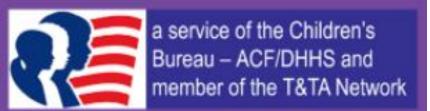


NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR PERMANENCY AND FAMILY CONNECTIONS at the Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work



Child Welfare,
Education, and the
Courts: Achieving
Educational Stability
Milestones through
Systems
Collaboration

Children's Bureau/NRCPFC Teleconference/Webinar

Monday, November 5, 2012 3:00-4:30 PM EST

Webinar 3 www.nrcpfc.org



### **Agenda**

#### **Introduction and Welcome**

➤ Taffy Compain, National Foster Care Specialist, Capacity Building Division, Children's Bureau

#### Achievements and the Future of Collaboration

- ➤ Bryan Samuels, Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- ➤ Johan Uvin, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education
- Honorable Patricia A. Macías, Judge, 388<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, El Paso, Texas



# National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College



### Agenda – Continued

# Nebraska: Building the Foundation, Collaboration by Collaboration

➤ Nebraska's Fostering Connections in Education State
Team and Co-Presenters

#### Going Forward – Reflections from a Former Foster Youth

➤ Lupe Ortiz-Tovar, Program Development Specialist, NRC for Youth Development

#### **Closing Remarks**

Tracy Serdjenian, Director of Information Services, NRC for Permanency and Family Connections



Bryan Samuels, Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families (ACYF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)



**Dr. Johan Uvin,** Deputy Assistant Secretary for Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education



Honorable Patricia A. Macías, Judge, 388<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court, El Paso, Texas

# National Summit on Education, Child Welfare and the Courts

## **NEBRASKA:**

# Building the Foundation, Collaboration by Collaboration

Nebraska's Fostering Connections In Education State Team and Co-Presenters

November 5, 2012 Webinar

### Nebraska's "Landscape"

- 76,872 Square Miles (15<sup>th</sup> Largest State)
- 1,783,432 People (38<sup>th</sup> Most Populous State)
- 93 Counties
- 249 School Districts (520 Districts in 2005)
- 298,177 Students attending Public Schools
- Approximately 6,000 Admissions to Facility-Based Schools in Any Given Year
- 1,080 Students attending Facility-Based Schools on Any Given Day

# Nebraska's Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice System

- 3 Separate Juvenile Courts
- 90 County Courts serving as Juvenile Courts
- 4 Tribal Courts
- 14 Probation Districts within 12 Judicial Districts
- 5 DHHS Service Areas
- 37 Counties with Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Programs
- 7 Child Advocacy Centers
- 48 Local Foster Care Review Boards

### Nebraska's Leadership

- Chief Justice Michael Heavican, Supreme Court
- Commissioner Roger Breed, Department of Education
- Kerry T. Winterer, CEO of Department of Health and Human Services
- Thomas Pristow, Director of Dept. of Health and Human Services – Children and Family Services
- Ellen Brokofsky, State Probation Administrator
- Janice K. Walker, State Court Administrator

# NDE Committee on Education of Students in Out-of-Home Placements

- Original Ad Hoc Committee Created in 1997
- 27 Members: Schools, Child Welfare, and Juvenile/Criminal Justice Systems
- 3 Work Groups: Systems Communication, Coordination and Collaboration; Transitions; and Informational Advocacy
- Systems Tool Kit / Partnering4Students
  Website: www.partnering4students.org

#### **Nebraska's State Action Plan**

#### **Short-Term Goals:**

- Investigate a Process for Cross-System Information Sharing.
- Develop a Foundation to Improve School Stability and Other Education Outcomes.

#### **Nebraska's State Action Plan**

#### Long-Term Goals:

- Design a Process and System for Cross-System Information Sharing.
- Improve School Stability and Other Education Outcomes.

#### Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative

- 25 Local Judge-Led Multidisciplinary Teams throughout Nebraska
- Local Collaborations to improve Child Welfare Court System
- Teams encouraged to include School Representatives and invite to 2012 Children's Summit
- Website: www.throughtheeyes.org

#### 2012 Children's Summit

- Governor Heineman, Chief Justice Heavican and Education Commissioner Breed welcomed 450 Participants
- Commissioner Breed announced State Ward Statistical Snapshot Findings
- Education Track: Sessions on School Stability, Transportation, Education Decision-Making, and Information Sharing

# Supreme Court Commission on Children in the Courts

- Multidisciplinary Commission that makes Recommendations to Nebraska Supreme Court
- Extensive Judicial Membership
- Creation of New Sub-Committee on Improving Education Outcomes for Children in Foster Care

#### "Fostering Connections in Education" Liaisons Network

- State Level Liaisons for each Primary System
- 5 DHHS Service Areas
- 12 Probation / Judicial Districts
- 30+ Largest School Districts
- 18 Interim-Program Schools
- 5 Special Purpose Schools

#### **QUESTION**

How is Nebraska developing strong relationships between the child welfare or juvenile justice agency, the court, and the school system so all are "on the same page" as it relates to a student's IEP, visitation, and changing schools in the midst of the school year?

# **Cross-Systems Information Sharing 2012 Initial Steps**

- Initial Data Self-Assessment by each Primary System using ABA's "Solving the Data Puzzle" Guide http://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/migrated /child/education/publications/solvingthedatapuzzle. authcheckdam.pdf
- Joined Nebraska's Probation/DHHS/NCJIS Information Sharing Task Force
- Georgetown's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform -Information Sharing Certificate Program and Models for Change http://www.modelsforchange.net/publications/282

#### **QUESTION**

Considering the confidentiality requirements of FERPA (Family, Educational Rights and Privacy Act), what is the "workaround" for schools and foster care agencies for sharing student-specific information with one another?

### **Cross-Systems Information-Sharing**

#### **Dual Focus**

- Aggregate Data:
  - NDE/DHHS State Ward Statistical Snapshot
- Student-Specific Information Sharing:
  - "Fostering Connections" Liaisons Network
  - Nebraska's Probation/DHHS/NCJIS Task Force
  - Academic Advancement Plan (AAP) System

- 2010-2011 Aggregate Data for State Wards attending Public Schools and Special Purpose Schools in Nebraska (Baseline)
  - Academic Outcomes of State Wards compared to Non-Ward Students
  - Academic Outcomes of State Wards by Descriptive Categories
- Collaboration between NE Dept. of Health and Human Services and NE Dept. of Education

#### Data Sets and Matching Process

- 1st Step: State Ward Data Set generated by DHHS N-Focus System = 7,710 School-Age State Wards, 4 to 19 Years of Age
- 2nd Step: DHHS State Ward Data Set matched to NDE NSSRS Data Set = 5,769 Students
  - Abuse/Neglect = 3,362 State Wards
  - Office of Juvenile Services (OJS) = 1,795 State Wards
  - Status Offenses = 612 State Wards

#### **Education-Related Data Elements**

- Student Enrollment
- School Attendance
- Highly Mobile Students
- Statewide Math, Reading and Science Results
- School Drop-Outs
- High School Graduation

#### **Education-Related Data Elements**

- Special Education Students and Type of Disability
- High Ability Learners
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Students
- Migrant Students
- Free or Reduced School Lunch Eligible Students
- Homeless Students
- Students in Early Childhood Education Programs
- Students in Career Education Programs

#### Descriptive Categories

- Student Gender
- Student Grade Level
- School Enrollment Status
- School Type (Public or Special Purpose School)
- Judicial District
- DHHS Service Area
- Placement Type (In Home or Out-of-Home)
- Adjudication (Abuse-Neglect, OJS, or Status Offense)

#### Sample of Findings

- 43.7% of State wards graduated in 2010-2011 compared to 87.4% of Non-wards
- 25.2% of State wards are "highly mobile" compared to 4.2% of Non-wards
- State wards were absent from school twice as many days (15.94 days) as Non-wards (7.76 days)
- 36.2% of State wards were identified for Special Education compared to 16.6% of Non-wards

## Nebraska Criminal Justice Information System (NCJIS)

- 1995: Created *CJIS Advisory Committee*
- 1998: Issued RFP for Internet-based
   Data Sharing Project for Criminal Justice
- 1999: Contracted with AIC
- 2000: NCJIS Goes Live
- 2006: NDEN Introduced Provides Limited View of NCJIS for Non-Criminal Justice Users

#### **NCJIS**

#### Basic Functionality and Features

- Searches on Individual Data Sets or Across All Available Data
- Master Index and Search
- Data Linked to SID and FBI # (when available)
- Data Linked by Name and Date of Birth
- Data Access Path Varies
- Can Incorporate Work Flows
- Data Availability Determined by Data Provider

