

Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts

Summary of July 18, 2008

Present: Lynnette Boyle, Ellen Brokofsky, Christine Costanakos, Hon. Vernon Daniels, April Faith-Slaker, Marsha Fangmeyer, Hon Larry Gendler, Robert Goodwin, Tom Harmon, Alicia Henderson, Gwen Hurst-Anderson, Lisa Johns, Hon. Douglas Johnson, Hon. Paul Korslund, Kathy Moore, Hon Linda Porter, Hon Randin Roland, Hon Linda Senff, Tami Soper, Dick Stafford, Carolyn Stitt, Rachel Strong, Hon. Kenneth Vampola, Janice Walker, Elizabeth Waterman, Vicky Weisz, Kirs Wertz,

Chief Judge Inbody was absent from the meeting due to illness. Judge Johnson left midmorning because of a family emergency. Judge Linda Porter chaired the morning session and Judge Paul Korslund chaired the afternoon session.

Updates

New members were welcomed to the Commission.

Judge Linda Senff reported on the Subcommittee on Parenting Time Standards. The committee has been formed with the following members: Judge Randin Roland, Judge Roger Heideman, Bob Goodwin, Dick Stafford, Jo Petersen, Chris Hanus, Georgie Scurfield, Carolyn Thiele. The committee has an organizational conference call planned in early August and will start its work with training on the issues regarding parenting time.

Judge Vernon Daniels reported that the Subcommittee on Implementing Delinquency Guidelines is still being formed and that he expects that Committee will be organized and begin working soon.

Vicky Weisz reported on behalf of Judge Patrick Runge that the Committee on Immigration Issues was also still being formed and was expected to begin meeting soon.

Vicky Weisz reported on the Court Improvement Project. The GAL Basic Training is available on line. There are four day long training sessions on Helping Babies from the Bench that will be conducted in the fall. There will be four Regional Conferences for the Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative in September. A statewide Children's Summit is scheduled for September 9-11, 2009 in Grand Island.

Case Progression Standards Discussion

Judge Porter led the discussion and requested input from the Commission on where the subcommittee should begin its work and members' thoughts about issues related to case load progression standards. The general directive from the Commission

was to focus on 3a cases (delegating progression standards in juvenile justice cases to the Subcommittee on Implementing Resource Guidelines for Delinquency). The Commission supported that the subcommittee begin with time frames for preliminary custody hearings, adjudications, and dispositions.

Interstate Compact of the Placement of Children Discussion

April Faith-Slaker discussed her draft assessment of Nebraska's ICPC. Commission members discussed assessment and recommendations and reviewed suggested recommendations from DHHS Director of Children and Family Services Todd Landry. Final assessment report, incorporating the input from the Commission, and appendices are posted at:

http://ccfl.unl.edu/publications/pdf/Nebraska_final_icpc_report_7_30.pdf

http://ccfl.unl.edu/publications/pdf/icpc_appendix.pdf

Next Commission Meeting: November 14, 2008.