
Event Agenda

2025 CIP Children's Summit

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Registration

8:00 AM – 8:45 AM | Location: Pre-Function Area

Welcome

8:45 AM – 9:00 AM | Location: Crystal Ballroom

From Case File to Child: Andrew Bridge on Surviving and Redefining Foster Care

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM | Location: Crystal Ballroom

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Andrew Bridge entered foster care at the age of six, taken from his mother and placed in Los Angeles County's notorious MacLaren Hall. What followed were years of instability—multiple placements, school disruptions, and the absence of family from daily milestones. His story reveals the trauma of separation, the loneliness of being reduced to a case file, and the silence imposed on children when decisions about their lives are made without them. Yet within his journey are glimpses of resilience: the love of his mother despite her struggles, the stability of a grandmother who cared for him, and the rare professionals who treated him as a child with worth and potential.

His experience reflects the reality of too many children in foster care. Their lives are often defined not by who they are, but by what has happened to them—removals, moves, and the loss of family ties. What they long for, even in hardship, is connection and belonging.

Andrew calls for a shift in child welfare from crisis management to trauma-informed practice centered on family. Real reform requires prioritizing kinship care, supporting parents, and affirming every child's right to love, stability, and identity.

Speaker



Andrew Bridge

Child Welfare Policy Adviser/Lived Experience Foster Care | AndrewBridgeAuthor.com

Break

10:30 AM – 10:45 AM

Breakout Session 1

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

YRTC and transitions

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This session will focus on the state's Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers (YRTCs) and ongoing collaborative efforts between the Department of Health and Human Services and probation related to transitioning youth out of the YRTCs and back into the community. Attendees will be provided an overview of the different YRTC facilities in Nebraska, the programming in those facilities, and the laws governing YRTC commitments, as well as, information on the developing transition program for high risk youth committed to the YRTC.

Speakers



Neleigh Boyer

Agency Legal Counsel | Nebraska DHHS



Bo Botelho

Chief Legal Officer | Nebraska DHHS



Mary Rose Icenogle

Attorney | NDHHS-YRTC



Sara Quiroz

Assistant Deputy Probation Administrator | Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation



Matt Wittry

Chief Clinical Officer - Youth | NE DHHS

Addiction 101: Understanding, Treating, and Supporting Individuals with SUD

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This session provides a comprehensive overview of substance use disorders (SUD), including common co-occurring mental health conditions and the underlying neurocircuitry that drives addiction. Participants will learn to define and recognize the most prevalent SUDs, explore evidence-based treatment strategies and options, and gain insight into what individuals with SUD and mental health conditions truly need from their care providers. The session will also cover practical, effective approaches to using drug testing as a tool to support recovery and treatment goals. Attendees will leave with a deeper understanding of addiction and actionable strategies to improve outcomes for the individuals and families they serve.

The session was sponsored by the **Opioid Response Network**. The SAMHSA-funded ORN provides no-cost educational resources and training focused on opioid and stimulant use disorders. This work is community driven and delivered by local, experienced ORN Consultants like Dr. Zoucha embedded in and working with individuals and organizations in every state and territory. Visit OpioidResponseNetwork.org to learn more.

Speaker



Todd Stull

NMA

Guardian ad Litem (GAL) 101

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This session is geared toward attorneys newly handling Guardian ad Litem appointments in juvenile cases. The session will cover the obligations of GALs serving in juvenile cases, interacting with youth (including young children), interacting with other members of the team, obtaining information, formal and informal advocacy, educational surrogacy, and reports to the Court. This session would also be beneficial for other members of a juvenile's family team wanting to learn more about what a GAL does.

Speaker



Tana Fye

Attorney | FGH Law Office, LLC

Partnering for Safety: Utilizing Community-Based Strategies to Reduce Gun Violence

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This session will provide an introduction to Community Violence Intervention (CVI)--evidence-informed, community led strategies to reduce incidents of violence. Participants will learn:

- The root causes of violence
- Components of a comprehensive Public Safety Ecosystem
- CVI: What it is and what it isn't
- Ways systems create obstacles for CVI program participants and staff
- Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and Systems: Intersections and boundaries

Tangible strategies for partnership with CBOs engaged in CVI to improve outcomes for youth and community will be emphasized.

Speaker



Timmeka Perkins

Senior Associate | The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Healthy Families America in Nebraska - Changing the Trajectory

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

The Nebraska-Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (N-MIECHV) has implemented the Healthy Families America evidence-based home visiting program in 14 program sites, serving over 900 families statewide. This amazing, voluntary program supports parents in resilience and truly changes the trajectories of poor lifespan health outcomes. Come learn more about how we are changing lives of Nebraska families!

Speakers



Jennifer Auman

N-MIECHV Program Manager | State of NE Dept of Health & Human Svcs



Brie Everett

N-MIECHV Program Specialist | DHHS- Public Health

"The Black Woman/Child": How to Better Support Black Survivors

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

ETHICS CLE

This workshop is designed to explore the realities and lived experiences of Black women and girl survivors as they navigate child welfare, social services, and domestic violence service provision while seeking support and safety. This workshop will underscore the impacts of adultification on Black girls and women and will further explore how both long standing and recent narratives about Black womanhood and survivorship shape lifelong experiences with violence. Throughout this session, we will unpack and understand the intersections of identity, culture, and violence in Black survivor's lives. Together, we will explore how to better support Black survivors through best practices, how to reframe narratives about Black women and families, and the role of advocates in better supporting survivors of domestic violence.

Speaker



Ayana Wallace Vieux

Training and Technical Assistance Manager | Ujima, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community

Nebraska-Focused Family and Community Engagement Resources

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This session will explore [Nebraska's School, Family, and Community Engagement Framework](#): a statewide guide designed to strengthen collaboration among schools, families, and communities to support student success. This session will introduce microlearning videos, a related professional development course, and a lending library of practical tools, all aligned with the Nebraska School, Family, and Community Engagement Framework. The session will also introduce practical tools and resources developed by the NE Statewide Family Engagement Center (NE SFEC) and its partnerst to support family and community engagement at the district, school, and community levels.

