



QUARTER 2
PIP 3.1.2 (b)

Supreme Court of Nevada
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



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Deputy Director
Judicial Programs & Services

SCOTT SOSEBEE
Deputy Director
Information Technology

November 1, 2010

The Honorable James Todd Russell
Judge, First Judicial District Court
885 East Musser Street, Suite 3061
Carson City, NV 89701

Subject: Community Improvement Council First Judicial District

Dear Judge Russell:

As Justice Saitta mentioned in her letter of October 27, 2010, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services conducted a Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) of Nevada's child welfare system. The review was on 23 items related to safety, permanency, and well being. Nevada did not meet substantial conformity on matters relating to timeliness of permanency including adoption finalization.

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10/08-9/09	National Median	Nevada
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Sincerely yours,

Kathie Malzahn-Bass
Court Improvement Coordinator

rt
cc: Judge Wilson

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November 1, 2010

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Judge, First Judicial District Court
885 East Musser Street, Suite 3057
Carson City, NV 89701

Subject: Community Improvement Council First Judicial District

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November 1, 2010

The Honorable Connie J. Steinheimer
Judge, Second Judicial District Court
Post Office Box 30083
Reno, NV 89520

Subject: Community Improvement Council Second Judicial District

Dear Chief Judge Steinheimer:

As Justice Saitta mentioned in her letter of October 27, 2010, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services conducted a Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) of Nevada's child welfare system. The review was on 23 items related to safety, permanency, and well being. Nevada did not meet substantial conformity on matters relating to timeliness of permanency including adoption finalization.

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Court Improvement Coordinator

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cc: Judge Schumacher

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Information Technology

November 1, 2010

The Honorable David A. Huff
Judge, Third Judicial District Court
73 North Maine Street, Suite B
Fallon, NV 89406

Subject: Community Improvement Council Third Judicial District

Dear Judge Huff:

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cc: Judge Aberasturi
Judge Rogers

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November 1, 2010

The Honorable Andrew Puccinelli
Judge, Fourth Judicial District Court
571 Idado Street
Elko, NV 89801

Subject: Community Improvement Council Fourth Judicial District

Dear Judge Puccinelli:

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November 1, 2010

The Honorable John P. Davis
Judge, Fifth Judicial District Court
Post Office Box 393
Tonopah, NV 89049

Subject: Community Improvement Council Fifth Judicial District

Dear Judge Davis:

As Justice Saitta mentioned in her letter of October 27, 2010, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services conducted a Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) of Nevada's child welfare system. The review was on 23 items related to safety, permanency, and well being. Nevada did not meet substantial conformity on matters relating to timeliness of permanency including adoption finalization.

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cc: Judge Lane

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November 1, 2010

The Honorable Robert W. Lane
Judge, Fifth Judicial District Court
1520 East Basin Avenue, Suite 105
Pahrump, NV 89060

Subject: Community Improvement Council Fifth Judicial District

Dear Judge Lane:

As Justice Saitta mentioned in her letter of October 27, 2010, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services conducted a Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) of Nevada's child welfare system. The review was on 23 items related to safety, permanency, and well being. Nevada did not meet substantial conformity on matters relating to timeliness of permanency including adoption finalization.

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November 1, 2010

The Honorable Richard Wagner
Judge, Sixth Judicial District Court
Post Office Box H
Lovelock, NV 89419

Subject: Community Improvement Council Sixth Judicial District

Dear Judge Wagner:

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November 1, 2010

The Honorable Dan L. Papez
Judge, Seventh Judicial District Court
Post Office Box 151629
Ely, NV 89315

Subject: Community Improvement Council Seventh First Judicial District

Dear Judge Papez:

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



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Deputy Director
Judicial Programs & Services

SCOTT SOSEBEE
Deputy Director
Information Technology

November 1, 2010

The Honorable Steven Dobrescu
Judge, Seventh Judicial District Court
Post Office Box 151597
Ely, NV 89315

Subject: Community Improvement Council Seventh First Judicial District

Dear Judge Dobrescu:

As Justice Saitta mentioned in her letter of October 27, 2010, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services conducted a Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) of Nevada's child welfare system. The review was on 23 items related to safety, permanency, and well being. Nevada did not meet substantial conformity on matters relating to timeliness of permanency including adoption finalization.

