#### Monday, September 13

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	<b>Registration</b>
8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPENING COMMENTS</b> <i>Linda Weinerman, OCR Executive Director</i></p> <p>This conference continues OCR’s introduction of Cornerstone Advocacy for GALs. The 2010 Salida Conference covered the first two cornerstones of <i>Visitation</i> and <i>Placement</i> and this conference will focus on the remaining cornerstones of <i>Services</i> and <i>Education</i>. Ms. Weinerman, OCR’s Executive Director, will provide an update on how this exciting model has taken root in Colorado and where the OCR is headed.</p>
8:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>KEYNOTE SESSION: PROMOTING SUCCESS THROUGH MEANINGFUL TREATMENT PLANS</b> <i>Barry Chaffkin, LCSW, Change the World One Child at a Time</i></p> <p>Those who attended Mr. Chaffkin’s keynote and workshop at OCR’s May conference can attest to his ability to motivate, inspire and challenge you to think outside the box in your advocacy for children and families. This session will focus on strength-based services and advocating for treatment plans tailored to families’ unique strengths and needs that are truly designed to promote successful resolution of cases.</p>
10:00 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	<b>Break</b>
10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ADVOCATING FOR MEANINGFUL SERVICES: TIPS, TOOLS &amp; STRATEGIES</b> <i>Vivek Sankaran, Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, Child Advocacy Law Clinic, University of Michigan</i> <i>Director, Detroit Center for Family Advocacy</i></p> <p>While Mr. Chaffkin’s session will motivate you to think about services in a different way, this session will help you strategize your legal approach to advocating for appropriate services and will discuss the importance of engaging the family in your work. Through his own advocacy experiences representing both children and parents and his development of innovative legal services for families involved with the child welfare system, Mr. Sankaran brings a wealth of national and practical experience in advocating for effective services for children and families. This presentation will encourage you to be creative in your advocacy and assist you in obtaining well-defined, specific and enforceable court orders for appropriate treatment services.</p>
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE NORTH CAROLINA FAMILY ASSESSMENT SCALE</b> <i>Julia Roguski, Director of Child Protection Services, Savio House</i></p> <p>Successfully advocating for services requires an understanding of the formal evaluation tools that social service professionals use in their development of service plans. Ms. Roguski will lend her expertise to provide an overview of the North Carolina Family Assessment Scale, which is used throughout Colorado. Learn how the Assessment Scale was created, what information it compiles and its appropriate/intended use. Ms. Roguski will also cover other safety and risk assessment tools that are used in Colorado.</p>

12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	<b>Lunch on Your Own</b>
1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>THE IMPORTANCE OF APPROPRIATE TREATMENT FOR FAMILIES</b> <i>Barry Chaffkin, LCSW, Change the World One Child at a Time</i></p> <p>This motivational presentation will help you advocate for appropriate and meaningful service plans that are truly tailored to the needs and strengths of specific parties involved. Mr. Chaffkin will share his national perspective and experiences with tailoring services to the unique needs of families, developing treatment plans that ensure success and effectively advocating for these services.</p>
2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES</b> <i>Lynn Garst, Assist. Director of Child &amp; Family Services, Mental Health Center of Denver</i> <i>Natalie Portman-Marsh, LCSW, Center for Systems Integration (CSI)</i></p> <p>Do you know what resources are available to children and families with mental health issues? Learn about evidence based practices, promising approaches, and innovation regarding mental health issues commonly presented in D&amp;N cases. Mr. Garst and Ms. Portman-Marsh will share their experiences with accessing various services throughout Colorado and will provide practical tips on identifying and accessing appropriate services.</p>
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUBSTANCE ABUSE &amp; DUAL DIAGNOSIS</b> <i>Nachshon Zohari, LCSW, Denver Department of Human Services</i></p> <p>Substance abuse impacts various parties and relationships in an intricate way and is a deeply rooted obstacle in many of our cases. Mr. Zohari will teach you how to read substance abuse evaluations, recognize benchmarks of success in treatment, and advocate for dual diagnosis programs. In addition, he will share his perspective on learning to harness the power of families to facilitate successful treatment for children/youth with substance abuse and dual diagnosis. Mr. Zohari will present how families and familial relationships can be a powerful treatment tool and will discuss how the new Denver EFFECT program is utilizing the power of families.</p>
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NETWORKING RECEPTION</b> <i>CB &amp; Potts</i> <i>1245 West 120th Avenue, Westminster, Colorado</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Directions from the Broomfield Auditorium to CB &amp; Potts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Head South on Lamar St. for about .3 miles.</li> <li>2. Turn left (or East) at CO-128 E/US-287 S/W 120th Ave. Take 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. for approximately 2.2 miles to Huron St.</li> <li>3. CB &amp; Potts is located in the shopping complex at the north-west corner of 120<sup>th</sup> and Huron St.</li> </ol>

