

2010 Spring Lecture Series

Somali Children and Families in the Child Welfare System: Improving our Response

March 4, 2010 in Lexington, 1:00-4:30

Holiday Inn Express

2605 Plum Creek Parkway

Description: Several Nebraska communities have seen a surge in population of Somali families and a number of these communities have seen rising numbers of Somali children and families in the child welfare system. The training will provide an overview of cultural, language, and familial issues as well as practical guidance regarding a more culturally sensitive and effective response to the problem of child abuse/neglect in this new immigrant community. Local and state resources from the Somali community will be invited to participate in the training and to develop or strengthen linkages that will assist families in the child welfare system.

Trainers: Hassan Ugas, MSW, has worked with Hennepin County's (Minnesota) Human Service and Public Health Department for more than seven years. He has interviewed, assisted and engaged a very diverse clientele from all regions of the world. Hassan also worked as case manager with Lutheran Social services of Minnesota and the International Rescue Committee of San Diego where he guided and assisted new immigrants to adjust to their lives in their new country. Hassan has worked with both governmental and community based organizations in a child welfare setting. Hassan is co-founder and current director for the Center for Somali Family and Children's Service, a not-for profit community based organization that provides social work services to East African refugees in Minnesota.

Abdulahi Mohamed, MSW, LGSW, has over 12 years experience in the social services field. He has worked for the state local governments and non-profit organizations. His prior work experiences include, but not limited to, working for the State of MN, Department of Human Services as a MinnesotaCare Enrollment Representative and as a Social Work Specialist. He also worked as an Employment Counselor at the Lutheran Social Services, Minneapolis, and as a Financial Assistance Specialist II at Dakota County Social Services. Abdulahi has provided multiple workshops about mental health to the Somali community and to social services providers in the Twin Cities metro area. He is currently a Senior Social Worker for Hennepin County's (Minnesota) Children's Mental Health, Child Crisis Team. He is also a SPMI/SED Case Manager at Community-University Health Care Center (CUHCC). Abdulahi is co-founder of the Center for Somali Family and Children Services, a not-for profit community based organization that provides social work services to East African refugees in Minnesota. He is fluent in English and Somali.

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.

