



Colorado Office of the Child's Representative

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Spring 2017 Newsletter

Notes from the Executive Director

March is when we move the clocks forward. Thank goodness for that extra hour of daylight, as it's a busy time here at the OCR! Our application process opened March 1 and continues through March 31 for new applicants and attorneys who are up for renewal in the 2nd, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 18th, 20th, and 21st Judicial Districts. Every current OCR attorney received an email from us advising which application or verification form to complete. If you haven't received that, please let us know!

March is also the time when the Legislature is working through the Long Bill process. In the current fiscal year, we requested and received an additional \$1.7 million in supplemental funds based upon an increased workload; our expenditures through seven months were almost \$1 million over the same timeframe for fiscal year 2015-16. With these additional funds, we are in good shape to finish the fiscal year within our appropriation. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) approved our fiscal year 2017-18 budget request, which included funds to create a new billing system that will be more user-friendly, a move of the El Paso County Office of the Guardian ad Litem to space closer to the courthouse, and Westlaw access for our contract attorneys. The approval of the JBC is the first major step in the budget process which typically concludes in May. We are hopeful our requests will ultimately be included the Long Bill signed by the Governor for fiscal year 2017-18.

March also signals the halfway point for the legislative session. Bills we are monitoring include SB012, which provides competency restoration services funded by the Office of Behavioral Health; HB1111, which allows protective orders entered in D&N cases to

survive as civil protection orders after D&N cases close; and HB1207, which eliminates detention for youth under the age of 13 unless the youth was adjudicated for a felony or misdemeanor or felony weapons offense. We will be sure to keep you posted as these proposed bills are considered by the Legislature.

Other projects we have been working on in conjunction with a variety of stakeholders include the development of a crossover youth model for youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems in Colorado, participating in a workgroup to examine and identify specific sections of Article 3 of the Children's Code needing revision, and an adoption steering committee designed to ensure consistent adoption and subsidy negotiation practices across all counties.

As always, we love to hear from you! Please reach out to us with any suggestions related to the above or with any ideas about how we can better support you! ♦



Linda Weinerman

Linda Weinerman, Executive Director



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Meet an OCR Attorney

Each quarter, the OCR features an 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!



Bob Tweedell practices as a Guardian ad Litem in the Seventh and Twenty-First Judicial Districts.

► **Why did you choose to practice child welfare law?**

It chose me, and I said OK. Although it can be very painful, it can also be very rewarding. I'd like to think that what I'm doing is actually making a difference.

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

There is no one most rewarding moment. Our family treatment court is extremely rewarding work and we have excellent collaboration among all of the people and agencies involved. It is

rewarding when the kids come up and give me a hug at family treatment court and chatter excitedly to me. It is rewarding when the court actually listens to my argument and input. It is rewarding to believe that people can change and to actually see them change before your eyes in some cases.

► **Describe a challenge you face doing this work and your strategies to overcome it.**

Most of the families we work with are involved with several agencies: DHS, schools, criminal or juvenile justice system, mental health system, probation, agencies serving the developmentally disabled, social security, public housing, domestic violence shelters and treatment providers, health care system, etc. And yet there is no one person or agency that is coordinating the services of all these agencies. They work in silos and the left hand does not know what the right hand is doing. These systems are very hard to navigate for many families. I have tried hard to encourage as much collaboration and information sharing among the various agencies as possible.

Another challenge is lack of resources and service providers in a rural community. Be creative. Make do. Challenge yourself and others to try something different.

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

Be humble. Sure, you know a lot of stuff, but you don't know everything. Know thyself, or as Dirty Harry Callahan put it in Magnum Force, "A man's got to know his limitations." Be aware of your strengths and weaknesses. Use your strengths; admit your weaknesses. Do the best you can and don't take it home with you at the end of the day. Most of a good GAL's work is done outside the courtroom. Don't take yourself too seriously. You might be wrong sometimes, but it helps to be a positive and optimistic person.

► **Share a litigation strategy.**

For me, one of the best litigation strategies is to ask for ideas and information from others. This includes mental health professionals, teachers and principals, grandparents and other relatives, foster parents, the kids themselves, the OCR, and many others. In many cases, the ideas and facts I get from these people help to shape my overall strategy for a particular case.