Speakers



Brian Welch

Director, Nebraska | National Center for Families Learning



Jessie Coffey

Director, Whole Child Program | Nebraska Department of Education

Navigating difficult choices: a child welfare domestic violence simulation

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Navigating life as a parent/survivor of domestic violence presents an array of difficult, if not impossible choices. In this session, participants will be invited to "walk in the shoes" of a parent experiencing domestic violence by working through a multi-phase case scenario, in which participants will need to make key decisions similar to those faced by parents surviving domestic violence every day. Participants will be tasked with balancing simulated resources, system involvement, and the need to keep themselves and their children safe in making these difficult, simulated choices.

A central goal of this session is to deepen participant's empathy for system-involved families experiencing domestic violence by humanizing their experiences, decisions, and barriers to seeking help and safety. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on how power, fear, coercive control, poverty, and institutional limitations shape the choices of survivors.

*Please note: this simulation includes content related to intimate partner violence, child endangerment, trauma, and emotional distress. Some scenarios may be difficult or triggering for participants with lived experience.

Speakers



Elise White

Juvenile Court Judge | Nebraska Judicial Branch



Taileigh Sorensen

Family Treatment Court Coordinator | Administration of Courts and Probation

Competency/Restoration of Competency in Juvenile Cases

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

What is competency?

Special Factors considered in Juvenile Competency.

Assessment of Competency.

Restoring Competency.

Speaker



Janelle Remington

Clinical Psychologist, Neuropsychologist | Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Private Practice

Youth Justice: Know Your Rights

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

The U.S. legal systems are complex and intimidating, especially for young people who find themselves entangled in legal matters. Understanding the rights and protections afforded to juveniles in the "justice" system is crucial for ensuring fair treatment and effective legal representation. In this session, we will explore the rights of young Nebraskans within the legal systems, particularly juvenile court, criminal court and immigration court.

Speakers



Mindy Rush Chipman

ED | ACLU of Nebraska



Adairah Thapa

Development Director | ACLU of Nebraska

Lunch and Keynote

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Location: Crystal Ballroom

The Science of Hope as a Framework for Action

12:15 PM – 1:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

What is the science and power of hope, and why does it matter? In this keynote, participants will learn just that, as well as Hope's core tenets: goals, pathways, and agency thinking. Participants will leave with practical knowledge of how Hope impacts our individual and collective experiences.

Speaker



Angela Pharris

Associate Professor | University of Oklahoma Hope Research Center

Breakout Session 2

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Why Kids Run from Placement

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This session delves into the complex issue of children running away from their foster care placements, exploring both the causes and the responses needed to address this challenge. It begins by examining why children choose to leave their placements, uncovering the underlying factors that drive them to run. The discussion then shifts to the scope of the problem, offering insight into just how widespread it is and identifying which children are most at risk of running away.

A crucial element of the session focuses on the voices of children themselves, sharing their perspectives on why they ran and what they experienced during their time away. The unique dangers that missing foster children face are also explored, highlighting the vulnerabilities that make them especially susceptible to harm.

The session provides practical guidance on the immediate steps that should be taken when a child goes missing, emphasizing the importance of a coordinated and timely response. It also offers strategies for having meaningful and constructive conversations with children who return, helping to rebuild trust and understand their needs. Finally, the session addresses how thoughtful and proactive case planning can help mitigate this issue, offering tools and approaches to better support these children and prevent future occurrences.

Speaker



Andrew Bridge

Child Welfare Policy Adviser/Lived Experience Foster Care | AndrewBridgeAuthor.com

Applications of Early Childhood Mental Health in Child Welfare Systems

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Talk Highlights

- The role of early social and emotional development in lifelong wellbeing
- How attachment theory informs child welfare practice and custody decisions
- Misunderstandings about attachment in the courtroom and how to address them
- Practical strategies for supporting parent-child relationships in systems of care

Early childhood mental health is grounded in the quality of young children's caregiving environments and social and emotional development. Both social-emotional development and infant/early childhood mental health rely on the attachment relationships young children form with caregivers. Yet, in child welfare and family court contexts, attachment theory can be misunderstood or misapplied with significant consequences for children and families. This presentation provides an understanding of infant/early childhood mental health and bridges research and practice by exploring how attachment concepts can be better understood and applied in legal and child welfare settings. This talk draws on the consensus of many researchers and practitioners who have been in the work for decades. Based on the article *Attachment Goes to Court* (Forslund et al., 2022), we will consider both the promises and pitfalls of using attachment evidence in custody and protection cases and highlight strategies to support children's relational health in systems-level decision-making.

Speakers



Julia Torquati

Professor | University Of Nebraska-Lincoln



Ann Matthews

Assistant Professor of Social Work | Nebraska Wesleyan University

Evaluations in Juvenile Cases

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

What do you want and why do you want it? This session will be a crash course in the types of evaluations that can be ordered by the juvenile court, what you can realistically expect to get out of an evaluation, and best practices to ensure you're getting what you need. The session will end with a few case studies of specific examples to apply what has been covered.

Speakers



Bri McLarty

Deputy County Attorney | Sarpy County



Katlyn Osborn

Executive Director | Lotus Behavioral Health, LLC

Emerging Adult Justice - Bridging the Gap Between Juvenile and Adult Probation

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

In this breakout, Eric will provide an overview of the Emerging Adult Justice Project, launched at the beginning of 2025 in Omaha, Grand Island, and Kearney. Participants in this breakout will learn how the Adult Probation system recognized the need to take a more developmental approach for high risk 18-25 year olds, and the reason emerging adult research supports innovative ways to support behavior change during this "in-between" phase of the human lifespan. Early results of this pilot will be shared, and future expansion efforts will be discussed. Community providers are encouraged to attend in order to create a robust network of services to support Emerging Adults.

