

Keeping Current

April 2010

Last month, Children's Law Center began issuing this monthly events and information update, entitled "KEEPING CURRENT." This publication, which will be posted on the Family Law page of ProBono.net/dc and our web page, www.childrenslawcenter.org, is a compilation of relevant news and information, including trainings and events. Practitioners should also be sure to review the weekly CCAN e-mail for up-to-date information or changes. If you have suggestions or comments for future publications, please contact Nancy Drane, Training Director, at ndrane@childrenslawcenter.org or 202-467-4900 ext. 502.

Inside this issue:

Reports	2
Upcoming Training	4
News	6
Save the Date!	7



District of Columbia Court of Appeals 430 E Street NW

Upcoming Neglect Matters:

In re K.B., 09-FS-290 — Wednesday, May 26, 2010 at 9:30 AM (Regular)
In re Petition of C.A.B. & H.N.B., 09-FS-858 — Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 9:30 AM (Regular)

Note: Oral arguments are broadcast on the DC Court of Appeals website:
www.dcappeals.gov/dccourts/appeals/calendar/index.jsp



Council of the District of Columbia Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Upcoming Hearings:

Committee of the Whole, *Youth Issues* — Saturday, April 10 at 10:00 A.M. — Room 500
 Committee of the Whole, *DCPS Budget Hearing* — Thursday, April 22 at 10:00 A.M. — Room 500
 Committee on Human Services, *CFSA Budget Hearing* — Thursday, April 22 at 1:00 P.M. — Room 412
 Committee on Health, *DMH Budget Hearing* — Monday, April 26 at 10:00 A.M. — Room 412
 Committee of the Whole, *OSSE Budget Hearing* — Tuesday, April 27 at 10:00 A.M. — Room 412
 Committee on Health, *Health Care Finance Budget Hearing* — Thursday, April 29 at 10:00 A.M. — Room 500

Note: Selected hearings are broadcast live on the DC Council website: www.dccouncil.us

The materials referenced in *Keeping Current* are intended to be additional resources for consideration by members of the CCAN community. Children's Law Center is not vouching for the quality of the materials or events referenced herein, and CCAN attorneys should conduct their own independent research when reviewing these materials.

Reports and Publications

CHILD WELFARE and JUVENILE JUSTICE

Bringing Back the Dads: Engaging Fathers

The National teleconference on Engaging Fathers that took place on March 10, 2010 is now archived on the NRCPPFC website. This teleconference informs best practices related to the engagement of fathers and the paternal family in the public child welfare system. In this teleconference, presenters shared research and practice experiences, and discussed non-resident fathers and the legal system; fathers also shared their personal experiences with the child welfare system. On the NRCPPFC website, you can download the audio recording of the teleconference, as well as handouts including the agenda and presenters' contact information, a bibliography, a PowerPoint presentation, and many other relevant materials. Available at: <http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp/teleconferences/index.html#2010>

Girls' Delinquency

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has published this 4-page fact sheet which reviews trends in girls' delinquency and describes research conducted by OJJDP's Girls Study Group. It also reports on OJJDP programs and publications that address girls' delinquency. Available at: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=250433>

Child Abuse Prevention: A Job Half Done

This brief discusses the findings of the Fourth Federal Incidence Study on Child Maltreatment (NIS 4), which reports a significant reduction in the overall rate of child maltreatment since the 1993 NIS. The study reflects substantial drops in the rates of sexual abuse, physical abuse, and emotional abuse. However, no significant changes were documented in the rate of child neglect, a more chronic and pervasive form of child maltreatment—and the one that is most frequently documented among children in the child welfare system. Available at: www.chapinhall.org

Securing Child Safety, Well-Being, and Permanency through Placement Stability in Foster Care

This brief presents Year 1 findings from the Children's Stability and Well-Being Study (CSAW). CSAW is a longitudinal evaluation of 450 children in the Philadelphia child welfare system. This brief examines the issue of placement stability and identifies areas for federal and state policy interventions to improve outcomes for children in child welfare and their families. Available at: www.policylab.us

Teen Space: A Room of Our Own

In this article, a Teen Space Peer Advocate discusses the opening of Teen Space in the Queens County Family Court in New York City. Teen Space is a welcoming space reserved especially for teens in care, where youth (ages 13-21) can get information and relax while they're waiting for their case to be heard. Available at: <http://www.youthsuccessnyc.org/legal/stories/TeenSpace-Pugh.html>

Supporting Parents of Young Children in the Child Welfare System

This report from the National Center for Children in Poverty explores the challenges and opportunities of improving mandated parent training. Drawing on lessons from research and practice, it calls on states, courts and communities to use a more intentional, cost effective, and strategic approach to required parent training. Available at: http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_920.html?utm_source=...

