



Colorado Office of the Child's Representative

1300 Broadway Ste 320, Denver 80203 | P (303) 860-1517 | F (303) 860-1735 | www.coloradochildrep.org

Fall 2014 Newsletter

Notes from the Executive Director

As fall approaches, our application process and eligibility lists have been completed and I've had a chance to reflect on our talented attorneys across the state. With our more in-depth evaluation process and staggered three-year contracts, we truly are at a point where we have hand-picked each attorney with whom we contract for their commitment to representing the most vulnerable and for their legal acumen. Through court observations and feedback from stakeholders, it's clear that Guardians *ad litem* are experts in juvenile law. 90% of almost 1,100 respondents opined that GALs possess the relevant advocacy skills necessary to serve children; 90% of respondents also report GALs have the legal knowledge required to advocate for the best interest of children.

It is equally clear that Guardians *ad litem* know the children whose interests they represent. Significant time and energy is devoted to really understanding each child's unique circumstances. It is the GAL who stands up and insists that the Court and all involved keep the child's needs at the fore through every stage of the proceeding. As Theo Demos notes in his GAL Profile (pg. 2), "If you can figure out how to shine a pinpoint of light on the immense breadth and depth of a child's needs, both in and out of the courtroom, you'll improve outcomes, feel you've changed a life for the better, and maybe smile a little more than your average attorney." I can honestly say that none of the attorneys with whom we contract is your average attorney—each of you is a true champion.

This issue of our newsletter includes some of the comments we have received directly from children, caregivers and families about OCR attorneys during our evaluation process. As a busy practitioner, you may not always appreciate the impact you make on your community, so take a few moments to read through these com-

ments. I guarantee they will touch you. My personal favorite from a case worker: "If my kids were in the system, I would want this lawyer representing them." High praise indeed!

This newsletter also contains several significant new studies that highlight areas of concern for children in child welfare and juvenile justice. Be sure to check out the summary of the recent *Dropping Out and Into Sight: Graduation and Drop Out Rates for Colorado Students in Foster Care* (pg. 7). It's the first of its kind in Colorado—a five-year study of educational outcomes for children and youth in out-of-home placement. Also included are links to the Colorado State Department of Human Services audit of Child Welfare Workloads (pg. 7) and an audit of Medication Management for Committed Youth in the Division of Youth Corrections (pg. 8).

Though there is always more to do, we have really come a long way. As always, please reach out to me or our staff with any thoughts or suggestions about how we can support you. ♦




Linda Weinerman, Executive Director



Inside This Issue:

PDF users: Click on a subject to jump to that page.

- ♦ [Notes from the Executive Director](#)..... 1
- ♦ [Meet an OCR Attorney: Theo Demos](#)..... 2
- ♦ [Positive Feedback About OCR Attorneys](#)..... 3
- ♦ [Legal Review: New Cases and Legislation](#)..... 4
- ♦ [Case Management and Billing: CARES System](#)..... 5
- ♦ [New Accounting System Update](#)..... 5
- ♦ [Highlights from OCR's General Assembly Report](#)..... 6
- ♦ [Budget Update](#)..... 6
- ♦ [Recent News and Resources](#)..... 7
- ♦ [RPC Work Group](#)..... 7
- ♦ [Cornerstone Advocacy: Education and Life Skills Planning](#)..... 8
- ♦ [Training Alerts](#)..... 9
- ♦ [Confirmation of Foster Care Dependency](#)..... 9

Meet an OCR Attorney

Each quarter, the OCR will feature a new attorney in our newsletter and on our website. Learn about the individuals who make OCR's mission a reality through their passion, skill, and dedication to Colorado's kids!



Theodore Demos practices in the 13th Judicial District in Colorado.

Q: Why did you choose to practice child welfare law?