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

Being a little bit crazy helps me to continue in this line of work. My advice for seasoned and, frankly, all GALs is to always keep in mind one of my favorite quotes from L.G. v. People, 890 P.2d 647, 655 (Colo. 1995). This quote is a guiding star for me:

An action in dependency and neglect is therefore different from the typical adversarial proceeding in district court. The proceeding is initiated by the State, through the department of social services, and although the parents are normally named as respondents in the petition, the purpose of the proceeding is not to adjudicate their rights, but to protect the safety of the child. Likewise, the juvenile court's orders are meant solely to protect the child from harm. It is not the State's objective, when acting on a petition for dependency and neglect, to punish the persons responsible for the conduct involving the child... Rather, the entire focus of the proceedings in a dependency and neglect action is to protect and shelter children who are susceptible to profound harm from the effects of abuse and neglect. In a dependency and neglect situation, therefore, the safety of the Colorado child, and not the custodial interest of the parent, is the paramount concern. ♦



Nominate, share your own story, and view our archive on our [Meet an OCR Attorney](#) page online!

Spring Legal Review

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

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■ 1. Colorado Supreme Court: Cases Pending

***People in Interest N.L.W.*, 16SC731.** Whether failure to enter a written order adjudicating a child dependent or neglected under section 19-3-505(7)(a), C.R.S. (2016), after accepting a parent's admission to the allegations, divests the juvenile court of its subject matter jurisdiction to terminate the parent-child relationship.

***People in Interest of E.M.*, 16SC287.** Whether a juvenile court must proceed under section 19-5-105, C.R.S. (2015), or section 19-3-604, C.R.S. (2015), when terminating the parent-child legal relationship of a non-relinquishing parent after the other parent decides to relinquish his or her parental rights to a child subject to pending dependency and neglect proceedings.

***People v. Ybanez*, 14SC190.** This case addresses, among other issues, (1) whether a child charged as an adult with first-degree murder, whose parent is a victim of the crime and a prosecution witness, is entitled to a guardian *ad litem* to assist with his defense and to advise him regarding the waiver of his constitutional trial rights; and (2) whether the court of appeals properly applied plain error review to the defendant's claim that a guardian *ad litem* should have been appointed, when there was no objection at trial or the initial Criminal Procedure Rule 35(c) motion.

***C.J. v. J.N.*, 15SC677.** Whether the court of appeals erred in holding that a dependency and neglect case in which the subject child is deceased is not moot under the "collateral consequences" doctrine because the father's request for post-judgment relief in the dependency and neglect case may impact the parents' separate federal rights civil lawsuit.

■ 2. Colorado Supreme Court: Decisions

***People v. Venalanzo*, 2017CO9 (February 6, 2016).** In this appeal of a criminal matter involving charges of sexual assault on a child, the Supreme Court considers what components of a forensic interviewer's testimony requires the interviewer to be qualified as an expert witness pursuant to Colorado Rule of Evidence 702. The Court articulates the following rule:

[I]n determining whether testimony is lay testimony under CRE 701 or expert testimony under CRE 702, the trial court must look to the basis for the opinion. If the witness provides testimony that could be expected to be based on an ordinary

person's experiences or knowledge, then the witness is offering lay testimony. If, on the other hand, the witness provides testimony that could not be offered without specialized experiences, knowledge, or training, then the witness is offering expert testimony.

Applying this standard to the forensic interviewer's testimony, the Supreme Court holds that the following testimony did not require the witness to be qualified as an expert: description of the basic interview protocol or the training and experience; statements regarding children's difficulty understanding physical measurements and tendency to use generalities; and assertion that children are more apt to share secrets with other children than with adults. Testimony that did require expert qualification included the interviewer's reference to "reproduction," a habit of children to physically demonstrate what happened to them, and the distinction between "core versus peripheral" details and what weight to assign to those details.

The Supreme Court also holds that testimony by the forensic interviewer and the mother regarding the child's credibility was inadmissible; while the investigating police officer's testimony would also normally have been inadmissible under similar grounds, the defense opened the door to that testimony.

■ 3. Colorado Court of Appeals: Decisions

***In Interest of D.Z.B.*, 2017 COA 17 (February 23, 2017).** In this decision, the Court of Appeals holds that the Arapahoe County Department of Human Services (the department) lacked standing to appeal a juvenile court's order placing a juvenile in a department-managed residential child care facility in lieu of bond over the department's objection.