New Resources to Help Youth Build Relationships with Parents and Foster Parents

Below are some new resources from Youth Communication to help youth build good relationships with parents and foster parents. Each of these web pages includes the following sections: Stories by Teens, Resources for Teens and Staff, Tips for Staff, and Helpful Links.

Birth Parents: http://www.youthsuccessnyc.org/birth_parents/index.html

Foster Parents: http://www.youthsuccessnyc.org/foster_parents/index.html

Reports and Publications (continued)

CHILD WELFARE and JUVENILE JUSTICE (cont.)

State Child Welfare Policy Database

Child Trends, with support from Casey Family Programs, launches the State Child Welfare Policy Database to provide information on child welfare laws, procedures, and agency guidance for all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Database, which is available at: <http://www.childwelfarepolicy.org/pages/map.cfm>, can help elected officials, administrators, advocates, practitioners, researchers, and other stakeholders keep up to date with the policies that protect our nation's most vulnerable children. You can learn about your state's expenditures on child welfare services, policies for relatives and "kin" caring for children involved in the child welfare system, benefits and services provided to foster youth after age 18, and much more. In addition to the traditional web version, the site is designed to be compatible with your mobile device, allowing for easily accessible information on the go. For more information about child welfare resources available at Child Trends, please visit: www.childtrends.org/childwelfare.

Caring for Children Who Have Experienced Trauma: A Workshop for Resource Parents

Many children in foster or kinship care have a history of exposure to trauma. This is a PowerPoint-based training curriculum from The National Child Traumatic Stress Network designed to be taught by a mental health professional and foster parent as co-facilitators. It includes nine case studies of representative foster children from the ages of eight months to fifteen years, as well as case studies of secondary traumatic stress in parents. With a combination of didactic information and exercises, the training can help resource parents understand the link between trauma and their children's behavior, feelings, and attitudes. It gives resource parents practical tools to help their children move forward from their traumatic pasts, to recognize and reduce the impact of their children's traumas on themselves, and to seek useful support from others. The workshop package includes a *Facilitator's Guide*, a *Participant Handbook*, and a multi-part *Slide Kit*. Available at: http://www.nctsn.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=ctr_rsched_prod_rpc_guide&Type=rpc

NRCPCF LGBTQ Issues and Child Welfare Webpage Updated

The National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections (NRCPCF) recently updated their LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning) Issues and Child Welfare webpage. This webpage includes the following sections: Resources on LGBTQ Children and Youth, Resources on LGBTQ Parents, Resources from the States, Legislation, NRCPCF T&TA (Training and Technical Assistance), NRCPCF Information Packets, PowerPoint Presentations, Bibliographies, and Websites. Available at: www.hunter.cuny.edu/socwork/nrcfcpp

HEALTH

Health Care Reform and DC

The US House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce recent issued a brief on health care reform and DC Available at: http://energycommerce.house.gov/Press_111/health_care/districts/new/DC.Norton.pdf

DRAFT OF DSM-V

The APA has posted a draft of the DSM-V complete with new diagnostic criteria. Viewers are able to submit commentary until April 20, 2010. Available at: <http://www.dsm5.org/Pages/Default.aspx>

Teen Pregnancy

WAMU just did a three-part series on teen pregnancy in DC. Available at: <http://wamu.org/programs/mc/10/03/05.php>

OTHER

From DC's Fair Budget Coalition...

"A Balanced Approach for Challenging Times: Recommendations for Supporting Human Needs, Maximizing Federal Funds, and Increasing Revenues in the District of Columbia" is available at: www.fairbudget.org

REMINDER for CCAN GAL PANEL!

Children's Law Center **HELPLINE** provides GALs with legal information and assistance!