A: I'm not sure if I chose child welfare law, or it chose me. I worked through law school as an Emergency Medical Technician, where my initial exposure to children and families in crisis was intense and visceral, but always brief. In the ER, children were treated for a traumatic injury, ignored medical conditions, or acute mental health issues, and then released. The questions were always the same: "how do you prevent such tragedies?" and "who helps them once they leave?" The answers were elusive . . . looking back, I regret not looking for them sooner. It took 10 years, but as an attorney with a general practice in the wilds of Eastern Colorado, I began taking GAL appointments before OCR came into being, comfortable with a base knowledge of the Children's Code, but amazed by the level of expertise needed in areas beyond law to truly make a difference in the life of

a child. I wanted to know more. I felt like I could do more. A late realization, but no less impactful.

Q: What has been the most rewarding moment for you while working with children and families in the dependency and neglect system?

A: I'm not sure I can say there was ever a kind of denouement, where everything came together for me in any one case. The most rewarding experiences, however, usually involve a child or a family who've proven to themselves they can succeed without caseworkers hounding them or help from treatment providers. Maybe the moment comes months, or even years, after a case closes. After a case worker pours their sweat and tears into a treatment plan, after a child struggles then succeeds in a residential treatment program, and after a judge and respondents' counsel "gently" prod a parent to work towards an end, the look of both gratification and self-accomplishment in a child or a parent's face is one of the most satisfying parts of my practice.

Q: Describe a challenge you face doing this work and your strategies to overcome it.

A: The children whose best interests we represent are usually caught somewhere between hope and chaos. To help them find their way out of that impossible predicament; to gather the best information and paint the best picture for a court requires a relationship between a GAL and child based on trust. Building that trust with a child over the short time a case is typically open is the greatest challenge. Getting them to believe you're truly interested in their lives, their music, their friends, their likes and dislikes, is a critical first step. Remembering and sharing those things with them over time is next. Empty promises degrade that trust, so giving them honest answers to hard questions, while sometimes hard to swallow, gets them to look at you rather than through you. If you can get to that point where you're no longer a window and instead a mirror, your words and actions can begin to have an effect.

Q: What advice do you have for an attorney who is new to child welfare law?

A: As lawyers we're taught that advocacy means action, and that a strong, vocal presence is often the key to successfully advocating for your client. Children are different. Choose your advice and your opinions carefully and learn to get a point across to them in as few words as possible. The less they hear from you the more they hear from themselves. The greatest skill you can bring to child welfare law is the ability to connect a child to themselves, and at the same time keep caregivers, caseworkers and treatment providers connected to the child. Keeping adults focused on a child is mostly linear and instinctive. With children it's more daunting. If you can figure out how to shine a pinpoint of light on the immense breadth and depth of a child's needs, both in and out of the courtroom, you'll improve outcomes, feel you've changed a life for the better, and maybe smile a little more than your average attorney.

Q: What drives you to continue in this line of work and do you have any advice for a seasoned attorney?

A: The artist Degas was famous for his paintings of ballerinas—but he never showed them performing. His paintings were of them practicing, because he saw beauty more in the effort than in the final production on stage. As Guardians *ad litem*, new and seasoned alike, if we can find some beauty in trying to find perfect solutions in an imperfect world, in the end, regardless of the outcome, our work will be worth the effort, and children's lives will be better for it. ♦



Visit our website's [Meet an OCR Attorney](#) page to nominate, share your own story, & view our archive!

Thank You, OCR Attorneys!

Feedback about OCR Attorneys from Children, Caregivers, and Parents from the 2014 Evaluations