Unfortunately, Nevada fell below the National median for finalizing adoptions of those children, who became legally free to be adopted during the evaluation period.

10/08-9/09	National Median	Nevada
Adoptions finalized in less than 12 months	45.8%	34.7%

Our judicial districts ranged from finalizing about 12% to finalizing about 83% of the adoptions for their legally free children in less than 12 months.

In response to the findings of the CFSR, Nevada must complete a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) to address how improvement will be achieved. The child welfare agencies have asked the courts, as part of the PIP, to assess local successes and barriers within the courts and agencies to achieving timeliness to

Supreme Court Building ♦ 201 South Carson Street, Suite 250 ♦ Carson City, Nevada 89701 ♦ (775) 684-1700 • Fax (775) 684-1723

Regional Justice Center ♦ 200 Lewis Avenue, 17th floor ♦ Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

permanency and to adoptions, and recommend improvements. Successful development of plans to expedite permanency, and institute process changes to reduce future and ongoing barriers to permanency impact federal funding for our state.

Justice Saitta has asked that each Judicial District create a Community Improvement Council pulling together key, community stakeholders to discuss the successes and barriers, and identify solutions to achieve timeliness to permanency and to adoptions.

CIP will provide each judicial district with baseline data on the safety, permanency, and well-being of your children, to inform your work effort. We will also send a suggested action plan format on which you may report your recommendations. These data are important because they illustrate local trends, and demonstrate how these local trends relate to state and national standards. You and your CIC, however, have the anecdotal knowledge to see behind the numbers and understand the driving forces.

CIP does have some limited resources available to assist you. We have access to facilitators available to help guide your CIC discussions. We may even be able to help fund light refreshments if you gather during breakfast or lunch. If you need additional information or data, we will do our best to compile it.

Justice Saitta has asked that I attend as many of the initial CIC meetings as possible. I would appreciate you letting me know the dates and times you plan to meet, and I will forward you the data on your district.

We need your action plan in the CIP office by March 15, 2011, where it will be compiled with those from the other judicial districts and submitted to Department of Child and Family Services.

I look forward to meeting and working with you and to helping you and your Council in whatever manner you would like.

Sincerely yours,

Kathie Malzahn-Bass
Court Improvement Coordinator

rt
cc: Judge Papez

Supreme Court of Nevada
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



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Deputy Director
Information Technology

November 1, 2010

The Honorable T. Arthur Ritchie, Jr.
Judge, Eighth Judicial District Family Court
200 Lewis Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89155

Subject: Community Improvement Council Eighth Judicial District

Dear Chief Judge Ritchie, Jr.:

As Justice Saitta mentioned in her letter of October 27, 2010, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services conducted a Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) of Nevada's child welfare system. The review was on 23 items related to safety, permanency, and well being. Nevada did not meet substantial conformity on matters relating to timeliness of permanency including adoption finalization.

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10/08-9/09

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I look forward to meeting and working with you and to helping you and your Council in whatever manner you would like.

Sincerely yours,

Kathie Malzahn-Bass
Court Improvement Coordinator

rt

cc: Judge Togliatti
Judge Sanchez
Judge Steel

Supreme Court of Nevada
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS



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Foreclosure Mediation

SCOTT SOSEBEE
Deputy Director
Information Technology

November 1, 2010

The Honorable Michael P. Gibbons
Judge, Ninth Judicial District Court
Post Office Box 218
Minden, NV 89423

Subject: Community Improvement Council Ninth Judicial District

Dear Judge Gibbons:

As Justice Saitta mentioned in her letter of October 27, 2010, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services conducted a Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) of Nevada's child welfare system. The review was on 23 items related to safety, permanency, and well being. Nevada did not meet substantial conformity on matters relating to timeliness of permanency including adoption finalization.

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I look forward to meeting and working with you and to helping you and your Council in whatever manner you would like.