- Staffed by CLC attorneys
- Confidential
- Legal information and assistance on general and case-specific topics, such as help identifying resources and services, sample pleadings, and other materials
- All Helpline calls are screened to identify potential conflicts of interest

Call (202) 467-4900 (Option 4) — Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Upcoming Trainings and Events

What Every Lawyer Should Know about Immigration Law Series, sponsored by DC Bar

Tuesdays, April 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2010 from 5:30-8:45 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

This four part series is designed to address the primary areas of immigration law that attorneys encounter regardless of their specialties. Faculty will provide an overview of immigration law and practice, including employment-based immigration options, family-based immigration law, and the immigration implications of criminal convictions. Important legal ethics issues also will be discussed throughout the program. Part 1 (April 6) will focus on Immigration Law Overview, Ethics and Family-Based Immigration; Part 2 (April 13) will focus on Employment-Based Immigration: Nonimmigrant Visas; Part 3 (April 20) will focus on Employment-Based Immigration: Immigrant Visas and Corporate Compliance; and Part 4 (April 27) will focus on Immigration Proceedings and Ethical Considerations. (More details on each session online.) FEE = \$249 for entire series.

Register at www.dcbbar.org.

Runaway and Homeless Youth: Prevalence, Programs and Policy, sponsored by Urban Institute

Thursday, April 8, 2010 from 9:00-10:30 AM – Urban Institute, 2100 M Street NW, 5th Floor

*A shocking percentage of American youth run away from home by age 18, according to a new snapshot of runaways to be published by the Urban Institute, and many do so before turning 14. Roughly half of all youth who leave home without parental permission or knowledge do so more than once, with girls more likely to be repeat runaways. Many runaways become homeless because family reunification is not an option. Other young people end up on the street or in a shelter because they are abandoned by their parents, are forced to leave home, age out of foster care, or are released from the juvenile justice system. Much progress has been made in recent decades to address the needs of runaways and homeless youth. What is left to be done at the federal, state, and local levels? How are service providers coping with the varied life stories of the 1.5-2 million young people who each year are homeless and unaccompanied by an adult for at least one night? Panelists: Patrick Boyle (moderator), editor, Youth Today; Amy Dworsky, senior researcher, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago; Hedda McLendon, social services division deputy director, Latin American Youth Center (Washington, DC); Michael Pergamit, senior research associate, Center on Labor, Human Services, and Population, Urban Institute; Bryan Samuels, commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. **Attend in person or listen to a live audio webcast.** Information and registration at www.urban.org. If you go in person, a light breakfast will be provided at 8:30 AM. The forum begins promptly at 9 AM.*

Upcoming Trainings and Events (continued)

Stewards of Children Child Abuse Prevention Training Program, sponsored by Safe Shores

Tuesday, April 13, 2010 from 8:30 AM-12:00 PM – Safe Shores Learning Center, 429 O Street NW (New location)

In recognition of Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Month this April, Safe Shores is offering a free educational opportunity for child-serving professionals and caring adults. Stewards of Children is a revolutionary interactive prevention training program developed by Darkness to Light, a national child sexual abuse prevention organization. This program educates adults to take simple, proactive to protect children from sexual abuse, including how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly. Registration deadline for April 13 event is April 9. Registration form available at www.safeshores.org.

NOTE: Program will also be offered on April 22 from 8:30 AM-12:00 PM (deadline April 20); April 24 from 10:00 AM-12:30 PM (deadline April 22); and April 28 from 5:30-8:00 PM (deadline April 23).

CCAN Brown Bag: Child Custody and Neglect Cases, sponsored by CCAN

Wednesday, April 14, 2010 from 12:30-2:00 PM – DC Superior Court, Room 4224

Child neglect cases may be consolidated with related domestic relations child custody cases or may include custody and child support issues. This brown bag will help you learn more about domestic relations custody cases and how those cases impact a child neglect case. The speaker, Jenny Brody, is the director of the Volunteer Lawyers Project and a member of the CCAN and GAL Panels. Ms. Brody and the pro bono volunteers she supervises have served as pro bono Guardians Ad Litem and parents' counsel in numerous custody cases in DC Superior Court. She will cover the differences between neglect and custody, the child custody statute, including best interest factors and jurisdiction, child support, the intersection of child custody and neglect cases, grandparent subsidy, and 3rd party custody (Safe and Stable Homes Act).

CFSA Public Hearing on FY 2011 Proposed Budget

Wednesday, April 14, 2010 from 4:00-6:00 PM – 441 4th Street NW, Room 1114

To assist the community in preparing for CFSA's budget hearing on April 22, CFSA Director Dr. Roque Gerald will present an overview of CFSA's FY 2011 proposed budget. There will also be time for questions and answers.