- ◆ "He was really good. He treated me more like a human being and not a misfit." –*Youth*
- ◆ "I can't tell you how much he helped us get through. He never walked off when we got frustrated. He helped us to get through that and found us resources to help us." –*Caregiver*
- ◆ "She's the most wonderful person I've ever dealt with. She's compassionate, and she's the best lady in the world. Not only was she an attorney, but she was our friend." –*Parent*
- ◆ "One time in court, a lot of people were against me, and he seemed like the only person on my side. I really appreciated that." –*Youth*
- ◆ "I couldn't ask for a better person to represent my interests. He always listens to me and gives great advice." –*Youth*
- ◆ "She is dedicated. When I watch her interact with clients, she treats them as people and with respect." –*Caregiver*
- ◆ "He's doesn't pre-judge, he sees a clearer picture than most people I run into... He's a great person, very non-judgmental. He's the perfect person to be working with in a situation like this." – *Parent*
- ◆ "I'm really glad she's my GAL. She's really awesome." –*Youth*
- ◆ "As my GAL, she knows me well, and grounded her support of me based on her relationship with me. She often stood her ground when facing resistance from opposing team professionals." –*Youth*
- ◆ "She is an outstanding lawyer. My boys adore her. They love her very much. She was very helpful to us. She has got me through the courts with my boys. She does a great job." – *Caregiver*
- ◆ "He's got an awfully big heart. Our son had done this horrible thing, but he was very non-judgmental toward him. That meant a lot to me." –*Parent*
- ◆ "He's a very hard worker, he's honest. He will tell you like it is. And he has helped me though a lot and he is very, very supportive... He has had a huge impact on my life, if he wasn't there to help support me, I don't know where I would be today." –*Youth*
- ◆ "She is phenomenal. I honestly believe that no matter what, she will do what is best for the child." – *Caregiver*
- ◆ "She never made me feel weird. When your kid has a GAL, it can feel funny, as if someone thinks you don't have your own child's best interest in mind. She never made me feel like that. She's really wonderful." –*Parent*
- ◆ "The trust level between me and him is high, like skyrocket high. He's a very trustable guy. Highly trustable." –*Youth*
- ◆ "She treats us so good – she's like family. We have the highest confidence in her. She's the one we can turn to for anything. We don't hesitate to contact her." –*Caregiver*
- ◆ "My GAL has done everything possible." –*Youth*



Fall Legal Review

Summaries of new cases and legislation brought to you by OCR's Staff Attorneys

▶▶ Contents:

1. Juvenile Cases Pending - CO Supreme Court..... Page 4
2. Colorado Supreme Court Decisions..... Page 4
3. Colorado Court of Appeals Decisions..... Page 4

■ 1. Juvenile Cases Pending Before the Colorado Supreme Court

***Banks v. People*, 12SC1022 (certiorari granted June 24, 2013)**

- Whether, after *Miller v. Alabama*, 132 S. Ct. 2455 (2012), the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is violated by the imposition on a juvenile of a sentence of mandatory life with the potential for parole after forty years.
- Whether the court of appeals exceeded its judicial authority by re-writing the criminal sentence statutes in a way not authorized or compelled by Colorado Statute as sound "severability" analysis.

***People v. Tate*, 12SC932 (certiorari granted July 1, 2013)**

- Whether, after *Miller v. Alabama*, 132 S. Ct. 2455 (2012), invalidated mandatory life without parole for juveniles, the court of appeals erred by remanding the defendant's case for resentencing instead of upholding the defendant's life sentence and remanding the case to reflect that the defendant will be eligible for parole after forty calendar years.

***Jensen v. People*, 13 SC211 (certiorari granted November 24, 2013, issue reframed December 12, 2013)**

- Whether the petitioner's life without parole sentence was unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment and Art. II, section 20, Colo. Const., because he was a juvenile when the crime was committed, and, assuming the sentence is invalid, what is the appropriate remedy.

■ 2. Colorado Supreme Court Decisions

People in the Interest of S.N., 2014 CO 64 (June 30, 2014).

Supreme Court reverses Court of Appeals holding that summary judgment is never appropriate in dependency and neglect adjudications based on prospective harm. Looking to the purposes of the Children's Code and the caselaw regarding summary judgment, the Supreme Court decides that trial courts must evaluate whether to grant summary judgment in adjudications involving prospective harm on a case-by-case basis; such determinations should be made using traditional summary judgment standards. The Court recognizes that summary judgment may be warranted infrequently in such cases but holds that foreclosing summary judgment in all cases was error.