Tuesday, September 14

<p>8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CREATING LIFE OPPORTUNITIES</b>  <b><i>Hasan Davis J.D., Deputy Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice &amp; Director, HD Solutions</i></b></p> <p>For 15 years, Mr. Davis has been engaging, empowering and encouraging youth to connect with their communities and achieve their dreams. In this presentation, Mr. Davis will draw upon the personal challenges of his childhood and his experiences helping youth in transition. Before the JD behind his name stood for Juris Doctor, it was clear to many he was just a Juvenile Delinquent. Mr. Davis is going to share some of the wisdom and gifts that the caring adults in his life provided on his journey to exchange one JD for another. Mr. Davis will help you see what is possible when we create life opportunities, access to education and safe, positive outlets for children/youth.</p>
<p>9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ACCESSING SERVICES FOR BIRTH TO 3 YEAR OLD CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL CONCERNS</b>  <b><i>Laura Merrill, Training Coordinator, Colorado Dept. of Human Services, Early Intervention Colorado</i></b></p> <p>Infants and Toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities and their families have unique needs and specialized and appropriate services can be a key factor to successfully assisting these children. Early Intervention Colorado provides support and services to infants, toddlers and their families within the everyday routines, activities and natural environments of the family. Find out about the early intervention system in Colorado, as well as the challenges of and creative solutions for serving this population.</p>
<p>10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
<p>10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>IDEA/504 &amp; EDUCATION LAWS</b>  <b><i>Randy Chapman, Director of Legal Services, The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People</i></b>  <b><i>Dr. Jacque Phillips, Esq., Law Office of Dr. Jacque Phillips and UNC Faculty</i></b></p> <p>The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) grants children with disabilities the right to free, appropriate public education (FAPE). However, the needs of some children with special needs are served through Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 instead of IDEA. Find out what all this means for you as Mr. Chapman and Dr. Phillips guide you through the education laws. This session will specifically focus on how you can advocate for the educational needs of children/youth including IEPs, Child Find, and everything in-between. The session will provide practical tips on how to effectively apply them to advocate for children.</p>
<p>12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Lunch on Your Own</b></p>
<p>1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SCHOOL STABILITY &amp; EDUCATIONAL SURROGATES</b>  <b><i>Finessa Ferrell, Director, National Center for School Engagement</i></b>  <b><i>Kris D. Ward, JD, CAC I, GAL</i></b></p> <p>The decisions around schooling for children involved with the judicial system can be complex and overwhelming. In this presentation, Ms. Ferrell will discuss the value of school stability, practical challenges to implementing school stability, specific strategies when children must transfer, motions to the court and working with various courts (truancy, delinquency and dependency and neglect). Federal and state law (including Fostering Connections and McKinney Vento), as well as state regulations regarding school stability, will be covered. Ms. Ward will provide insight into the role of educational surrogates, how to become an educational surrogate and when it is appropriate to do so as well as working with school districts, administrators, teachers and counselors in making the best decisions for children and youth.</p>

2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.	<b>Break</b>
2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AGING OUT ISSUES: SPECIAL CHALLENGES &amp; MAXIMIZING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS</b>  <i>Peter Pike, Associate Director, Colorado Win Partners</i>  <i>Jake Foster, Clinician and Transitions Facilitator, The Road</i>  <i>Ty Smith, former youth services consumer, Director of Youth Voice, Co-chair of Youth and Young Adult Transitions Committee of the Colorado Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council (MHPAC)</i></p> <p>This presentation will provide three unique perspectives on the challenges of aging out. Mr. Pike will outline some of the most prevalent issues with youth with disabilities aging out of the system. This will include information on schooling/continuing education, employment, Medicaid, social security benefits and successfully navigating the system to access and utilize resources.  Mr. Foster will highlight available resources and share how he addresses challenges with transitioning youth.  Mr. Smith will discuss the challenges for emancipating youth from a youth perspective. He will discuss how to negotiate the complex systems involved in aging out. Mr. Smith will discuss transitional issues of being moved from one system to another, the “gap” (the lack of services in the behavioral health system for ages 14-23), problems and practical solutions and how to make the mental health systems friendlier for youth in transition.</p>
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ETHICS SESSION</b>  <i>Jamie Sudler, J.D., Office of Attorney Regulation Counsel</i></p> <p>Mr. Sudler will lead the discussion on ethical issues that arise in representing children’s best interests. Join the discussion and brainstorm ways to address real ethical scenarios that attorneys have recently encountered. Audience participation is expected.</p>