The juvenile in this appeal faced probation revocation proceedings in two cases as well as new charges; over the department's objection, the juvenile court ordered placement with the department in lieu of bond.

While the juvenile was ultimately adjudicated delinquent and sentenced to probation on the condition that he continue treatment at the placement, the department's appeal was limited to the court order authorizing placement in lieu of bond over the department's

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objection. The juvenile, through his public defender, argued for dismissal of the appeal based on mootness, untimeliness, lack of a sufficient record, lack of a final appealable order, and lack of standing.

The Court of Appeals dismisses the department's appeal for lack of standing and did not address the other issues or the ultimate merits of the department's appeal.

The Court of Appeals begins its analysis by establishing the legal framework for considering the department's standing: because the department is not a party to the delinquency proceedings, the department must show that any injury it sustained as a result of the orders "was not a mere adverse effect but a substantial grievance." The Court reasons that the injury alleged by the department, the cost of placing the juvenile in the facility, is incidental to the delinquency action and directly arises from the department's statutory functions under Colorado's Children's and Human Services Codes. Additionally, the Court notes that the department did not demonstrate an injury because it did not provide any information as to the costs the department incurred for the placement; however, even if the department had demonstrated an injury in fact, the Children's Code does not confer standing to the department to challenge a juvenile court order regarding preadjudication placement.

The Court of Appeals distinguishes *C.A.G.*, 909 P.2d 1229, on the following grounds: the county department in *C.A.G.* was contesting a final adjudication order, the order in *C.A.G.* placed a unique burden on the county department (placing the juvenile in the county department's legal but not physical custody and requiring the county department to provide the juvenile with an appropriate education), and the county department in *C.A.G.* based its challenge to the court's order on the county's ability to comply with the order, not cost alone.

***In Interest of N.S.*, 2017 COA 8 (January 12, 2017).** In this case, the Court of Appeals holds that the juvenile court had subject matter jurisdiction to issue a judgment of paternity in dependency and neglect proceedings and that the juvenile court's procedural errors in determining paternity were harmless and did not deprive the court of jurisdiction to determine paternity.

This appeal was brought by respondent mother's boyfriend, who was originally listed in the petition as respondent father but who was adjudicated to not be the child's father by the juvenile court.

The Court of Appeals begins its analysis by noting that the juvenile court has exclusive original jurisdiction in both dependency and neglect and proceedings to determine the parentage of a child pursuant to § 19-1-104(1)(b); and when paternity issues arise in a dependency proceeding, the juvenile court must follow Colorado's Uniform Parentage Act (UPA) procedures.

The Court of Appeals rejects boyfriend's argument that the juvenile court's failure to issue a summons and petition pursuant to the UPA deprived it of jurisdiction to determine paternity, noting that boyfriend had been served with a summons and petition in the dependency action, was represented by counsel in that action, had actual notice that the juvenile court would determine paternity, and did

not object to genetic testing or the juvenile court's determination of paternity based on a failure to comply with §19-4-105.5. The Court of Appeals reasons that under these circumstances, requiring strict compliance to § 19-4-105.5 "would improperly elevate form over substance." (Citations omitted).

***In Interest of L.B.* (January 12, 2017).** In this appeal of a probate matter involving a child who has dual citizenship in the United States and Latvia, the Court of Appeals considers several arguments regarding the probate court's subject matter jurisdiction under the Colorado Probate Code and provisions Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, ultimately concluding that the Denver Probate Court did have subject matter jurisdiction. The Court of Appeals also resolves a number of additional issues, rejecting arguments challenging the probate court's evidentiary rulings, asserting a violation of the Hague Convention, and asserting lack of consent to the magistrate's jurisdiction.

***In the Interest of G.E.S.*, 2016 COA 183 (December 15, 2016).** In this decision, the Court of Appeals reverses an order adjudicating a child dependent and neglected and the related dispositional order, holding that the district court erred in admitting unduly prejudicial testimony regarding polygraph examinations.

The dependency and neglect case resulted from the child's outcry that her stepfather ("father") talked about inappropriate things with her and touched her inappropriately; after making similar statements to the caseworker and in a forensic interview, the child recanted her statements regarding the sexual abuse. The department initially worked with the family voluntarily, but then filed a dependency and neglect petition after the father refused to undergo a polygraph examination.