■ 3. Colorado Court of Appeals Decisions

In re the Petition of R.A.M., for the adoption of B.G.B., and Concerning Creative Adoptions, 2014 COA 68 (May 22, 2014)

In a case involving a voluntary relinquishment of parental rights by mother and termination of father's rights pursuant to § 19-5-103 (3), the Court of Appeals holds that the judgment terminating his rights is void because it was entered in violation of his due process right to appointed counsel.

In the trial court proceedings, mother filed a petition to relinquish her parental rights and a petition to terminate father's parental rights, naming father as the only potential father of the child. Father, who was incarcerated at the time of the hearing, appeared by writ and indicated that he was not prepared to proceed, had thought he would no longer be incarcerated and would have an attorney for the hearing, and did not understand his rights. He also asked the court to continue the hearing and stated that he was not certain he was the father of the child. The trial court did not rule on his request to continue the hearing, did not advise father of the nature of the hearing, the required findings, or the burden of proof, did not ask father if he understood, and did not inquire further whether father sought counsel or whether he could afford counsel. The court heard evidence and closing arguments; father's closing arguments included a repeated request for more time, for "a chance to get an attorney," to "find out what my rights are," and to discover whether he was the father. The adoption agency argued that the relinquishment statute required that father be able to assume legal and physical custody of the child at the time of the hearing. The court, after consideration, agreed with the adoption agency's interpretation of the relinquishment statute and terminated father's parental rights. While father did not timely appeal the trial court's order, he filed a timely motion under C.R.C.P. 60(b) requesting relief from the judgment terminating his rights alleging, in part, that the judgment was void because it was entered in violation of his due process right to counsel. This motion was denied by the district court.

The Court of Appeals holds that the trial court did violate father's due process rights by failing to appoint him counsel. As an initial matter, the Court rejects the argument that father never requested counsel, finding that the statements made by father constituted a

(Continued on page 5)

Case Management & Billing Using the C.A.R.E.S. System

Increase in Case Allocations

Effective September 10, 2014 case allocations have been increased in CARES to reflect the hourly rate increase and inclusion of mileage in the CARES system.

The updated fees are as follows:

- D&N: increased from \$4,000 to \$5,000
- JD: increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000
- Paternity: increased from \$1,000 to \$1,250*
- DR: increased from \$1,000 to \$1,250*
- Probate: increased from \$1,000 to \$1,250
- Truancy: increased from \$500 to \$750
- Mental Health: increased from \$500 to \$750
- Appeals: increased from \$2,500 to \$3,000

* After indigence findings are confirmed



► **New Accounting System Update:**

CORE, the new state accounting system, was implemented July 1st. After a short delay in processing payments due to system issues, attorney payments have resumed to the normal payment cycle. We are currently working on system reporting issues. Please contact [Melanie Jannicelli](#) with any payment questions.

OCR continues to work on improving the user friendliness of CARES. In an effort to address the slow response time we have added additional hardware to increase speed when billing and accessing records. We continue to explore other avenues to address system response time. Additionally, we are working on simplifying activity options in an effort to reduce the time required for data entry. We have reached out to the GAL Technology Committee and one attorney from each judicial district to review the proposed categories. Please stay tuned for these improvements. If you would like to provide feedback about CARES, please email [Amanda Donnelly](#) to be added to the GAL Technology Committee.