Speaker



Eric Maly

Director of Adult Field Services | Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation

Child Welfare and Prevention in Nebraska

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Child Welfare Prevention Infrastructure in Nebraska

- Community Pathways
- The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)
- Tertiary Prevention

The Future of Child Welfare Prevention in Nebraska

- Warmline
- Expansion of FFPSA Candidacy

Speakers



Jamie Kramer

Children and Family Services Administrator | State of Nebraska, Department of Health and Human Services



Camas Holder

DHHS DEPUTY DIRECTOR | DHHS

Empowering Families Through Prenatal Plans of Safe Care: Nebraska's Binder-Based Approach

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Rather than waiting until after a child is born affected by prenatal substance exposure, Nebraska is taking a proactive approach by implementing Prenatal Plans of Safe Care. This session will explore how the introduction of a Prenatal Plan of Safe Care Binder provides pregnant women and their families with meaningful tools to build supportive networks, address substance use, and prepare for safe, healthy parenting.

The binder serves as a preventative and strengths-based resource, helping families organize their goals, track progress, and communicate effectively with providers and systems. It is designed not to penalize families for the challenges they've faced, but to offer a clear, organized path towards healing and stability.

A highlight of this session will be a panel discussion featuring women with lived experience who used the binder during their pregnancies. Panelists will share firsthand how the binder supported their journey, helped them advocate for themselves, and strengthened their connection to care and community.

Participants will gain insight into this innovative model and its impact, along with practical ideas for replication and cross-system collaboration- all with the ultimate goal of supporting maternal health, strengthening families, and keeping children safely at home.

Speakers



Mikayla Wicks

Assistant Vice President of Medical Pathways | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation



Erin Trausch

Prevention Programs Coordinator | Community IMPACT Network



Pamela Edwards

The Bridge



Erica Stallings

POSC advocate, lived experience partner, straight up advocate

Connecting the Dots: Using Medical Diagnoses to Unlock Education Rights in Juvenile Cases

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Attendees will examine the critical intersection of education law and juvenile law with a particular focus on how medical and mental health diagnoses in juvenile court can be leveraged to better support system-involved youth. Too often, children in the juvenile system face overlapping educational, behavioral, and health challenges that are overlooked or misunderstood. This session will provide practitioners with the knowledge to connect medical diagnoses to potential legal entitlements and practical supports within schools, ensuring that youth receive the interventions they need to thrive.

Attendees will receive a clear overview of schools' obligations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, with emphasis on how a formal diagnosis can open doors to specialized services, accommodations, and protections.

By the end of the session, participants will understand how to use medical documentation and school records to advocate for a youth's educational rights and supports. This integrated approach will empower practitioners to more effectively ensure that vulnerable youth have access to the resources they need for long-term success.

Speakers



Lauren Micek Vargas

Chief Executive Officer & Attorney | Education Rights Counsel



Liz McClelland

Managing Attorney | Education Rights Counsel

Strengthening Support for Families: Peer Mentoring and Motivational Strategies in Rural and Justice Settings

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Working with families in rural communities and justice-involved settings presents unique challenges and opportunities for support. This session will explore the range of support services available to professionals serving these populations, emphasizing strategies that enhance engagement and recovery. Participants will gain an understanding of peer mentoring - what it is, why it matters, and how it can strengthen outcomes for individuals with substance use disorders (SUD). In addition, the session will provide practical guidance on using Motivational Interviewing (MI) techniques to support individuals with SUD in a compassionate, strengths-based manner. Attendees will leave with actionable tools to better support families and individuals in rural and justice-involved contexts.

The session was sponsored by the **Opioid Response Network**. The SAMHSA-funded ORN provides no-cost educational resources and training focused on opioid and stimulant use disorders. This work is community driven and delivered by local, experienced ORN Consultants like Trina embedded in and working with individuals and organizations in every state and territory. Visit OpioidResponseNetwork.org to learn more.

Speaker



Trina Janis

Consultant | Opioid Response Network

Community Based Support for Families

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This session will focus on the need to strengthen community-based supports for families as an alternative to expensive and intrusive government interventions into families' lives. It will address needed policy, collaborative practices and funding changes that support families in preventative ways, address barriers to families asking for help with Findhelp, and support the capacity of community-based groups to offer coordinated and needed supports.

In 2022, 62% of foster care entries nationally were due to neglect, not due to abuse of any sort. Nebraska exceeded the national number at 66%. This is a challenge closely tied to poverty and lack of support, and an allegation of neglect does not always mean a parent is unfit to care for their children. It may mean they do not have the necessary resources or supports which is where preventative family supports can make a difference. This session will include:

- *The cost effectiveness and efficiency of prevention vs. later intensive interventions* Research shows that returns on investment in community-based family resource centers/resource and referrals can be 280% or higher, that every dollar spent on home-visiting programs such as nurse-family partnerships can lead to \$5.70 in future costs.

- *Prevention and family support programs can prevent child maltreatment.* Research shows that home visiting programs, parent education, sexual abuse prevention and other preventative practices that enhance the promotive and protective factors can lead to reduced incidents of child maltreatment and the risks associated with it. Parent training in particular has a significant impact on maltreatment, as do preventative practices such as youth and families thrive and other supports that address the families' financial and housing instability.

Prevention can lead to fewer entries of youth into the juvenile justice system. Research shows that intensive early home visitation for low-income, first-time mothers led to up to a 59% reduction in arrests of youth at age 15. Other programs such as case management, social skills training, parent training, tutoring and classroom interventions led to less juvenile justice involvement.

