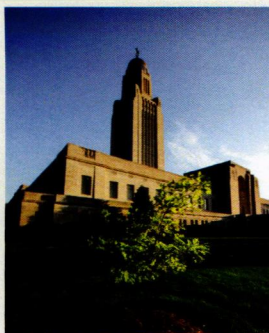


The background is a collage of images. At the top, a young boy and a baby are smiling. In the center, a circular inset shows a hand holding a baby's foot. At the bottom, a group of five diverse teenagers are smiling.

Through the Eyes
OF THE CHILD INITIATIVE

NEBRASKA COURT
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT





The Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative (TTEOC) was kicked off in 2006 with the creation of 25 multidisciplinary, judge-led teams that work to identify local system issues and develop strategic plans to improve court processing in abuse and neglect cases in their communities. Teams met regularly to address the issues identified in their plans. Common issues included children's attendance at court hearings, availability of substance abuse services, adequacy of parenting time, use of mediation/facilitation, quality of court reports, among other things. TTEOC staff provided technical assistance to local teams while work on policy changes on a statewide level related to barriers identified locally (projects include Parenting Time

Guidelines, mediation protocols, a Caregiver Information Form, a Youth Court Questionnaire, standardized court order language).

In 2012, the Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative was expanded to include a Juvenile Justice Court Improvement Project (JJCIP) through funding from the Office of Probation as part of LB 561. The goals of the JJCIP are to assist implementing the juvenile justice reforms of LB 561 and improve the juvenile justice court and legal system, which includes improving legal representation, increasing family engagement and utilization of restorative justice processes, improving the timeliness and quality of court hearings and improving court data.

PROJECTS

Native Connections

- CIP staff participates on national ICWA Constituency Calls, hosted by the Capacity Building Center for Courts.
- CIP is a member of the Nebraska ICWA Coalition and the National Indian Child Welfare Association.
- Judicial training on ICWA will be kicked off at the upcoming Children's Summit.
- For more information, contact Mary Ann Harvey, maryann.harvey@nebraska.gov

Cross Over Youth Practice Model (CYPM)*

- CIP staff make regular visits to the CYPM pilot sites and participate in regular site meetings via conference call (Gage, Dodge, Sarpy, and Lancaster Counties).
- Working with probation and HHS, CIP is helping to develop statewide policies and procedures for cross over youth and coordinated case planning.
- For more information, contact Deb VanDyke-Ries, deb.vandyke.ries@nebraska.gov

**The Cross Over Youth Practice Model is intended to provide coordinated case management for youth who are served in both systems.*

Strengthening Families Act/Normalcy Task Force

- Katie McLeese Stephenson is co-chairing the Task Force of the Children's Commission, along with Sarah Helvey, JD, Nebraska Appleseed.
- CIP is represented on a variety of subcommittees for the taskforce.
- For more information, contact Katie McLeese Stephenson, katie.m.stephenson@nebraska.gov

Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force (NHTTF)

- Katie McLeese Stephenson is a member of the Task Force Steering Committee. Other CIP staff will be involved in NHTTF subcommittees as they form.
- The TTEOC teams will be a vehicle to share information regarding the work of the NHTTF.
- For more information, contact Katie McLeese Stephenson

Community and Evidence Based Services Grant

- The CIP in conjunction with the AOP, was awarded a 3-year grant from the Sherwood and Omaha Community Foundations. The focus of the grant is to implement community and evidence based services for youth in the juvenile justice system as an alternative to out of the home care. The models that will be promoted are Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) and Boys Town In-Home Family Services (IHFS) model. The grant covers the time period of January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018.
- For more information, contact Kelli Czarnick, kelli.czarnick@nebraska.gov

Educational Trainings

- **Quarterly Training:** Each quarter, the CIP will offer training either face-to-face or by webinar.
- **Children's Summit:** The Summit is a multi-day conference, held every three years and is open to all child welfare and juvenile justice stakeholders.
- **Regional Conferences:** Regional Conferences are all-day trainings that take place at various locations around the state. The regional conferences are held annually when there is not a children's summit.
- For more information, contact Sarah Frankel, sarah.frankel@nebraska.gov

Data Collection and Analysis

- Data reports are prepared annually for the TTEOC teams. These reports measure case progression for child welfare and juvenile justice cases.
- Court observation is occurring related to measure judicial and family engagement in the court room during hearings.
- Additional data analysis available upon request.
- For more information, or to request specific data contact Katie Bass, katherine.bass@nebraska.gov

Be sure to follow us on social media to keep up on the latest trainings and news concerning child welfare and juvenile justice.

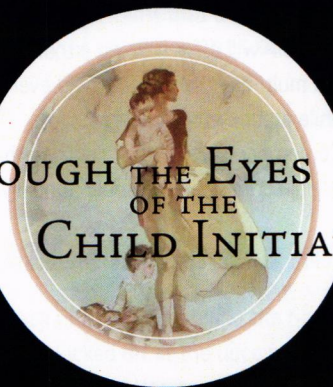


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THROUGH THE EYES
OF THE
CHILD INITIATIVE



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