Remember to check CARES billing periodically to ensure that the amounts entered are accurate. OCR recommends this be done on a weekly basis. Please contact [Melanie Jannicelli](#) if an error is found and payment has already been made on the activity. ♦

Legal Review

(Continued from page 4)

sufficient request for counsel. The Court then applies the three-factor *Lassiter/Matthews v. Eldridge* analysis to determine whether father had a due process right to counsel. Concluding that both father's interest is an important one and that the state's interest is not weak, the Court highlights the risk of error factor as the determinative one in its analysis. Because of the lack of procedural safeguards applicable to a relinquishment proceeding as compared to a D&N proceeding and the complexity of the legal issues present in this particular case, the Court concludes that the risk of an erroneous decision was high and the deprivation of counsel rendered the proceeding fundamentally unfair. The Court vacates the judgment and remands the case for consideration of whether father qualifies for court-appointed counsel. The Court further directs the trial court to conduct a new hearing regardless of whether counsel is ultimately appointed.

People in the Interest of J.S.R., 2014 COA 98 (July 31, 2014)

The Court of Appeals holds that the juvenile court imposed an illegal sentence when, for a single adjudication, it combined a one-year term of commitment to the custody of DYC and a subsequent one-year term of probation. This sentence was imposed by the juvenile court subsequent to J.S.R.'s adjudication as a mandatory sentence offender. After

successfully completing his one-year term of commitment, J.S.R. began serving his probation sentence; a few months into the probation period, the probation department filed petitions to revoke or modify J.S.R.'s probation. J.S.R. filed a motion to correct an illegal sentence asserting that the probationary term was illegal. That motion was denied.

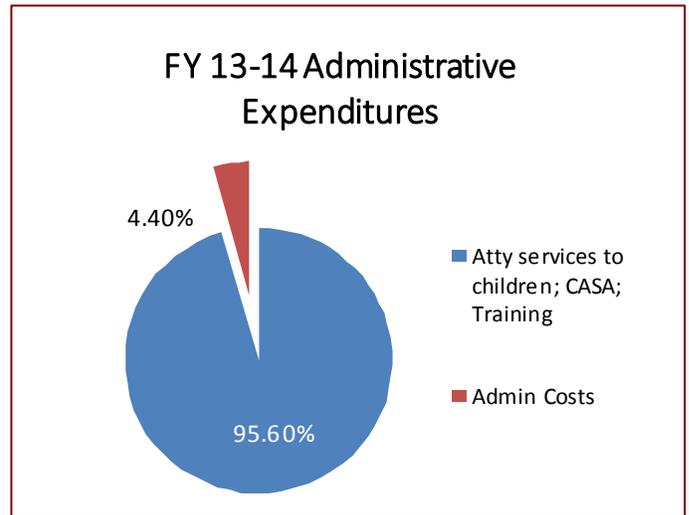
The Court of Appeals considers the relationship between § 19-2-907 and § 19-2-908, concluding that § 19-2-908 is a supplement to and not a substitute for § 19-2-907, offering the juvenile court an additional option of sentencing a mandatory sentence offender to a minimum sentence unless the court makes findings that an alternative sentencing option provided in § 19-2-907 is more appropriate. Although the court may combine sentencing options allowed in § 19-2-907, any combined sentence of probation and commitment limits the term of commitment to no more than 45 days (up to 180 days for a juvenile who is 18 or older and who is given educational/work release). The Court of Appeals is not persuaded that the sentence is legal because its aggregate term did not exceed two years; similarly, the Court of Appeals finds the reasoning of *People v. Trujillo*, 261 P.3d 485 (Colo. App. 2010) inapplicable because that case involved two sentences on two separate cases. Concluding that the juvenile court exceeded its statutory sentencing authority and imposed an illegal sentence, the Court of Appeals remands the case for resentencing and directs the juvenile court to not impose any greater sentence than the one-year DYC commitment originally imposed. ♦

Highlights from OCR's Annual Report to the General Assembly (Sept. 2, 2014)