Speakers



Jennifer Skala

Executive Vice President | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation



Rebecca Monnier

NCFE

Friends of the Children, Mentoring and Kinship for Indigenous Youth and Families

2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Short Session Description

This session will highlight Friends of the Children's groundbreaking professional mentoring model as an impactful support service for youth and families. Focusing on the nuances of Tribal and Rural Tribal communities, this session will share best practices for improving outcomes for youth through a highly individualized, relationship-based approach. Ideas will be shared for building on community strengths to overcome the unique challenges of support for youth residing in rural and Tribal communities, from their early years until high school graduation and beyond. Presenters will showcase Indigenous cultural identity as an additional, integral enhancement to the Friends of the Children Model with a spotlight on Friends of the Children-He Sapa located in Rapid City, SD and on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Detailed session description

Attendees will learn how the Friends of the Children's model supports education equity through a holistic approach that prioritizes highly individualized services and trust-based relationships through every step of a youth's education journey from age 4-6 through high school and beyond, No Matter What.

Presenters will discuss how Friends of the Children's professional mentoring program is an innovative approach to foster youth development. They will share experiences and lessons learned from across Friends of the Children's diverse network of program sites, including our He Sapa chapter's experience launching program services in an urban setting and on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Attendees will learn from the personal experiences of stakeholders at the National, Tribal, State and local levels on how our revolutionary model supports youth to overcome challenges unique to these regions such as limited opportunities for extracurricular or pro-social activities and other obstacles that can impact positive identity development and academic progress. They will also hear how our program sites navigate obstacles to service delivery and program operations that are specific to Tribal and rural-Tribal communities, such as transportation and fewer sources of sustainable funding, to support all youth to achieve their educational goals.

Attendees will learn about innovative approaches for leveraging community strengths to advance positive outcomes for youth and families. They will receive examples of successful strategies and offer potential action items that can be applied to their own communities.

Speakers



Tasha Mousseau

Chief Officer of Advancement and Tribal Relations | Friends of the Children



Walt Swan

Executive Director | Friends of the Children HeSapa

Break

3:15 PM – 3:30 PM | Location: Pre-Function Area

Breakout Session 3

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Nurturing and Sustaining Hope in Children and Families

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This session will provide participants with important skills to nurture Hope by way of deep understanding of goal setting, creating and selecting pathways, and building strategies to manage willpower. The workshop allows participants to experience Hope and provides useful tools to find, enhance, and model Hope in any setting. Participants will advance from an awareness of Hope to the application of Hope with a specific emphasis on trauma and adversity.

Speaker



Angela Pharris

Associate Professor | University of Oklahoma Hope Research Center

Tools, Not Just Talk: CE-CERT and the Skills of Sustaining a Career in the Helping Profession

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Compassion fatigue. Burnout. Vicarious trauma. Moral distress. Though these terms differ in definition, they all describe the emotional toll exacted upon workers in helping professions. This session introduces CE-CERT (Components for Enhancing Career Experience and Reducing Trauma), a model developed to support helping professionals in navigating the emotional demands of their work. CE-CERT offers practical strategies and skills that can be applied in real time to promote a sense of effectiveness, well-being, and professional fulfillment. Participants will gain an overview of the model's core components and explore how intentional practice can help transform the experience of doing helping work.

Speaker



Jamie Bahm

Assistant Project Director | Nebraska Resource Project for Vulnerable Young Children - UNL Center on Children, Families, and ...

Stronger Together: Building Knowledge, Resilience, and Collaboration in Juvenile Court Advocacy

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Attorneys and child welfare professionals often face overwhelming caseloads, limited resources, and the emotional toll of child protection work. This session highlights practical ways to strengthen advocacy and sustain commitment through training, mentorship, and multidisciplinary collaboration. Drawing on Nebraska's new Children's Justice and Legal Advocacy Center, you will hear how the Children's Justice Attorney Education Fellowship has increased knowledge, skills, and resilience among rural attorneys while creating vital connections across the state. Alumni and a multidisciplinary team members will share stories and strategies you can adapt to your own practice to improve outcomes for children and families. Participants will also learn about ongoing educational opportunities offered through the Center.

Speaker



Michelle Paxton

Assistant Professor of Law and Nebraska Children's Justice and Legal Advocacy Center Director | University of Nebraska

Gangs 101 and Trends

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This class will provide an overview of Gangs to include "What is a Gang?", levels of affiliation, culture, and trends we are seeing in Omaha. Participants will also be provided with an overview of the Omaha Police Gang Unit and what we are doing to create positive changes through prevention, intervention, and community policing.

Speaker



Marcus Taylor

GANG SUPPRESSION UNIT COMMANDER | Omaha Police Department

LB530 –Youth Justice Specific Implementation Efforts by the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

With the passage of LB530 and its enactment on September 3, 2025, the juvenile justice system recognized statutory changes requiring coordinated implementation across multiple areas. This session will provide an in-depth look at how the Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation is responding to these changes, focusing on key areas such as juvenile intake, comprehensive supervision probation, case closure and data management. Attendees will gain insight into the strategies and processes being employed to align with the new legislation as well as, how it may impact their individual roles as youth justice professionals.

Speakers



Gene Cotter

Probation Administrator | Nebraska Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation



Elise White

Juvenile Court Judge | Nebraska Judicial Branch



Kari Rumbaugh

Deputy Administrator | Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation

TBD

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

Education and Planning Consistency for Systems-Involved Youth

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This presentation will explore the critical balance between advocating for the best interests of system-involved youth and adhering to Individuals Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Attendees will gain practical insights into leveraging the law to create and sustain consistent, high-quality educational plans that address the unique needs of youth in state care. The session will outline strategies for ensuring these students receive all entitled services and supports in the least restrictive environment, despite frequent placement or school changes. Participants will leave equipped to navigate and apply legal frameworks effectively, ensuring educational stability, protecting rights, and fostering long-term success for youth in state care.