# NCJIS - Juvenile Data in General Data Sets and Juvenile Data Sets

- Juvenile Holds Juvenile Facilities, Jails and Corrections
- DHHS
  - Current State Wards, including those at YRTCs
  - CAN Reports
  - Safety Plans
- Juvenile Diversion Case Management System (JDCMS) - County Attorneys
- Juvenile Probation
- Student Data (Two School Districts)
- Courts



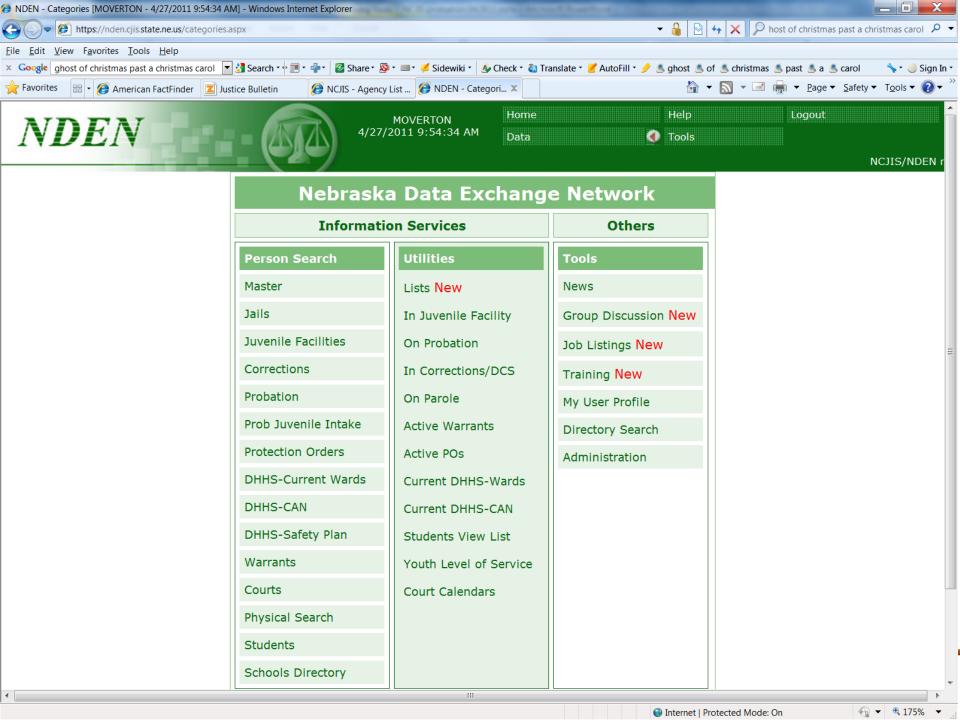
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Help

Non-Criminal

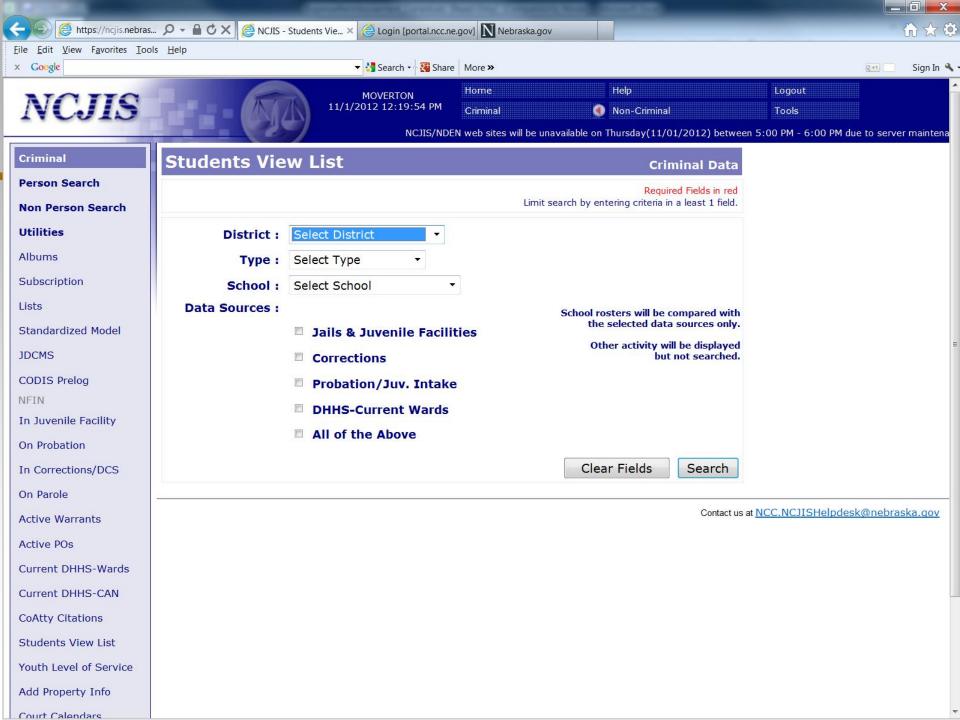
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# **Probation/DHHS/NCJIS Information Sharing Task Force**