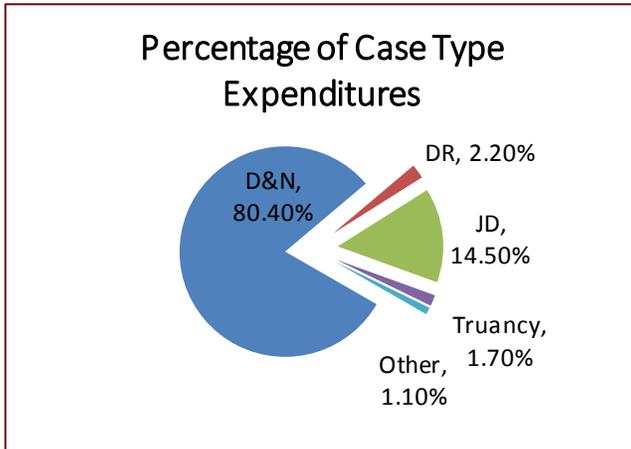
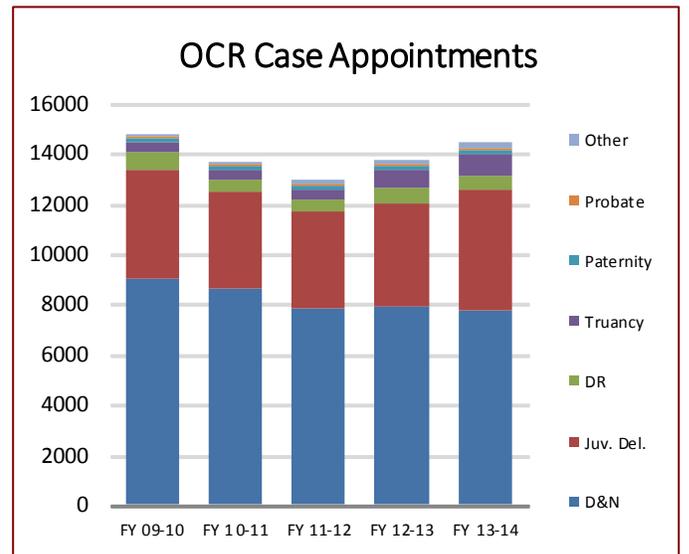
In FY 13-14, OCR spent 95.6% of its budget on meeting its statutory mandates, primarily on attorney services for children. It paid for attorney services in 14,471 case appointments. The average cost of an OCR case was \$1,217.95, a \$79.95 increase over FY 12-13. The remaining 4.4% of the budget was used to administer the agency (see pie chart at right). The breakdown of expenditures by case type is in the pie chart below.

The OCR saw an overall increase in appointments from the previous three fiscal years. FY 13-14's appointments amount to an 11.4% increase over FY 11-12. The breakdown of appointments for each case type over the last five fiscal years is shown in the bar chart at right.

The full report, including details about OCR's Legislative and Committee work, is available at tinyurl.com/ksq4n3z.



▲ In Fiscal Year 2014, OCR spent 95.6% of its budget on attorney services, training, and CASA support and only 4.4% on central administration.



Financials: Budget Update

As of the middle of September, the Court Appointed Counsel line is 19% expended while 20% of the year has elapsed. OCR will be closely monitoring the budget to determine whether a supplemental request will be necessary in January. OCR's Mandated Cost line is higher than anticipated with 26% expended. ♦





RPC Work Group

In January 2014, the [Respondent Parents' Counsel Work Group](#) was established to analyze the current RPC program and issue recommendations for ways to improve the system. Subsequently, Governor Hinkenlooper signed SB14-203, establishing an Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel effective January 1, 2016. The RPC Work Group was then tasked with making recommendations about the operational structure of the Office of the Respondent Parents' Counsel. The Work Group has recommended that a standalone office structured similarly to OCR or ADC and focused solely on representation of parents would be the most effective way to carry out the intent of SB14-203. (See tinyurl.com/kexvhcs for more.) The Work Group's final report is due to the State Court Administrator on Sept. 30, 2014. ♦

Recent News & Resources



➔ ***Dropping Out and Into Sight: Graduation and Dropout Rates for Colorado Students in Foster Care: 5-Year Trend Analysis (2007-08 to 2011-12)***, Elysia V. Clemens, PhD, LPC, University of Northern Colorado, released September 9, 2014.