Sincerely yours,

Kathie Malzahn-Bass
Court Improvement Coordinator

rt
cc:

October 27, 2010

The Honorable James Todd Russell
Judge, First Judicial District Court
885 East Musser Street, Suite 3061
Carson City NV 89701

Dear Judge Russell:

In response to a federal review of Nevada's child welfare system, the courts have been asked to identify barriers to permanency, timely adoption, and termination of parental rights. Work groups or "community improvement councils" (CIC) have proven to be very effective in other states. Because you are directly involved in the system, know what your local issues are and how best to resolve them, I would like you or Judge Wilson to convene and chair a CIC in your judicial district. These Councils should be composed of key local stakeholders and other system partners such as district attorneys, private attorneys, child welfare agency staff, CASAs, GALs, and other interested parties.

The goal of these CICs is to consider the current functioning and efficiency of the permanency timeframes by identifying and assessing the challenges and possible solutions specific to your jurisdiction. To accomplish this goal your CIC will meet two or three times over the next four months. Ideally, all the CICs should share their experiences and lessons learned.

You will not be alone in this endeavor. The Court Improvement Program will provide you with information and staff support. CIP has some limited resources available to assist you with such things as facilitation of your Council, invitations to community members, or research data.

In the next day or two, you will receive a letter from Kathie Malzahn-Bass, CIP Coordinator, with more specific information on the Community Improvement Council process. Kathie plans to attend as many initial CIC meetings as possible. Please consider this letter as my "introduction" of Kathie. As the CIP coordinator, Kathie can assist you and identify opportunities during your council meetings where CIP might offer assistance.

I am counting on you to make your CIC a success. I know how busy you are, and I sincerely appreciate the time and effort you will give to this project. I believe that the court plays an important part in ensuring the system works for everyone.

Should you have any questions, please contact me directly at nsaitta@nvcourts.nv.gov or 775.684.1530.

Very Truly Yours,

Nancy M. Saitta, Justice

rt

cc: Chief Justice Parraguirre
Judge Wilson
K. Malzahn-Bass

October 27, 2010

The Honorable Jim Wilson
Judge, First Judicial District Court
885 East Musser Street, Suite 3057
Carson City NV 89701

Dear Judge Wilson:

In response to a federal review of Nevada's child welfare system, the courts have been asked to identify barriers to permanency, timely adoption, and termination of parental rights. Work groups or "community improvement councils" (CIC) have proven to be very effective in other states. Because you are directly involved in the system, know what your local issues are and how best to resolve them, I would like you or Judge Russell to convene and chair a CIC in your judicial district. These Councils should be composed of key local stakeholders and other system partners such as district attorneys, private attorneys, child welfare agency staff, CASAs, GALs, and other interested parties.

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Very Truly Yours,

Nancy M. Saitta, Justice

rt

cc: Chief Justice Parraguirre
Judge Russell
K. Malzahn-Bass

October 27, 2010

The Honorable Connie J. Steinheimer
Judge, Second Judicial District Court
Post Office Box 30083
Reno NV 89520

Dear Chief Judge Steinheimer:

In response to a federal review of Nevada's child welfare system, the courts have been asked to identify barriers to permanency, timely adoption, and termination of parental rights. Work groups or "community improvement councils" (CIC) have proven to be very effective in other states. Because you are directly involved in the system, know what your local issues are and how best to resolve them, I would like you to convene and have one of the family court judges chair a CIC in your judicial district. These Councils should be composed of key local stakeholders and other system partners such as district attorneys, private attorneys, child welfare agency staff, CASAs, GALs, and other interested parties.

The goal of these CICs is to consider the current functioning and efficiency of the permanency timeframes by identifying and assessing the challenges and possible solutions specific to your jurisdiction. To accomplish this goal your CIC will meet two or three times over the next four months. Ideally, all the CICs should share their experiences and lessons learned.

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Should you have any questions, please contact me directly at nsaitta@nvcourts.nv.gov or 775.684.1530.