At the adjudicatory jury trial, the court admitted evidence that the caseworker found the child's outcry credible and that father did complete a psychosexual evaluation at the department's request but did not complete a requested polygraph examination. Additionally, father had privately completed a polygraph examination but had not turned it over to the department; over the father's objection, the court also allowed the department to elicit this information through cross examination of father.

Relying on legal precedent establishing the inadmissibility of polygraph results directly or by implication, the Court of Appeals holds that the juvenile court erred in allowing such testimony. In holding

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that the admission of the evidence prejudiced father, the Court of Appeals reasons that given the inadmissible evidence regarding the child's credibility, it could not conclude that "otherwise admissible evidence overwhelmingly proving the allegations of dependency and neglect" rendered the erroneous admission of the polygraph evidence harmless.

The Court of Appeals also holds that the district court did not err in admitting the child's hearsay statements, reasoning that adequate evidence supported the court's findings regarding the child's unavailability to testify and that the Sixth Amendment's Confrontation Clause does not extend to dependency and neglect proceedings.

■ 4. Legislative Update

The 71st General Assembly convened on January 11, 2017, with the Republican Party in the majority in the Senate and the Democratic Party leading the House. The split legislature means bills will not be enacted without bipartisan support. Several bills that may affect your practice or be of interest have begun the legislative process. Those bills include:

- HB 1110 Jurisdiction Juvenile Court Parental Responsibilities. County Departments are seeking to allow a court presiding over delinquency matters to allocate parental rights. The OCR is working to amend the bill in order to ensure procedural safeguards.
- HB 1111 Dependency and Neglect Civil Protection Orders. The bill provides "teeth" to protection orders issued in dependency and neglect cases.
- HB 1207 No Detention Facility Requirement Youth Ages 10-12. The bill removes the requirements for the department of human services to receive, detain, or provide care for any juvenile who is 10 and older but less than 13, unless the juvenile has been arrested on or adjudicated for a misdemeanor weapons charge or a felony. The bill retains provisions for other programs and services for the age group that will no longer require placement of the juvenile in a detention facility.
- HB 1064 Misuse of Electronic Images by a Juvenile. The bill creates the crime of misuse of electronic images by a juvenile in order to provide an alternative to a delinquency petition based on a felony.
- HB 1038 Prohibit Corporal Punishment of Children. The bill prohibits a person employed by or volunteering in a public school, a state-licensed child care center, a family child care home, or a specialized group facility from imposing corporal punishment on a child. "Corporal punishment" is defined as the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a child.
- HB 1040 Interception of Human Trafficking Communications. Under current law, a judge may issue an ex parte order authorizing the interception of certain communications if there is

probable cause to believe that evidence of a crime on a statutory list will be obtained. The bill adds to the list of crimes human trafficking for involuntary servitude and for sexual servitude.

- HB 1055 Create New Tax Check-off for Urban Peak. The bill creates the Urban Peak Housing and Support Services for Youth Experiencing Homelessness fund in the state treasury. A voluntary contribution designation line for the fund will appear on the state individual income tax return form for five income tax years.
- SB 012 Competency Restoration Services and Education. The bill addresses various issues relating to the restoration of competency for juveniles and adults in the juvenile and criminal justice systems. The bill establishes the office of behavioral health within the department of human services as the entity responsible for oversight of restoration services. Christine Thornton and Dani Diercks provided the Senate committee with valuable insight as it debated the bill.
- SB 177 Amending the Definition of Special Respondent. The bill amends the definition of "special respondent" to allow a person to be voluntarily joined in a dependency and neglect proceeding. The bill also deletes the party status of a special respondent.
- The OCR Budget. The OCR sought and received supplemental funding to support its current (FY16-17) budget. Additionally, the OCR's budget for the next fiscal year has support in the early stages of the budget season.