This five-year study is the first of its kind in Colorado, and one of very few nationwide, which provides in-depth analysis of educational outcomes for children and youth in out-of-home placement as a unique population.

Key Findings include:

- Fewer than 1 in 3 Colorado students who were in foster care during high school graduated within four years;
- Approximately 1 in 11 students dropped out one or more times;
- One in three students in foster care was identified as having a disability and eligible for special education services.

The study found that while on-time graduation rates improved for Colorado students as a whole, graduation rates for foster children did not improve and remained well below their peers. View the complete study at: tinyurl.com/mvcwp7p.

Of note, the 2013 "Uninterrupted Scholars Act" (USA) amended the **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)** to expand and ease access to education records for child welfare staff. The State Policy and Advocacy Resource Center (SPARC) partnered with the Legal Center for Foster Care & Education on a very informative brief about the implications of USA, available at: tinyurl.com/lyav9g2.

See the most recent [Training Tuesdays email](#) for details about OCR's upcoming webinar on the report and strategies for GALs to promote educational stability.

Related Denver Post article: "[Colorado foster care youth less likely to graduate than homeless kids](#)" by Eric Gorski, September 14, 2014.

➔ ***Colorado Department of Human Services: Colorado Child Welfare County Workload Study*** (August 2014) tinyurl.com/liqsov5

Related Denver Post article, "Colorado needs 574 more child-welfare caseworkers, study finds" by Christopher Osher, 8/25/2014. tinyurl.com/nkgmvqg

(Continued on page 8)





Cornerstone Advocacy:

Education and Life Skills Planning

Cornerstone emphasizes proactive and intensive advocacy early on in D&N cases and focuses on the GAL's role in promoting education and transition planning supportive of academic and life success:

.. assist in the formulation and execution of a plan which focuses attention on the educational needs of each child and which supports school stability and success including maintaining a child in his/her home school, ensuring that when a school transfer is necessary the child is promptly enrolled in the new school and his/her educational records including IEP are promptly transferred, and ensuring that a child is assessed for an IEP when necessary; and assisting with transitional planning if the child will still be in care upon turning 18 years of age including helping to secure a life-long permanent family connection.

Check out the OCR & SCAO Spring Conference videos related to Cornerstone Advocacy at tinyurl.com/nnr7q79:

- Educational Advocacy & School Stability: What Dependency Lawyers Should Know
- Client Focused Representation: Advocating for Appropriate Service and Visiting Plans

Recent News & Resources

(Continued from page 7)

➔ **The Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ)** has released several new publications related to status offenses as part of its [Safety, Opportunity and Success \(SOS\) Project](#). A status offense is conduct that would not be a crime if committed by an adult (e.g. truancy, running away, violating curfew laws, or possessing alcohol or tobacco).

- "[Making the Case for Status Offense Systems Change: A Toolkit](#)" This is a set of resources which give judges, juvenile justice professionals and advocates the tools they need to educate others about status offenses and the need for better responses to youth charged with these behaviors. The materials in this toolkit will help users work with a wide range of audiences, including those who do not have extensive knowledge about status offenses or the court system. The toolkit contains **talking points** on status offenses, a **fact sheet that debunks myths** about status offenses, a **PowerPoint** on improving responses to youth charged with status offenses, a **brief overview of CJJ's National Standards for the Care of Youth Charged with Status Offenses**, and additional resources.
- "[Model Policy Guide](#)" This guide outlines key areas of consideration for states that are attempting to craft new legislation related to status offenses and helps policymakers ensure that they have addressed all relevant issues, from pre-court diversion, to provision of programs and services, and a child's right to counsel.
- "[Exercising Judicial Leadership to Reform the Care of Non-Delinquent Youth: A Convenor's Action Guide for Developing a Multi-Stakeholder Process](#)" This article offers concrete steps for judicial leaders who want to take action to achieve better outcomes for youth charged with status offenses. The Convener Action Guide shares the experiences of judges across the country who have leveraged their roles on the bench to make a difference in the lives of youth and families in need.
- "[Running Away: Finding Solutions that Work for Youth and their Communities](#)" helps system professionals understand and respond to this complex issue and details alternatives to the detention and methods of prevention for youth who run away.
- "[Status Offenses and Family Engagement](#)" This article explains why and how policymakers and judicial, legal, law enforcement, justice, social service and school professionals should focus their efforts on providing family-based services and strategies for youth who are at risk or commit status offenses.

