

Court Improvement Program Committee Meeting
October 13, 2010
10:30 am – 2:30 pm
AmericInn
Chamberlain, SD

Attending: Judge Davis, Roxie Erickson, Marty Graves, Sharon Kallemeyn, Amy Benda, Dave Valandra, Judge Myren, Tony Benning, Vicki Burger, LuAnn VanHunnik, Virgena Wieseler, and Becky Morlock-Reeves. Staff: Sara Kelly
Absent: Carol Pitts

Meeting was called to order at 10:35 am

Meeting Minutes: Committee members reviewed April 2010 meeting minutes, Sharon Kallemeyn moved to approve the minutes, Roxie Erickson second, motion carried.

CIP Budget: Sara Kelly gave an overview of the CIP budget. The primary focus of the data grant is to cover the cost of customizing the new UJS case management system to meet child abuse and neglect tracking purposes. The CASA programs have been offered grant opportunity to cover the cost of the National CASA data tracking system; three CASA programs have applied and received funding to date. The training grant will cover the 2011 Children's Justice Conference, along with funds available to CASA programs for training opportunities and national conferences for Judges and CIP committee members. The basic CIP grant continues to support the CASA programs for general funding.

Family Group Decision Making: LuAnn Van Hunnik and Sara Kelly gave an overview of Family Group Decision Making Conference they attended in Burlington, VT in June 2010. Lu Ann attended sessions related to implementing FGDM and Sara primarily attended introduction to FGDM sessions. A key element of FGDM is the child welfare community/stakeholders must understand and buy in to the process. Some of the session LuAnn and Sara attended were courts as leaders (how Fort Wayne, IN and Franklin, PA implemented FGDM), empowering families in decision making, cross-system family involvement strategies and bridging the systems.

Annual CIP Meeting: Amy Benda, Vicki Burger and Sara Kelly attended the annual CIP meeting, in Bethesda, MD in July 2010. Vicki reported on a session that discussed strategies of moving children out of/or not having children in alternative placement living arrangements (long-term foster care). Amy and Sara reported on the session introducing the Child Safety: A Guide for Judges and Attorneys. Sara reported on a session on tribal engagement. Sara plans to explore the idea and begin discussion the tribal representative from the National Center for Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

QEW Training: DSS-CPS completed a training September 23 & 24, 2010. CIP training grant funds sponsored two guest speakers and conference space. After the new QEW names are submitted to UJS they will be added to the list of QEW's on the judge's page of the UJS website and will be added to the public component of the UJS website.

Training: Sara Kelly reported the dates for the UJS Children's Justice state conference are tentatively set for September 15 & September 22, 2011. The conference will be held in Rapid City and Sioux Falls. Sara has contacted presenters from American Humane and American Bar to present on Family Group Decision Making and Child Safety Guide. Sara has been working with Karn Barth (UJS Judicial Branch Educator) to secure facilities, draft the agenda and identify key note speakers. Sara asked for suggestions on agenda topics and requested assistance from committee members as the conference progresses. Virgena Wieseler suggested a training session on concurrent planning; there is a need to educate stakeholders on concurrent planning.

Sara Kelly asked the committee their thoughts on sending the CIP committee CASA representative to the National CASA meeting. The conference dates are March 19-22, 2011 in Chicago, IL; the committee agreed to send Amy Benda. Amy will send the agenda to committee members as soon as it is finalized for others interested in attending. Amy stated the conference has several tracks for directors, volunteers, and judges/attorneys. Amy stated National CASA has been focusing attention on fostering connections with children that have aged out of foster care; they encourage CASA programs to maintain contact with the foster child.

CIP Grants: Sara Kelly gave a copy of the CIP training and data grants to committee members. The grant applications are on the UJS website for CASA programs to use when applying for reimbursement funds for training and new CASA ETO CMS. The training and data grants are ongoing; the basic grant remains due in May for annual disbursement.

Attorney Training Video: Sara Kelly reported as of October 8, 2010, 210 attorneys certified. The number of certified attorneys increases weekly. The list can be found on the UJS website under the legal community tab. Sara asked the committee their thoughts on conducting a survey to evaluate if video have improved attorney representation. The committee agreed a survey to judges, attorneys; DSS-CPS and CASA would be beneficial. Sara will follow up on this and report the results to the committee. Sara reported a reminder postcard was sent to attorneys in May and another reminder will go out next year. Judge Davis suggested a reminder in the state bar newsletter; Sara will follow up with that suggestion.

Professional Reference Guides: Marty Graves stated he reviewed the law enforcement draft and found the sexual abuse component missing. Marty will email his suggestions for change/additional information to Sara Kelly; Sara will then disburse to the committee. Roxie Erickson found a need for wording change in the state's attorney guide. Sara made note of the change and will send out a corrected version of the guide to committee members. Vicki

Burger said she will share a copy with the Minnehaha State's Attorney's office and will report any suggestions to the committee.

Other Business:

- a. Upcoming CIP Activities: Sara Kelly stated she will begin site visits to CASA programs in November, along with case file reviews at several courthouses throughout the state.
- b. Green Book: Sara Kelly stated the summer legal intern reviewed and noted statute changes/peals in the guideline/book. The committee discussed adding a subsection to the book for permanency and concurrent planning. It was suggested to reference the new subsection in the 48 hour and adjudication sections of the book. Sara will follow up with these suggested changes.
- c. Committee Member: Sara Kelly reported that, due to a new professional position, Carol Pitts will not be a legislative representative in 2011. Her new duties prohibited her from attending today's meeting and it is not certain if she will be able to attend future meetings. Sara Kelly stated she spoke to Pat Duggan about potential legislative representation. The committee will wait until after the November election to make any recommendations to the Chief Justice.
- d. Parenting Classes: Judge Davis reported a concern, which was brought to his attention, regarding difficulty accessing parenting classes that are required for domestic cases when children are involved. In some communities the classes are either not available, scheduled sparingly or individuals are not able to travel to other communities to attend the classes. Judge Myren expressed the challenges he has witnessed with defendants/respondents unable to complete the required classes in an appropriate time frame. Judge Myren suggested online or video parenting classes. Virgena Wieseler stated the department contracts with outside agencies to provide the classes. LuAnn Van Hunnik suggested Boys Town as a possible resource for video or online access to parenting classes. Sara Kelly will contact Sherrie Fines to work on other options.
- e. SD CASA Commission meeting: Sara Kelly stated the next SD CASA Commission meeting is May 3, 2011 in Pierre. Sara stated CIP Committee members are welcome to attend. Judge Davis and Sharon Kallemeyn attended the meeting in 2010 and found it helpful when deciding CIP basic grant awards to the CASA programs.
- f. Possible Funding: Judge Myren asked if CIP funds could pay for 24/7 alcohol testing for respondents in A&N cases. Sara Kelly will check with regional representatives and notify the committee.

Next meeting: March 30, 2011 is the tentative date; April 6, 2011 is the alternative date.