As always, if you hear about a bill and have questions, if you would like to serve as a GAL witness, or if you have an idea about a legislative change, please contact Dorothy Macias at dorothymacias@coloradochildrep.org or (720) 351-4346. ♦



Practice Support

CJD and School Stability

CJD: Observing Children with Parents

Remember that CJD 04-06 requires that D&N GALs independently observe the child's interaction with each respondent parent. While it may be challenging to comply with this provision at times, especially when visits are infrequent and far away, it is possible! Here are some tips:

- ▶ Request videotapes.
- ▶ Remember that interactions can be observed many places—at court and at meetings, for example. Encourage that children be brought to such meetings so that you can observe interactions.
- ▶ Don't forget that this responsibility can be delegated to "other qualified staff," which OCR interprets to include not only your staff but also other OCR-qualified GALs (and their staff). GALs observing visits for each other can assign and appoint themselves to CARES as litigation support and bill for their time. OCR's appointment lists are available at tinyurl.com/h8lqlrl, and OCR is always available to connect you with other GALs.



School Stability Laws and Regulations

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act and the Every Student Succeeds Act requires that foster children changing foster placements must:

- ▶ Remain in their school of origin and have necessary transportation provided, or,
- ▶ If remaining in their school of origin is not in their best interests, be immediately and appropriately enrolled in a new school, even without required records. 42 U.S.C. § 675(1)(G); 20 U.S.C. § 6311(g)(1)(E) and § 6312(c)(5)(B).

The Every Student Succeeds Act requires each local educational agency to collaborate with the local child welfare agency to "develop and implement clear written procedures governing how transportation to maintain children in foster care in their schools of origin, when in their best interest, will be provided, arranged, and funded for the duration of the time in foster care." 20 U.S.C. § 6312(c)(5)(B).

In February 2017, Colorado's school stability rules (SSRs) went into effect. 12 CCR 2509-1, 7.000.2; and 12 CCR 2509-4, 7.301.24 and 7.301.241. On March 10, 2017, Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) issued a memorandum (tinyurl.com/mz3md5s) providing guidance and tools for implementing the SSRs. The Memorandum provides an excellent summary of the SSRs. ♦

Applause & Accolades!

Margaret A. Burt is the recipient of the sixth annual Mark Hardin Award for Child Welfare Legal Scholarship and Systems Change, named for the longtime director of child welfare at the Center on Children and the Law. The Award is given to an attorney, law professor, judge or legislator who has shown achievement and commitment to legal scholarship and systems change, such as authoring child welfare legislation, leading a child welfare agency through major system change or having a key role in litigation that resulted in major system change. Ms. Burt will receive the award on April 27, 2017 at the ABA Children and the Law Conference in Virginia.

Please join the OCR in congratulating Ms. Burt! We have brought Ms. Burt to Colorado twice to train. Her colleagues report that she "works as a trainer, lecturer, consultant, child welfare attorney and as a national expert...and exemplifies the spirit of this award...she has reviewed and provided valuable commentary on virtually all pending NY State legislation relative to Family Court and child welfare...." ♦

OCR Evaluation of MDLO Pilot Project

From fiscal year 2011 through fiscal year 2016, the OCR piloted multidisciplinary law offices (MDLOs) in Arapahoe and Denver counties in an attempt to explore the potential benefits of expanding a formalized law office structure for delivering multidisciplinary representation outside El Paso County. The full report of the MDLO pilot, as well its executive summary and appendices, can be found at tinyurl.com/2017MDLO.

Learning & Practice Environment

The OCR would like to thank **Joe Anderson, Anne Parmley, Barb Remmenga, Ed Rodgers, and Amy Finkelstein** for providing their insight and expertise about ways to help the OCR cultivate a learning and practice environment that supports each of you! The OCR will be distributing a summary of that plan later this spring.

Please remember to review OCR's [Training Tuesdays email](#) each month, where the OCR provides information about upcoming trainings, conferences, and other resources!



Recent News & Resources

➔ **Colorado Department of Youth Corrections:** In February 2017, the Colorado Child Safety Coalition issued, "Bound and Broken: How NYC's Culture of Violence is Hurting Colorado Kids and What to Do About It" (tinyurl.com/l5ofddk). The report concludes that NYC's culture is plagued by punitive practices which cause physical and emotional harm to youth in NYC's care. It also concludes that NYC's culture of violence makes facilities unsafe for youth and staff, and deters rehabilitation.

On March 2, 2017, the Colorado Department of Human Services released its response (tinyurl.com/nxop3gk). The response's introductory paragraph indicates that that NYC reviewed the report, has concerns with many of the report's accusations and the report's inflammatory nature, but largely agrees with many of the policy recommendations or has been moving in the direction of those recommendations.