Panel Discussion on Family Law Task Force, sponsored by DC Bar Family Law Section

April 2010 – DC Superior Court, Room 3300

*Join the co-chair and other members of the Family Law Task Force for a listening session and lunch at the courthouse to discuss how services for litigants in the Domestic Relations and Paternity Branch and Child Support Branches of the Family Court can be improved. FREE – No Registration Required. **EVENT ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 16, BUT WILL BE CHANGED DUE TO EMANCIPATION DAY***

Effective Writing for Lawyers Workshop, sponsored by the DC Bar

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 from 9:30am-4:30 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

This essential course for both new and seasoned attorneys teaches participants how to recognize and correct common writing problems. Through a series of interactive exercises, attorneys will learn how to fix those problems and make dull and bureaucratic language clear and concise. Participants also will learn about the writing process, including how to untangle sentences and how to turn ordinary writing into crisp, sharp and convincing prose. This class will help lawyers communicate effectively with clients and others in the legal process. FEE = \$279. Register at www.dcb.org.

CCAN Brown Bag: Administrative Reviews, sponsored by CCAN

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 from 12:30-2:00 PM – DC Superior Court, Room 4224

CFSA staff members Benoy Thomas, Sina Baktash, and Darlene Barber-Shirley will present updated information about the CFSA administrative reviews held for every child in foster care. The agency is focusing on encouraging attendance by birth parents and their attorneys, with a special emphasis on involving fathers. This brown bag has been scheduled not only to give attorneys a chance to hear more about administrative reviews but also so that CFSA can hear from attorneys about their ideas to improve the process.

DC Family Court Training: Services for People with Developmental Disabilities, sponsored by DC Family Court

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 from 4:30-6:00 PM – DC Superior Court, Juror's Lounge

Upcoming Trainings and Events (continued)

Child Custody Training, sponsored by the DC Bar Pro Bono Program, Catholic Charities, Children's Law Center, Columbus Community Legal Services, and the Legal Aid Society of DC

Thursday, April 22, 2010 from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

There is a particularly pressing and unmet need for pro bono legal services in family law cases. Unlike other areas of the law, where encounters with the legal system are discretionary, family law matters often absolutely require resort to the legal system. For example, a child custody order may be necessary to prevent kidnapping of a child by a hostile parent. This training session is designed to equip attorneys who have had little or no experience in family law matters to competently and comfortably handle custody and support matters for pro bono clients. The training program will focus primarily on child custody proceedings in the District of Columbia involving indigent or low income families. This program is appropriate for attorneys and attorney/paralegal teams (paralegals must attend with an attorney). FEE = \$25. Register at www.dcbbar.org.

Family Law Section Evening Program: Family Court Bench-Bar Dialogue

Thursday, April 22, 2010 from 5:30-7:30 PM – Arnold & Porter, 555 12th Street NW

The purpose of this event is to facilitate communication between members of the Section and the Bench. The Honorable William M. Jackson, Presiding Judge, Family Court, Superior Court for the District of Columbia, The Honorable Jose M. Lopez, Presiding Judge, Domestic Violence Unit, Superior Court for the District of Columbia, and other judges from the Domestic Relations, Paternity and Support, Abuse and Neglect and Juvenile Branches will attend. To facilitate the dialogue, the Family Law Section is asking practitioners to submit questions in advance of the program to be read (anonymously) at the Bench-Bar Dialogue. If you would like to have your questions read during the program, please submit them to: sarah.connell@dc.gov or avrom.sickel@dcsc.gov. You can also ask questions during the event.

CCAN Brown Bag: Introduction to Revised Family Court Neglect Hearing Orders, sponsored by CCAN

Wednesday, April 28, 2010 from 12:30-2:00 PM – DC Superior Court, Room 3300

*The Family Court has revised the court orders used for neglect hearings, including the Initial/Further Initial Hearing, the Disposition Hearing, the Review of Disposition Hearing, and the Permanency Hearing. The revisions make the orders easier to use and understand, incorporate statutory language, and comply with new federal legal requirements. Family Court Attorney Advisor, Despina Belle-Isle, will be going over the orders and explaining the changes. **This session will be repeated on May 12 at the same time. All attorneys practicing in the neglect area are encouraged to attend either the April 28 session or the May 12 session.***

Drugs, Pregnancy and Parenting Part II, sponsored by National Advocates for Pregnant Women with NYU's School of Law and NYU Silver School of Social Work

Thursday, April 29, 2010 from 12:00-5:00 PM – NYU School of Law, 40 Washington Square South (Manhattan)

People working in the fields of criminal law, family law and child welfare frequently have cases that involve issues of drug use. Drugs, Pregnancy and Parenting Part II will bring evidence-based research and renowned experts to professionals and to people directly affected by policies addressing these issues. The presenters will help distinguish myth from fact, evidence-based information from media hype and provide meaningful tools for improved advocacy, representation, care and treatment for pregnant women, parents, children, and families. This program will specifically focus on the question of what happens when children remain with parents who use or abuse drugs? The distinguished presenters and hosts of this event include: Marylou Behnke, MD, Fonda Davis Eyster, PhD, Martin F. Guggenheim, JD, Carl L. Hart, PhD, Sabra Jackson, Gretchen Lord, LCSW & Lynn M. Paltrow, JD. More information available at:

www.advocatesforpregnantwomen.org. FEE = \$75.