Speakers



Lauren Micek Vargas

Chief Executive Officer & Attorney | Education Rights Counsel



Liz McClelland

Managing Attorney | Education Rights Counsel

Partners in Protecting Children

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

Speakers



Justin Carter

Nebraska DHHS



Amanda Nawrocki

Administrator | Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

Using Restorative Practices to Address Student Attendance

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Addressing school attendance continues to be a high priority. A common goal for stakeholders is student success (e.g., graduation, personal development, social interactions), and a key to success is active engagement between schools and students, their families and support networks. This interactive session will lay a foundation by sharing a brief overview of an evaluation based on 3 years of youth restorative services in Nebraska, and attendance related restorative outcomes gleaned from national research. Building on this framework, the presenters will engage with the audience using restorative dialogue techniques to talk through how and when restorative processes can be used to address school attendance, and how restorative processes can be used simultaneously with other intervention models. Attend this session to add restorative processes to your intervention toolbox and learn specific restorative dialogue techniques that you can incorporate into your work.

Speakers



Kelly Riley

Director, Office of Dispute Resolution | AOCP



Savannah Hobbs

Director | Center for Rural School Health & Education at the University of Denver



Monica Miles-Steffens

UNO Juvenile Justice Institute

MDT Collaboration: Effectively Using Multi-Disciplinary Teams in Child Welfare Cases

3:30 PM – 4:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Summary

This presentation will explore the statutory requirements for Multi-Disciplinary team (MDTs) in Nebraska. Participants will learn how MDTs can be used in investigations, treatment planning, and what specific cases can be staffed on MDTs. Participants will also gain a better understanding of how to participate on MDTs and how to successfully serve as an MDT team member. Finally, participants will learn how to incorporate MDTs into their cases through reviewing case studies.

Objectives:

- Explore the statutory requirements for Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT)
- Recognize the significance that MDTs can have on case review, investigations, and treatment planning
- Discover the important role that you could play as an MDT member.
- Discover how MDTs can be incorporated into your cases.

Speakers



Kristin Chandler

Director of Membership and Programs | Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers



Elizabeth Alt

Forensic Interview, Medical, and MDT Engagement Coordinator | Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers

INVITE ONLY* Through The Eyes of a Child Team Coordinator Dinner *INVITE ONLY

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Invite ONLY

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Breakout Session 4

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Grace Johnson is the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Tribal Liaison for Nebraska Attorney General Office. She is an enrolled member of Oglala Lakota tribe and grew up on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. She is a dual licensed Therapist & Drug and Alcohol counselor. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Person (MMIP) is a crisis and symptom of broader issues impacting Native communities and families. Those issues are intergenerational trauma, addiction, loss of culture and parenting skills, domestic violence and government policy. These issues contribute to and allowed the MMIP crisis to happen and continue. As native people work to raise awareness it is apparent that understanding how we got to this place is needed as well as what can be done to address the issue of MMIP. Addressing the MMIP involves understanding what led to this, educating, and looking to what can be done as well as prevention work.

Speaker



Grace Johnson

NE Attorney General Office Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons | Nebraska State Attorney General Office Liaison

Reactive Attachment Disorder

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

The presentation will describe the criteria for a Reactive Attachment Disorder diagnosis and explain the direct association of the diagnosis with extensive developmental trauma. The range of possible interventions and treatment modalities will be identified.

Speaker



Debra Wesselmann

Licensed Independent Mental Health Practitioner | The Attachment Trauma Center of Nebraska

Words Matter: The Importance of Effective Communication with Children

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

Considering the importance of procedural justice in reducing recivism, this presentation will highlight the importance of effectively communicating with youth and how your words matter.

Speaker



Joy Suder

Assistant Professor and Director, Juvenile Justice Legal Clinic | Creighton University School of Law

Anxiety Treatment as Crime Prevention

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

Anxiety experiences and disorders have increased in persistently-online youth. After discussing some of the adaptive and problematic aspects to anxiety, the role of anxiety as a factor in vulnerability and exploitation will be presented, followed by the perils and promise of behavioral health treatment approaches for anxiety as crime prevention.

Speaker



Kirk Newring

Igniting School Culture with TeamMates: How to Elevate School & Community Involvement from Good to Great

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Since 1991, TeamMates Mentoring has been transforming school cultures and communities across Nebraska, now serving over 150 school districts statewide. But what makes school-based mentoring such an inspiring resource in fostering positive learning environments?

In this breakout session, attendees will explore the impact of TeamMates Mentoring on student success, community engagement, and a school culture of hope which is the greatest indicator for academic success. These elements of effective practice from a program with a proven track record started by co-founders Nancy and Tom Osborne, hear inspiring success stories and data to implement or enhance mentoring in school while creating a sense of partnership between the school and the community.

Speaker



Ashton Honnor

Marketing & Communications Manager | TeamMates Mentoring Program

How a System Designed to Help Still Hurts: Confronting Inherent Issues in Families Formed Through Adoption

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Despite the elevated utilization of mental health services by adoptive families, professionals and mental health providers receive little to no training on the unique issues inherent in foster, kinship and adoptive families. This fuels an ongoing struggle between "expertise" and the lived experiences of those impacted by foster care and adoption, thus leaving the underlying issues unrecognized, escalating behaviors unresolved, and the individuals lost and unable to heal. In this session, we will explore the common issues inherent in foster, kinship and adoptive families and how simple changes can have a lifelong impact for children and families formed through adoption.

Speakers



Stacy Varouh

Adoption Program Supervisor | Lutheran Family Services



Autumn Call

Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Specialist | Lutheran Family Services

Disability Rights and Youth in Facilities

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

A conservative estimate shows that roughly one out of three youth in juvenile justice or treatment facilities has a disability. Often the disability contributes to the behavior that results in their placement. Sharon Ohmberger and Amy Miller of Disability Rights Nebraska give an overview of the organization and its available areas of expertise and action, along with a look at trends of concern in youth facilities found through our monitoring work. Be prepared to interact because we're curious about what you're seeing, too!

