



State Liaison Officer E-Newsletter

December 2009

Volume 1, Number 2

In This Issue:

- Results of the SLO Survey
- National Quality Improvement Center on the Representation of Children in the Child Welfare System
- Report from the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare
- December Action for Child Protection Child Safety Article
- Urban Institute Webcast
- SLO/CJA Meeting Volunteers Needed

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Results of the SLO Survey

The results of the November 2009 SLO survey are in! Thanks to all of you who took the time to give us your thoughts and suggestions. The survey results will be very helpful in planning for the coming year. All of the respondents believe the SLO newsletter is helpful to them in their work. We look forward to continuing to provide you with monthly up-to-date information and will include articles on the topics you have suggested. The full survey results, which include lots of helpful comments about topics you would like to see, are attached.

National Quality Improvement Center (QIC) on the Representation of Children in the Child Welfare System

In September, 2009, the Children's Bureau awarded the University of Michigan a five-year, \$5 million grant to serve as the National Quality Improvement Center on the Representation of Children in the Child Welfare System (*QIC-ChildRep*). This project will be based at the Child Advocacy Law Clinic of the University of Michigan Law School, the oldest child welfare law clinic nationwide, which combines practical, hands-on child advocacy with law and policy analysis.

The *QIC-ChildRep* will work to improve both the quality and quantity of competent representation for children and youth in child welfare cases. The overriding goals are to gather, develop and communicate knowledge on child representation that presents the strengths and weaknesses of varying methods of representing children, promotes consensus on the role of the child's legal representative, and provides an empirically-based analysis of how legal representation for the child might best be delivered.

For more information about the QIC-ChildRep, go to:
<http://www.law.umich.edu/centersandprograms/ccl/Pages/NationalQualityImprovementCenterontheRepresentationofChildrenintheChildWelfareSystem.aspx>



New Report from the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare

The National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare has released a new publication entitled, *Substance-Exposed Infants: State Responses to the Problems*, which reports on States' policies regarding prenatal exposure to alcohol and other drugs. The Report views Substance-Exposed Infants (SEI) issues from the broadest perspective of prevention, intervention, identification, and treatment of prenatal substance exposure, including immediate and ongoing services for the infant, the mother, and the family.

To review the publication, click on:

www.ncsacw.samhsa.gov/files/Substance-Exposed-Infants.pdf

Child and Family Services Review Reports

New reports from the second-round of Child and Family Services Reviews are now posted for Hawaii and New Jersey.

To view the reports, go to:

http://basis.caliber.com/cwig/ws/cwmd/docs/cb_web/SearchForm

December Action for Child Protection Child Safety Article Reports

This month's Action for Child Protection Child Safety Article provides help to the CPS worker in assessing a caregiver's protective capacities. The article entitled, *Protective Capacity Family Assessment (PCFA) Principles of Facilitation*, gives practical information on how workers can build partnerships with caregivers. The article emphasizes that, through partnerships with caregivers, child safety issues can be more effectively identified and agreements can be reached about what must be changed to restore caregivers to their role and responsibility for protecting their children.

To read the complete article, go to:

http://www.actionchildprotection.org/documents/2009/pdf/Dec_Facilitating_the_Protective_Capacity_Family_Assessment.pdf



Spring SLO/CJA Meeting-Planning Committee Volunteers Needed

The annual SLO meeting will be held jointly with the Children's Justice Act (CJA) grantees in Washington D.C. in Spring 2010. We hope to have the dates available shortly. In the interim, we are seeking volunteers for a planning committee. If you are interested in helping to develop the agenda and propose topics and speakers for the meeting, please contact Kathy Simms at Kathy.Simms@actionchildprotection.org. We look forward to working with you to plan an exciting and useful program.

Questions or Comments?

We appreciate hearing from you about this newsletter. If you have any suggestions or comments or are having technical difficulties in receiving the newsletter, please contact Kathy Simms at Kathy.Simms@actionchildprotection.org.