➔ **Engaging Youth:** The Research and Training Center for Pathways to Positive Futures produced a guide to help service providers and others engage youth. Based on Achieve My Plan (AMP) (an intervention focused on improving self-determination, treatment satisfaction, and community participation outcomes among emerging adults with serious mental health concerns), *AMP's Top Ten Tips for Engaging With Young People* (tinyurl.com/mqfuhcl) includes tips on how to ask questions and maintain conversation while completing a worksheet or curriculum with youth by adding reflections, asking follow-up questions, and using good body language.

➔ **Independent Living Skills—Money Management:** The National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability for Youth developed a brief for youth regarding the importance of money management (www.ncwd-youth.info/FinancialCapabilityYouth). The brief aims to help youth become financially capable through earning, saving and investing, protecting, spending, and borrowing. The brief also links to additional trustworthy sources, such as "Decoding Your Paycheck" from the U.S. Mint (tinyurl.com/mb2h2z7) and "Paying Off Credit Cards" from MyCreditUnion.gov (tinyurl.com/jwvr9px).

➔ **Permanency:** The National Quality Improvement Center for Adoption and Guardianship Support and Preservation (QIC-AG) released a new video (tinyurl.com/lvhwn8) highlighting the challenges to achieving favorable outcomes and permanence for youth in foster care, and ways to improve outcomes through implementing and evaluating interventions promoting permanence.

➔ **State Child Welfare Data:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released the 26th report (tinyurl.com/nxs5nkc) in a series of annual reports providing data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System. Major conclusions of the report include:

- ▶ Child Protective Service agencies received an estimated 4 million referrals involving approximately 7.2 million children.
- ▶ There were approximately 683,000 reported victims of child abuse and neglect.
- ▶ Over three-quarters of the victims were neglected, 17.2 percent were physically abused, and 8.4 percent were sexually abused.
- ▶ An estimated 1,670 children died of abuse or neglect.

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OCR Applications & Verifications in March

Applications for fiscal year 2017-18 (contracts beginning 7/1/17) and 2017 verification forms are open through March 31st, 2017! If you are interested in becoming an OCR contract attorney, please apply by March 31st at 5:00 p.m. All current OCR attorneys who are eligible for new OCR case appointments and/or who have any open cases must complete either an Attorney Verifications Form or a Fiscal Year 2018 Renewal Application by March 31st. You can find more information at tinyurl.com/ApplyOCR.

April Juvenile Justice Events

April 20, from 1-4:00 p.m.: The Office of Alternate Defense Counsel (OADC), the Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD), the Colorado Juvenile Defender Center (CJDC), and the Office of the Child's Representative (OCR) are sponsoring a **free symposium celebrating the 50th anniversary of In re Gault** (optional reception to follow). Learn more at tinyurl.com/mdtau7w.

April 21 All Day: OADC and CJDC are sponsoring the **Fifth Annual Excellence in Juvenile Defense Conference**. The Conference's presentations will address conditions of pre-adjudication confinement, trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), language disabilities, effective communication, and identifying conflicts. Learn more at tinyurl.com/19ccxdc.

Recent News & Resources

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➔ **Substance Abuse:** The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of the Surgeon General issued a call to action in the report *Facing Addiction in America: The Surgeon General's Report on Alcohol, Drugs, and Health* (tinyurl.com/zams9gk).

The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW), in partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the Children's Bureau, produced a number of webinars addressing maternal opioid use disorders and pregnancy (tinyurl.com/khgvhuc). Webinar topics include: Medication-Assisted Treatment and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome; Screening and Assessment for Family Engagement and Retention; Trauma; Models of Collaboration; and Evidence-Based Practices for Families Affected by Substance Use Disorders.

Portions of Medication-Assisted Treatment and Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome highlight a new guide, *A Collaborative Approach to the Treatment of Pregnant Women With Opioid Use Disorders: Practice and Policy Recommendations for Child Welfare, Collaborating Medical and Service Providers* (tinyurl.com/gvs7gng). The guide is intended to provide support and resources for developing collaborative practice among systems that come into contact with pregnant women with opioid use disorders, their infants, and their families.

Although opioid addiction has no cure, there are safe treatment options that can lead to a healthier way of life known as recovery. The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)'s pamphlet, *Opioid Addiction Treatment: A Guide for Parents, Families and Friends* (tinyurl.com/kf4n926), illustrates the path toward successful treatment.