Very Truly Yours,

Nancy M. Saitta, Justice

rt

cc: Chief Justice Parraguirre
Judge Schumacher
K. Malzahn-Bass

October 27, 2010

The Honorable David A. Huff
Judge, Third Judicial District Court
73 North Maine Street, Suite B
Fallon NV 89406

Dear Judge Huff:

In response to a federal review of Nevada's child welfare system, the courts have been asked to identify barriers to permanency, timely adoption, and termination of parental rights. Work groups or "community improvement councils" (CIC) have proven to be very effective in other states. Because you are directly involved in the system, know what your local issues are and how best to resolve them, I would like you to convene and have one of the family court judges chair a CIC in your judicial district. These Councils should be composed of key local stakeholders and other system partners such as district attorneys, private attorneys, child welfare agency staff, CASAs, GALs, and other interested parties.

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Should you have any questions, please contact me directly at nsaitta@nvcourts.nv.gov or 775.684.1530.

Very Truly Yours,

Nancy M. Saitta, Justice

rt

cc: Chief Justice Parraguirre
Judge Aberasturi
Judge Rogers
K. Malzahn-Bass

October 27, 2010

The Honorable Andrew Puccinelli
Judge, Fourth Judicial District Court
571 Idado Street
Elko NV 89801

Dear Judge Puccinelli:

In response to a federal review of Nevada's child welfare system, the courts have been asked to identify barriers to permanency, timely adoption, and termination of parental rights. Work groups or "community improvement councils" (CIC) have proven to be very effective in other states. Because you are directly involved in the system, know what your local issues are and how best to resolve them, I would like you to convene and chair a CIC in your judicial district. These Councils should be composed of key local stakeholders and other system partners such as district attorneys, private attorneys, child welfare agency staff, CASAs, GALs, and other interested parties.

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Should you have any questions, please contact me directly at nsaitta@nvcourts.nv.gov or 775.684.1530.

Very Truly Yours,

Nancy M. Saitta, Justice

rt

cc: Chief Justice Parraguirre
K. Malzahn-Bass

October 27, 2010

The Honorable John P. Davis
Judge, Fifth Judicial District Court
Post Office Box 393
Tonopah NV 89049

Dear Judge Davis:

In response to a federal review of Nevada's child welfare system, the courts have been asked to identify barriers to permanency, timely adoption, and termination of parental rights. Work groups or "community improvement councils" (CIC) have proven to be very effective in other states. Because you are directly involved in the system, know what your local issues are and how best to resolve them, I would like you or Judge Lane to convene and chair a CIC in your judicial district. These Councils should be composed of key local stakeholders and other system partners such as district attorneys, private attorneys, child welfare agency staff, CASAs, GALs, and other interested parties.

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Very Truly Yours,

Nancy M. Saitta, Justice

rt

cc: Chief Justice Parraguirre
Judge Lane
K. Malzahn-Bass

October 27, 2010

The Honorable Robert W. Lane
Judge, Fifth Judicial District Court
1520 East Basin Avenue, Suite 105
Pahrump NV 89060

Dear Judge Lane:

In response to a federal review of Nevada's child welfare system, the courts have been asked to identify barriers to permanency, timely adoption, and termination of parental rights. Work groups or "community improvement councils" (CIC) have proven to be very effective in other states. Because you are directly involved in the system, know what your local issues are and how best to resolve them, I would like you or Judge Davis to convene and chair a CIC in your judicial district. These Councils should be composed of key local stakeholders and other system partners such as district attorneys, private attorneys, child welfare agency staff, CASAs, GALs, and other interested parties.

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Very Truly Yours,

Nancy M. Saitta, Justice

rt

cc: Chief Justice Parraguirre
Judge Davis
K. Malzahn-Bass

October 27, 2010

The Honorable Richard Wagner
Judge, Sixth Judicial District Court
Post Office Box H
Lovelock NV 89419

Dear Judge Wagner:

In response to a federal review of Nevada's child welfare system, the courts have been asked to identify barriers to permanency, timely adoption, and termination of parental rights. Work groups or "community improvement councils" (CIC) have proven to be very effective in other states. Because you are directly involved in the system, know what your local issues are and how best to resolve them, I would like you to convene and chair a CIC in your judicial district. These Councils should be composed of key local stakeholders and other system partners such as district attorneys, private attorneys, child welfare agency staff, CASAs, GALs, and other interested parties.

