

2010 Spring Lecture Series

Improving Educational Outcomes for Children in Foster Care

April 22, 2010 in Papillion, 8:30-12:00
Sarpy County Courthouse Board Room
1210 Golden Gate Drive

April 23, 2010 in South Sioux City, 8:30-12:00
Iowa Nebraska State Bank
2021 Dakota Avenue

Description: This presentation will address why it is critical to focus on and address the education needs of children while they are in foster care; the impact education advocacy can have on a child's well being and permanency; the scope of education issues that must be addressed to adequately meet the child's educational needs; critical importance of school stability and continuity for children in foster care and steps that can be taken to decrease school mobility and disruption. Legal issues will be addressed including access to education information and sharing of information across agencies; as well as issues of legal education decision-making authority and the role of legal advocacy and the court process. Also discussed will be the importance of judicial leadership and attention during court hearings to education needs generally. Educational administrators are invited to participate in the training.

Trainer: Kathleen McNaught, J.D., is an Assistant Staff Director of Child Welfare at the American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law. Kathleen provides training and technical assistance around the country on a variety of legal child welfare issues, in particular issues related to the educational needs of children in foster care. She is the Project Director for the Legal Center for Foster Care and Education, a collaboration between the ABA and Casey Family Programs. She has authored several publications on the topic, including *Learning Curves: Education Advocacy for Children in Foster Care*, and *Mythbusting: Breaking Down Confidentiality and Decision-Making Barriers to Meet the Education Needs of Children in Foster Care*. Kathleen has also written on the issue of achieving permanency for older adolescents in care including a guide for judges and attorneys on the unique needs and issues faces by older youth aging out of the foster care system. Prior to joining the Center, Kathleen spent 7 years practicing law in the state of Maryland. She was a staff attorney for three years for Maryland's Legal Aid Bureau in their Child Advocacy Unit. She then went on to private practice, representing parents and children in child welfare cases, as well as in education, delinquency and custody matters. She received her J.D. from The American University, Washington College of Law in 1994, and her B.A. from Franklin and Marshall College in 1991.

MCLE credit available!

This event is sponsored by the Nebraska Court Improvement Project. For more information on the Nebraska Court Improvement Project, the Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative, or this training, please visit our website at www.throughtheeyes.org.

Questions? Please contact Melissa Townsend (mtownsend3@unl.edu, 402.472.3292) or Vicky Weisz (vweisz1@unl.edu, 402.472.9814).

All individuals with a stake in the child welfare court system are invited to attend, including judges, attorneys, caseworkers, clerks, school personnel, law enforcement, medical and service providers, foster families, treatment providers, CASA, FCRB, and court facilitators.

You must register to attend. Registration and more information will be available by February 5 at www.throughtheeyes.org. There is no cost to attend but registration will close when limits are reached. You must register in advance to receive MCLE credits. There will be a \$15 fee for 3 credits.

If you are unable to attend, this session will become available through video streaming at www.throughtheeyes.org.

