

CHIPS Virtual Conference

September 16 - 18, 2020

Proposed Agenda

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

10:00 am – 10:30 am Noncustodial/Nonresident Parents: Efforts, Assessment, and Engagement

Identify practices and procedures to engage noncustodial/nonresident parents early and throughout the juvenile protection case.

Tracy Harris, Assistant Sherburne County Attorney

Deb Simonson, Assistant Scott County Attorney

10:30 am – 10:45 am Break

10:45 am – 11:45 am Case Law Case Study

Join us for a review of the significant appellate decisions issued during the past year and a discussion of how these decisions could impact our work, the work of social services agencies, and the way in which district courts view and evaluate the cases we present to them.

Kathryn Eilers, Assistant Director, Human Services Division, Ramsey County Attorney's Office

Jennifer Jackson, Assistant Dakota County Attorney

11:45 am – 12:00 pm Break

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Permanency Time Bombs

John Bowen, Assistant Wright County Attorney

Erin Johnson, Assistant Washington County Attorney

Kari Willis, Assistant Wright County Attorney

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Thursday, September 17, 2020

10:00 am – 11:00 am Juvenile Rule 20: What Happens When a Child is Found Incompetent In Delinquency Court?

This session will explore what happens to a case in delinquency court when a child is found incompetent and the obligations the social services agencies have to incompetent youth. The presentation will address the three paths a case can take – voluntary services (260D), CHIPS petition (260C), and civil commitment, and how to choose which path may fit a case best. We will also discuss case planning services, what to do when a child is an out of county resident, placement challenges, re-evaluations, and how to determine when it's time for a case to close. We will explore how three different jurisdictions handle the Rule 20 cases – Hennepin, Ramsey, and Atkin, and will also take a look at a few hard case examples.

Melissa Jacobsen, Senior Assistant Hennepin County Attorney
Kayla Rodriguez, Assistant Ramsey County Attorney
Sarah Winge, Assistant Aitkin County Attorney

11:00 am – 11:15 am Break

11:15 am - 12:15 pm Ethics – Data Sharing Within an Office

In this session, we'll discuss CHIPS data within a county attorney's office and how to navigate potential ethical dilemmas that surround the data. We'll examine the classification of CHIPS data, discuss ethical rules that CHIPS attorneys need to be familiar with to address common ethical issues, discuss data practices in relation to cross-reporting, etc. Our goal is to leave attendees with a refreshed understanding of applicable, ethical rules and statutes related to CHIPS data and data sharing and to discuss general best practices.

Rachel Cornelius, Waseca County Attorney
Alex Saumer, Assistant Carlton County Attorney

12:15 pm – 12:30 pm Break

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Reasonable Efforts in the Time of COVID

COVID-19 has brought new complications to the already complicated task of working productively with families with varying needs. Brush up on reasonable efforts generally and learn whether and how those obligations have changed due to COVID-19. We will discuss new considerations to keep in mind and strategies and suggestions for meeting our ongoing legal obligations.

Elizabeth Johnston, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney
Jenny Nystrom, Assistant Dakota County Attorney
Rebecca Trapp, Assistant Yellow Medicine County Attorney

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Friday, September 18, 2020

10:00 am - 12:00 pm It is a Matter of Justice: Understanding and Addressing FASD in the Juvenile Justice System

In 2018, the CDC reported fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) are as common as 1 in 20 people. Individuals with FASD are involved with the juvenile justice system at an alarming rate as victims of abuse and neglect, offenders, and parents. Without the understanding of FASD, how to identify this population, and how to effectively work with individuals on the spectrum they may face significant barriers to justice. This session will provide an overview of FASD, explore why individuals on the spectrum may be at increased risk for involvement in child protection cases, and will provide strategies for accommodations related to addressing disability related to FASD in the courts

Maya Tester, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney

12:00 pm – 12:30 pm Break

12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Elimination of Bias: Viewing of *True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality* Documentary with Panel Discussion on Our Justice System

This session requires homework.

Students must watch *True Justice: Bryan Stevenson's Fight for Equality* prior to the panel discussion. The documentary is one hour and forty minutes long. And available for viewing 24/7.

Elimination of Bias credits will be applied for viewing the documentary 1.50 credits and the panel discussion 1.50 credits.

Moderator: Christos Jensen, Assistant Ramsey County Attorney

Panelist: Jacqueline Beaulieu, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney

Angela Frie, Assistant Crow Wing County Attorney

Sherry Haley, Jackson County Attorney

Sasha Henning, Assistant Steele County Attorney

Roberta Jones, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney

Katie Stock, Assistant Clay County Attorney

Ben Stromberg, Public Health and Human Services Division Director, St. Louis County Attorney's Office