News

For more information about budget advocacy in DC, some relevant blogs are:

The District Dime - Blog of the DC Fiscal Policy Institute: <http://dcfpi.org/?cat=16>

Susie Cambria's Budget and Policy Corner: <http://susiecambria.blogspot.com/>

Save the Date

DC Bar Family Law Section Evening Program: Immigration and Family Law

May 2010 – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

CCAN Brown Bag: New Developments in Family Treatment Court, sponsored by CCAN

Wednesday, May 5, 2010 from 12:30-2:00 PM – DC Superior Court, Room 3300

Changes are being considered for the Family Treatment Court. Join Magistrate Judge Pamela Gray, Family Court Presiding Judge William Jackson, and CCAN Attorney Bashiru Jimoh for a discussion of these changes.

Family Court Self-Help Center Volunteer Training Session, sponsored by DC Bar

Tuesday, May 11, 2010 from 1:00-5:00 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K St NW

The DC Family Court Self-Help Center provides volunteer attorneys an opportunity to assist pro se litigants with matters in the Domestic Relations and Paternity & Support Branches of the Family Court of DC Superior Court. This is a great opportunity for attorneys to provide direct pro bono legal services to individual pro se litigants while making a predictable time commitment. No particular expertise is required; training is provided and a family law expert from the Family Court Self-Help staff is on-site during every session. Trainees will be asked to commit to volunteering for three morning or afternoon shifts at the Center within approximately six months. This training is appropriate for attorneys only. (Membership in any state's bar will suffice). FEE = \$10. Register at www.dcbbar.org.

CCAN Brown Bag: Introduction to Revised Family Court Neglect Hearing Orders, sponsored by CCAN

Wednesday, May 12, 2010 from 12:30-2:00 PM – DC Superior Court, Room 3300

*The Family Court has revised the court orders used for neglect hearings, including the Initial/Further Initial Hearing, the Disposition Hearing, the Review of Disposition Hearing, and the Permanency Hearing. The revisions make the orders easier to use and understand, incorporate statutory language, and comply with new federal legal requirements. Family Court Attorney Advisor, Despina Belle-Isle, will be going over the orders and explaining the changes. **This session is a repeat of the April 28 session. All attorneys practicing in the neglect area are encouraged to attend either the April 28 session or the May 12 session.***

Effective Writing for Lawyers Workshop, sponsored by the DC Bar

Friday, May 14, 2010 from 9:30 AM-4:30 PM – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

This essential course for both new and seasoned attorneys teaches participants how to recognize and correct common writing problems. Through a series of interactive exercises, attorneys will learn how to fix those problems and make dull and bureaucratic language clear and concise. Participants also will learn about the writing process, including how to untangle sentences and how to turn ordinary writing into crisp, sharp and convincing prose. This class will help lawyers communicate effectively with clients and others in the legal process. FEE = \$279. Register at www.dcbbar.org.

DC Bar Family Law Section Courthouse Meeting: Caselaw and Legislation Update

May 17, 2010 from 12:30-1:30 PM – DC Superior Court

Must Haves and Can't Stands: A View from the Bench, sponsored by the DC Bar Family Law Section

June 2010 – DC Bar, 1101 K Street NW

DC Bar Family Law Section Courthouse Meeting: Domestic Violence Bench-Bar Dialogue

June 2010 – DC Superior Court

DC Bar Family Law Section Evening Program: The New Family

June 17, 2010 from 5:30-7:30 PM – DC Bar; 1101 K Street NW

Children's Law Center Half-Day Trial Skills Training (for all CCAN)

Friday, June 18, 2010 from 10:30 AM-2:30 PM — DC Superior Court, Room 3300

Children's Law Center Half-Day Training (for all CCAN)

Thursday, September 16, 2010 from 10:30 AM-2:30 PM — DC Superior Court, Room 3300