Speakers



Sharon Ohmberger

Community Engagement Director | Disability Rights Nebraska



Amy Miller

Attorney | Disability Rights Nebraska

GAL's Guide to Termination of Parental Rights

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

This session is geared toward attorneys and non-attorneys alike wanting to learn more about termination of parental rights proceedings. The session will cover filing of a motion for termination of parental rights, statutory obligations, preparing for evidentiary hearing, and evidence at the hearing itself. The slides will include sample witness and exhibit lists, and guides to assist an attorney in handling their first TPR trial.

Speaker



Tana Fye

Attorney | FGH Law Office, LLC

Hope Can Transform Futures; A Prevention Framework Approach

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

Hope Can Transform Futures; A Prevention Framework Approach

Speaker



Collena Laschankzy

Executive Director | Southeast NE Collaborative, Cornhusker United Way

Building Tomorrow's Healthcare Heroes Today: Healthcare Pathways Partnership

8:30 AM – 9:45 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

Witness the groundbreaking Healthcare Pathways Development Program that's redefining how communities address critical healthcare workforce shortages while empowering students with immediate career opportunities. This innovative collaboration between Hastings Public Schools, Mary Lanning Healthcare, Mary Lanning Healthcare Foundation, and Central Community College-Hastings represents a transformative model where high school students gain real-world healthcare skills during regular school hours, earning Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certification before graduation. Led by experienced Mary Lanning nurses who serve as instructors, students master essential competencies including basic patient care, infection control, nutrition basics, anatomy, communication skills, medical documentation, and safety procedures—creating a direct pipeline from high school to healthcare careers in hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and home health organizations.

What sets this program apart is its strategic dual impact: addressing the region's critical shortage of healthcare professionals while providing students with a concrete foundation for lifelong careers in healthcare. The CNA certification serves as both an immediate employment opportunity and a prerequisite stepping stone toward advanced nursing programs, physician training, laboratory technology, and other medical specialties. With Mary Lanning Healthcare Foundation funding the program's launch and Mary Lanning's clinical experts delivering hands-on instruction at Hastings High School, this partnership demonstrates how hospitals and school districts can leverage their collective resources to create sustainable workforce solutions. This session will reveal the practical framework for replication, showcase student success stories, discuss the measurable impact on local healthcare staffing, and provide actionable strategies for building similar healthcare pathway partnerships that benefit students, healthcare systems, and entire communities.

Speaker



Brady Rhodes

Collaborative Coordinator | Community Impact Network of Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster Counties

Break

9:45 AM – 10:00 AM | Location: Pre-Function Area

Breakout Session 5

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

Together For Indigenous Families

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

ETHICS CLE

This session discusses how Nebraska's Together for Indigenous Families project is promoting tribally led prevention services and well-being standards that ensure safe, healthy, and culturally connected Indigenous families in both state and tribal child welfare systems. By focusing on state ICWA compliance, tribal capacity-building, and tribal/state collaboration Nebraska is working to decrease the disparity of Native American families involved in child welfare and developing a framework to maximize coordination, collaboration, and funding utilization.

Speakers



Amanda Docter

Tribal Program Manager | Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services



Andrea Cummings

TFIF Tribal Site Coordinator | Nebraska DHHS

Impact of substance use in adolescents and young adults: utilizing their strengths to bring about hope

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This session is sponsored by the **Opioid Response Network**.

Research has indisputably shown us that development of the prefrontal cortex area of the brain continues until the mid-twenties. The fact that nine out of ten people with a substance use disorder started to use substance before the age of 18 makes this information even more important as prevention and treatment strategies are developed. We will discuss important aspects of adolescent brain development as it relates to the impact that the use of substances can have on development.

While our knowledge of adolescent neurobiology has blossomed, it is important to remember that substance use has far-reaching health and social consequences. Addiction impacts normal functioning in the family, among peers, in school and the workplace, and the broader community.

Effective treatment addresses most or all these components of life. It is important that substance use disorders are seen as a chronic disease process that requires ongoing care to be effective. Resiliency factors will also be addressed.

The session was sponsored by the **Opioid Response Network**.

Speaker



Kenneth Zoucha

Associate Professor Psychiatry and Pediatrics | Opioid Response Network/University of Nebraska Medical Center

Advanced Juvenile Defense Practice

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This session will highlight some atypical defense practice in juvenile law. Topics include competency evaluations, controlling the conduct of persons, truancy, transferring cases into juvenile court from criminal court and general motions that are specifically codified. There will be time for general questions during the presentation.

Speaker



Audrey Long

Attorney | A Elliott Law, PC, LLO

Building Continuums of Care to Support Youth Success in Nebraska

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Two Nebraska communities (Douglas and York Counties) received planning grants from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to develop local comprehensive continuums of care. This evidence informed framework has been shown to improve youth outcomes and improve public safety through reduced recidivism. Session presenters will provide an overview of the framework and lessons learned so far from these rural and urban counties.

Speakers



Monica Miles-Steffens

UNO Juvenile Justice Institute



Jennie Cole Mossman

Technical Expert III | JBS



Abby Carbaugh

Juvenile Justice Data Administrator | Douglas County, Nebraska



Kim Hawekotte

Deputy County Administrator – Juvenile Services | Douglas County



Tristan Perry

Community Enhancement Director | York County Attorney

Nebraska Goes Upstream

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Instead of waiting for families to reach crisis, what if we redirected our efforts upstream? This session introduces the Upstream approach - a judicially-led, community-based framework for identifying existing resources and opportunities to provide resources, services, and supports to families before they enter the justice system. Participants will learn how Upstream breaks down silos between agencies and promotes proactive collaboration rather than reactive response. This session will also feature the experience and results of the Upstream Mapping in Cheyenne County.