➔ **Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS):** SIJS is a pathway to lawful permanent residency for undocumented children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned by a parent. See GRID at F122-124 for additional information. If you are working with a child without legal status, Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (RMIAN) is available to provide consultation and support. Ashley Harrington, Managing Attorney of RMIAN's Children's Program, can be reached at AHarrington@rmian.org. ♦

Chained Voices Art Show

Chained Voices: An Art Show to Educate & Advocate will feature the drawings, paintings, poetry, lyrics, sculpture, and other creative works by artists incarcerated in Colorado's juvenile and adult facilities. In addition to providing incarcerated individuals opportunities to speak through their art and raise funds for various needs that arise during incarceration, the shows increase public awareness of the issues facing incarcerated individuals, families, and communities. Learn more at tinyurl.com/k7qmlrk.

SPOTLIGHT ON *Child Abuse Prevention Month*



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month! National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of families.

This page spotlights a few National Child Abuse Prevention Month activities in Colorado.

⇒ *Throughout April: Display Pinwheels for Prevention*

Throughout April, Prevent Child Abuse Colorado will work with partners across Colorado on the Pinwheels for Prevention campaign. The Campaign focuses on promoting the great childhoods all children deserve, and engages individuals, businesses, and communities to unite to build strong families and prevent child maltreatment. Additional information is available at <http://www.preventchildabusecolorado.org/>.

⇒ *April 4, 2017: Kick Off!*

On April 4, 2017, from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Colorado State Capitol, Colorado child advocates will join together to kick off National Child Abuse Prevention Month by celebrating Governor Hickenlooper's proclamation of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, planting a pinwheel garden, and listening to speakers highlighting the importance of supporting families and preventing child maltreatment.

⇒ *April 9, 2017: Play Ball! Pinwheels for Prevention Event with the Rockies*

Illuminate Colorado and the Colorado Rockies are supporting Child Abuse Prevention Month on opening weekend! Game day is Sunday, April 9, 2017. Game time is 1:10 p.m. Buy your tickets at www.rockies.com/illuminate, and use the promotional code CAPMONTH.

Illuminate Colorado is also providing 500 tickets to Colorado families who may not have a chance to attend a Rockies game. As we all know, a key aspect in preventing child abuse is strengthening families and communities. Moreover, giving families an opportunity to spend time together experiencing a Rockies game is a great way to support families! Contact Jade Woodard, Executive Director of Illuminate Colorado, at jwoodard@illuminatecolorado.org to learn more!



⇒ *April 24, 2017: Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Conference*

On April 24, 2017, from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the Antlers Hotel at 4 South Cascade Avenue in Colorado Springs, Peaceful Households is sponsoring a conference addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), resiliency, and trauma-informed communities.

Additional information is available at <http://www.peacefulhouseholds.org/annual-conference-2017>. ♦

Budget Update

During fiscal year 2016-17, court-appointed counsel expenditures (which account for the majority of the OCR's budget) increased significantly. In response, the OCR requested a supplemental appropriation increasing its fiscal year 2016-17 budget by approximately \$1.7 million. The General Assembly approved the requested supplemental appropriation and the Governor signed it. The \$1.7 million has also been added to court-appointed counsel budget for fiscal year 2017-18, as the OCR expects the increased expenditure level to continue into the future.

The Joint Budget Committee reviewed the OCR's fiscal year 2017-18 budget. The Committee approved or made minor changes to all of the OCR's new requests. Included in the OCR's requests was funding to develop a new case management/billing system to replace CARES during fiscal year 2017-18. The state budget must be introduced via the Long Bill later this month. The OCR expects its budget to remain unchanged throughout the remaining budget processes. The OCR will closely monitor the Long Bill for amendments affecting the OCR's funding. ♦



Welcome New Staff Attorney!

OCR is pleased to announce that we have hired **Cara Nord** as our new staff attorney as of February 2017. Cara has been a County Attorney in El Paso County since 2010 and served in a number of leadership positions in that role including co-chairing the El Paso County Best Practice Committee Minority Overrepresentation Subcommittee and serving on the Juvenile Rules Subcommittee on Discovery. Cara has extensive experience in legal research and training and a real commitment to children's issues. Cara's email is caranord@coloradochildrep.org and her telephone number is 720-351-4350. ♦

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.

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