➔ **Children Adopted in Colorado's Child Welfare System: A Study of Trends and Outcomes.** Applied Research in Child Welfare (ARCH) Project. Final Report. (March 2014). Winokur, Marc. Orsi, Becky. Crawford, Graig. tinyurl.com/precipw

➔ **Health Management Associates: Medication Management for Committed Youth at Division of Youth Correction Facilities: Program Evaluation** (August 2014) tinyurl.com/l7tg6oj

Related Denver Post article, "Audit: Colorado not monitoring psychotropics for imprisoned youth" tinyurl.com/q47kztz ♦



TRAINING ALERTS

Upcoming OCR Sponsored or Approved Trainings

Details can be found in OCR's new "Training Tuesdays" email bulletin! View training details and/or subscribe at tinyurl.com/trainingtues.

- Webinar: Improving Educational Outcomes for Children & Youth in Colorado's Child Welfare System (Oct. 1st, 2014, 12:00-1:00pm)
- State Pay CFI Billing: Everything You Always Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask (Oct. 10th, 2014, 12:00-1:30pm)
- 2nd Annual Excellence in Juvenile Defense Conference: Sex, School, and Status Offenses, What's Tripping up Teens Today (Oct. 16th-17th, 2014)
- Secondary Trauma & Compassion Fatigue Training (Nov. 20th, 2014, 1:00-5:00pm)

OCR Website Resources

The following CLEs are now available on the OCR's website for Home Study CLE Credit!

- [OCR Legislative & Legal Update Webinar](#) – 7/8/14
- [OCR New Attorney Orientation](#) – 7/14/14
- [OCR Mentoring Program Orientation Webinar](#) – 9/17/14



Confirmation of Foster Care Dependency

Youth who have experienced some time in out of home placement at age 13 or older, regardless of final placement, can be eligible for financial aid for college and for some training programs. A form, confirmed by the courts, is necessary for the completion of the FASFA for youth to be eligible for those benefits. The Court Improvement Program developed a uniform procedure (download at tinyurl.com/nmtkyut) and form template (download at tinyurl.com/o4r39up) for judicial districts to follow when confirming that an individual had been in an out of home placement situation for reasons other than incarceration.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Office of the Child's Representative (OCR) is to provide competent and effective legal representation to Colorado's children involved in the court system because they have been abused and neglected, impacted by high conflict parenting time disputes, or charged with delinquent acts and without a parent able to provide relevant information to the court or protect their best interests during the proceedings.

OCR Board of Directors

Terraine Bailey, Marsha Caplan, Paul Garcia, Lynne Hufnagel, Laura Hunt, Senator Cheri Jahn, Peggy Rudden, Joseph Wallis, (Former) Senator Al White, Victoria Black (youth member)

OCR Staff

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Linda Weinerman
DEPUTY DIRECTOR	Sheri Danz
STAFF ATTORNEY & LEGISLATIVE LIAISON	Dorothy Macias
STAFF ATTORNEY	Amanda Donnelly
CONTROLLER / BUDGET OFFICER	Elisabeth Dickinson
TRAINING COORDINATOR	Ashlee Jones
ACCOUNTANT	Katie Irwin
ATTORNEY REIMBURSEMENT & HR MGR	Melanie Jannicelli
INTERACTIVE SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR	Rebecca Garrison
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (Contract)	Amanda Parker