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Very Truly Yours,

Nancy M. Saitta, Justice

rt

cc: Chief Justice Parraguirre
K. Malzahn-Bass

October 27, 2010

The Honorable Dan L. Papez
Judge, Seventh Judicial District Court
Post Office Box 151629
Ely NV 89315

Dear Judge Papez:

In response to a federal review of Nevada's child welfare system, the courts have been asked to identify barriers to permanency, timely adoption, and termination of parental rights. Work groups or "community improvement councils" (CIC) have proven to be very effective in other states. Because you are directly involved in the system, know what your local issues are and how best to resolve them, I would like you or Judge Dobrescu to convene and chair a CIC in your judicial district. These Councils should be composed of key local stakeholders and other system partners such as district attorneys, private attorneys, child welfare agency staff, CASAs, GALs, and other interested parties.

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Very Truly Yours,

Nancy M. Saitta, Justice

rt

cc: Chief Justice Parraguirre
Judge Dobrescu
K. Malzahn-Bass

October 27, 2010

The Honorable Steven Dobrescu
Judge, Seventh Judicial District Court
Post Office Box 151597
Ely NV 89315

Dear Judge Dobrescu:

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cc: Chief Justice Parraguirre
Judge Papez
K. Malzahn-Bass

October 27, 2010

The Honorable T. Arthur Ritchie, Jr.
Judge, Eighth Judicial District Family Court
200 Lewis Avenue
Las Vegas NV 89155

Dear Chief Judge Ritchie, Jr.:

In response to a federal review of Nevada's child welfare system, the courts have been asked to identify barriers to permanency, timely adoption, and termination of parental rights. Work groups or "community improvement councils" (CIC) have proven to be very effective in other states. Because you are directly involved in the system, know what your local issues are and how best to resolve them, I would like you to convene and have one of the family court judges chair a CIC in your judicial district. These Councils should be composed of key local stakeholders and other system partners such as district attorneys, private attorneys, child welfare agency staff, CASAs, GALs, and other interested parties.

The goal of these CICs is to consider the current functioning and efficiency of the permanency timeframes by identifying and assessing the challenges and possible solutions specific to your jurisdiction. To accomplish this goal your CIC will meet two or three times over the next four months. Ideally, all the CICs should share their experiences and lessons learned.

You will not be alone in this endeavor. The Court Improvement Program will provide you with information and staff support. CIP has some limited resources available to assist you with such things as facilitation of your Council, invitations to community members, or research data.

In the next day or two, you will receive a letter from Kathie Malzahn-Bass, CIP Coordinator, with more specific information on the Community Improvement Council process. Kathie plans to attend as many initial CIC meetings as possible. Please consider this letter as my "introduction" of Kathie. As the CIP coordinator, Kathie can assist you and identify opportunities during your council meetings where CIP might offer assistance.

I am counting on you to make your CIC a success. I know how busy you are, and I sincerely appreciate the time and effort you will give to this project. I believe that the court plays an important part in ensuring the system works for everyone.

Should you have any questions, please contact me directly at nsaitta@nvcourts.nv.gov or 775.684.1530.

Very Truly Yours,

Nancy M. Saitta, Justice

rt

cc: Chief Justice Parraguirre
Judge Togliatti
Judge Sanchez
Judge Steel
K. Malzahn-Bass

October 27, 2010

The Honorable Michael P. Gibbons
Judge, Ninth Judicial District Court
Post Office Box 218
Minden NV 89423

Dear Judge Gibbons:

In response to a federal review of Nevada's child welfare system, the courts have been asked to identify barriers to permanency, timely adoption, and termination of parental rights. Work groups or "community improvement councils" (CIC) have proven to be very effective in other states. Because you are directly involved in the system, know what your local issues are and how best to resolve them, I would like you to convene and chair a CIC in your judicial district. These Councils should be composed of key local stakeholders and other system partners such as district attorneys, private attorneys, child welfare agency staff, CASAs, GALs, and other interested parties.

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Very Truly Yours,

Nancy M. Saitta, Justice

rt
cc: Chief Justice Parraguirre
K. Malzahn-Bass