Speakers



Teri Deal

Deputy Managing Director | National Center for State Courts



Randy Roland

County Court Judge | Administrative Office of Courts and Probation



Anne Paine

County Court Judge | Administrative Office of Courts and Probation



Linda Bauer

County Court Judge - Jefferson, Saline and Thayer counties | State of Nebraska Judicial Branch

Re-envisioning the Child Welfare System

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

In recent years, some national child welfare advocates have begun calling for the exploration of “**child welfare abolition**,” which envisions dismantling the current child welfare system and starting over with a much narrower, community-based system, in recognition of the harm the current system may inflict, especially for families of color.

Nebraska Appleseed has researched child welfare abolition for a number of years, including policy research, data exploration, town halls, and conversations with a variety of Nebraska child welfare stakeholders.

In this presentation, Appleseed will present what “child welfare abolition” is, why some advocates believe it to be necessary, what our research has found about its potential future in Nebraska, and alternative solutions.

Appleseed welcomes and encourages discussion, questions, and thought-sharing during this presentation!

Speakers



Allison Derr

Senior Staff Attorney, Child Welfare Program | Nebraska Appleseed



Sarah Mitchell

Community Organizer, Child Welfare Program | Nebraska Appleseed

Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty - Helping people find hope

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This session introduces participants to the foundational principles of *Bridges Out of Poverty*, along with a brief history of Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty. Designed for judges, attorneys, DHHS staff, court and probation personnel, educators, service providers, law enforcement, and others, the session offers practical tools to build stronger relationships and improve outcomes across systems.

Participants will explore real-life examples from ongoing classes at the Omaha Correctional Center and other agencies throughout the metro area, demonstrating the program's impact in a variety of settings.

Join us as we work together to become agents of change and play a meaningful role in reducing poverty in our communities.

Speakers



Greg Smith

Director of Community Partnerships | Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty



LaShantra Waits

Program Specialist | Omaha Bridges Out of Poverty

Language of the Heart: Exploring the Impact of Leadership Opportunities on Young Adults

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Exploring the Impact of Leadership Opportunities on Young Adults: Legislative Days 2025

This session delves into the transformative effects of providing young adults with leadership opportunities, allowing them to express themselves authentically in the language of their heart. Through in-person discussions and participant video presentations, we will examine how these experiences empower young leaders to communicate in their own unique and heartfelt ways.

Speakers



Mariana Schell

AVP of Community TA | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation



Lincoln Arneal

Asst. VP of Leadership and Policy | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation



Felipe Longoria-Shinn

AVP of Postsecondary and Career Pathways | Nebraska Children and Families Foundation

Psychotropic Medication: Considerations with system involved children

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Participants learn the most important considerations when working with families and physicians of children who are receiving psychotropic medication. Topics include the people involved and their roles; how to be sufficiently informed to provide informed consent; how psychotropic medications work; target symptoms, side effects, and adverse drug events; the use of timelines for understanding a child's symptoms, diagnoses, and medications; and the use, benefits, and risks of various classes of medication.

Speaker



Cheryl Turner

Training Specialist | University of Nebraska – Center on Children, Families, and the Law

Cross Collaboration Strategies to Enhance Success

10:00 AM – 11:15 AM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This interactive session provides foundational information about youth in the Juvenile Justice System and the evolving role of Juvenile Probation Officers in Nebraska. Participants will explore the complementary roles of educators, community supports and probation officers, focusing on ways to enhance collaboration and improve outcomes. Attendees will receive resources to strengthen collaboration efforts and effectively navigate challenging situations.

Speaker



Julie Smith

Out-of-Home Program Specialist | Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation

Lunch and Award Ceremony

11:15 AM – 12:30 PM | Location: Crystal Ballroom

Breakout Session 6

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

Child Welfare in Uncertain Times of Immigration

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

It is estimated that 4.7 million children in the United States live with at least one parent without legal status. With mass deportations on the rise, an increasing number of children are being left without their parents, a situation that will push an already stretched child welfare system to its limits.

The confluence of the "cimmigration" and child welfare systems creates unique barriers to reunification that are often outside the control of the parents and children. The very concept of promoting family reunification becomes inherently more complex when working with two distinct systems that function in different manners and on entirely separate timelines.

Our challenge is to navigate these systems while remaining true to the foundational nature of child welfare. This reality demands that case managers and advocates to become adept at navigating complex administrative landscapes, from coordinating with immigration detention centers to organizing services for parents who are abroad. This also includes providing equitable services to the children we serve so they may continue to communicate in the family language and express cultural identities while in care. This work requires a deep understanding of both legal frameworks and the human element of these crises.

It is our professional duty to hold hard discussions about, the fundamental right to parent, parental fitness and a child's best interests without allowing personal biases or a sense of American exceptionalism to influence our judgment. The goal must be to provide objective, impartial services that prioritize the welfare of the child while honoring the family unit.

Speaker



Jamie Cooper

Assistant Professor | University of Nebraska College of Law

Understanding Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

This session will focus on infant and early childhood mental health and development, and understanding the impact of adversity and trauma on young children. We will discuss the importance of screening, what to be looking for, and how to connect to find mental health services for young children in NE.

Speaker



Lindsey Ondrak

Outreach and Training Specialist | NE Resource Project for Vulnerable Young Children at the University of Nebraska's Center on...

Impact of Case Law and Legislation on Juvenile Court Proceedings

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

An overview of some of the big developments in the juvenile court world through the lens of DHHS, Probation, and County Attorney. Topics will include major case law decisions, what the appellate courts decided and how state agencies and the juvenile courts have responded, and the implementation of recent legislative changes to the juvenile code. Presentation will cover broad policy aspects but also the nuts and bolts of case progression and management.

Speakers



Bri McLarty

Deputy County Attorney | Sarpy County



Leslie Remus

Lead CFS Attorney | DHHS



Sara Quiroz

Assistant Deputy Probation Administrator | Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation

On The Right "TRACK" For Youth Behavioral Health

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Attendees will hear about Nebraska Probation's newly launched behavioral health and trauma screening tools and process for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Branded TRACKS or Targeted Responsive Assessment for the Court is Key to Youth Success, this practice model brings enhancements to the predisposition investigation process with tools for probation officers to have timely identification and response to behavioral health needs of young people. Enhanced youth and family engagement is also a primary focus of the model along with thoughtful analysis of risk, need, and responsivity leading to targeted recommendations to the court at disposition. The presentation will outline these enhancements including youth justice system stakeholders' role in supporting these enhancements and how implementation science has guided this process being launched in probation districts across the state.

Speakers



Amy Iatshaw

Juvenile Investigation and Assessment Specialist | Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation



Lindsay Meyer

AACP

Family Centered Treatment

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

Speakers



Jon McDuffie

Program Consultation Director | Family Centered Treatment Foundation, Inc



Jacie Boelts

DHHS Program Specialist | Department of Health and Human Services

Ignite your b2i Learning Journey

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Do you work with older youth who are aging out of foster care or probation? Learn why it is crucial to ignite your knowledge about the Bridge to Independence Program (b2i). This session will cover information about the recent b2i expansion for the juvenile justice youth population, what b2i offers, what data reveals about young adults in b2i, and what young adults are sharing about the program. This session will help you understand why advocating for youth and providing this pathway is essential as young adults transition into adulthood.

Speakers



Deanna Brakhage



Brooke Fuhr

Juvenile Justice Projects Specialist | Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation

Rethinking Status Youth: A Specialized Approach

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

Nebraska youth justice stakeholders are rethinking their approach to working with status youth – specifically those who are court involved due to chronic absenteeism. This session will include a panel sharing their collaborative efforts between judges, schools, county attorneys, and probation to better understand the unique needs of status youth compared to delinquent youth. Key highlights include the development of a comprehensive guide to support schools in exhausting efforts, how partnerships have identified new opportunities, and how innovative strategies are making an impact. Attendees will gain insight into how this partnership is reshaping the way Nebraska engages status youth providing better support and opportunities.

Speakers



Kari Rumbaugh

Deputy Administrator | Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation



Jeremy Behrends

Juvenile Case Management Specialist | Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation



Mary Visek

Chief Probation Officer | Administrative Office of the Courts and Probation, District 4J Juvenile Probation Office, Omaha



Lane Carr

Administrator, Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives | Nebraska



Sarah Moore

The Honorable Sarah M. Moore, Separate Juvenile Court Judge | Nebraska Judiciary



Edward Matney

County Court Judge



Jason Buckingham

Superintendent | Ralston Public Schools



Mandi Juricek

Deputy County Attorney | Douglas County Attorney's Office

The Impact of Brain Injury on Justice-Involved Youth

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

A lifetime history of brain injury can result in impairments in physical, emotional, and/or cognitive functioning. This session will discuss the impact of brain injury on the juvenile justice system.

Individuals living with brain injury often experience difficulties such as:

- Ø Problems reading social cues or regulating emotion and behavior can make a person appear intolerant or belligerent.
- Ø Having trouble with organizing or initiating daily activities as the result of impaired executive functioning is easily misinterpreted as a lack of motivation or laziness.
- Ø Failing to remember instructions or rules may be interpreted as noncompliance.

The presenter will provide an overview of brain injury signs and symptoms, the prevalence of brain injury in justice-involved youth, and simple tools and strategies you and the justice-involved youth can utilize to minimize the effects of brain injury once it is identified through a screening process.

Speaker



Peggy Reisher

Executive Director | Brain Injury Association of Nebraska

Honoring Indigenous Families

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

ETHICS CLE

National child welfare data indicates that American Indian foster care disproportionality has reduced by half since passage of the Nebraska Indian Child Welfare Act. Analysis indicates this is achieved largely by reduction of length of stay in care. Analysis also identifies ongoing need for culturally affirmative prevention services.

When the Nebraska ICWA was passed in 2015, Nebraska had the second highest rate of American Indian disproportionality in its child welfare system in the country, with American Indian children being present in the system at eight times their percentage in the general population in the state of Nebraska. By 2021, this disproportionality had fallen to under four times their representation in the state population. As a part of exploring this shift, the Honoring Indigenous Families Project explored the following broad questions: (1) did changes made to Nebraska's ICWA in 2015 result in fewer Indigenous youth entering the foster care system; (2) did the changes lead to provision of more culturally competent services and improved permanency outcomes for Indigenous youth and families in the foster care system; and (3) what is working well with the law's implementation and where are improvements called for?

Speakers



Misty Flowers

Co-Principal Investigator | Honoring Indigenous Families



Claudette Grinnell Davis

Assistant Professor | University of Oklahoma at Tulsa

Nebraska Crime Commission Funding

12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

CRIMINOGENIC CEU

The Nebraska Crime Commission administers three state grants programs that is used to support programs and services that will divert juveniles from the juvenile justice system, impact and effectively treat juveniles within the juvenile justice system, and reduce the juvenile detention population or assist juveniles in transitioning from out-of-home placements to in-home treatments.

Additionally, Nebraska receives federal funding through Title II which seeks to assist states in planning, establishing, operating coordinating, and evaluating projects directly or through grants and contracts with public and private agencies for the development of more effective education, training, research, prevention, diversion, treatment, and rehabilitation programs to improve the juvenile justice system.

This session will cover who is eligible to apply for these grant opportunities, what is required of grantees (i.e., reporting requirements), the application process, and the best practices for grantees to follow when it comes to serving youth.

Speaker



Erin Wasserburger

Grant Administrator | Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Break

1:45 PM – 2:15 PM | Location: Pre-Function Area

Aazia-Marie Ross Keynote

2:15 PM – 3:45 PM | Location: Crystal Ballroom

ATTORNEY SERVICES CLE

Speaker



Aaziamarie Ross

Closing

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM | Location: Crystal Ballroom