- Focus: Sharing Information on Current State Wards and Juvenile Probationers
- Desired Result: Display of Summary Data that can be drilled down to by the User
  - DHHS State Ward and Probation Status
  - Case Worker and Probation Officer Contact Information
  - Other NCJIS Data Links
- May Require Statutory Changes



#### **Next Steps**

#### Maintaining the Foundation

- Continue Collaboration with Through the Eyes of the Child Initiative
- Continue Collaboration with NDE Committee on Education of Students in Out-of-Home Placements
- Collaboration with Newly Created Supreme Court Commission's Sub-Committee on Improving Education Outcomes for Children in Foster Care
- Regional Training on Information Sharing for "Fostering Connections" Liaisons Network

#### **Next Steps**

#### Cross-Systems Information Sharing

- 2011-2012 State Ward Statistical Snapshot
- Continued Collaboration with Probation/DHHS/NCJIS Task Force
- Cross-Systems Communication via "Fostering Connections" Liaisons Network
- Academic Advancement Plan (AAP) System
- DHHS School Superintendent's Letter

#### **QUESTION**

When Nebraska's State Action Plan for crosssystem information sharing and analysis includes both aggregate data as well as student-specific information, how do you manage to avoid "getting caught in the weeds" and maintain the "big picture" context within the large amount of data that is collected?

# Nebraska's "Fostering Connections in Education" State Team

Nebraska Department of Education

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# Nebraska's "Fostering Connections in Education" State Team

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Lori Griggs, Chief of State Probation District 3J Nebraska State Probation Administration (402) 441-7383 / <u>lori.griggs@nebraska.gov</u>

Vicky Weisz, Director of Nebraska Court Improvement Project University of Nebraska's Center on Children, Families, and the Law (402) 472-9814 / <a href="www.weisz1@unl.edu">www.weisz1@unl.edu</a>

# Nebraska's "Fostering Connections in Education" Co-Presenters

Nebraska Department of Education

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Nebraska Crime Commission

Michael Overton, Chief of Information Services Division / NCJIS (402) 471-3992 / michael.overton@nebraska.gov



#### National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections

A Service of the Children's Bureau
& A Member of the T/TA Network





**Lupe Ortiz-Tovar,** Program Development Specialist, National Resource Center for Youth Development

http://nrcyd.ou.edu/



#### National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College



## **Continued Supports Available**

- NRCPFC and the Children's Bureau T&TA
   Network will continue to be available to
   provide on- and off-site technical assistance.
- NRCPFC will continue to update the Education Summit website.
- We encourage you to utilize peer-to-peer information sharing opportunities.
- Email Tracy Serdjenian at <u>tserdjen@hunter.cuny.edu</u> with questions.



# National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College



#### **Education Summit Website**

http://www.nrcpfc.org/education\_summit/

- About the Meeting
- Meeting Videos and Materials
- Meeting Photo Gallery
- CB/NRCPFC TA Webinars (Archived Series)
- What's New Updated!
- State Team Pages (Password-Protected)
- State Team Resources New!
- Additional Resources Updated!

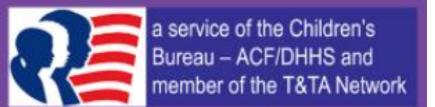


## **Additional Resources Webpage**

- NRCPFC Fostering Connections and Education Webpage
- NRCPFC Education and Child Welfare Webpage
- Legal Center for Foster Care and Education
   Website and Searchable Database



#### NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER FOR PERMANENCY AND FAMILY CONNECTIONS at the Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work



#### **After the Event**

- A feedback survey will be emailed to all participants.
   We appreciate your feedback!
- Materials for this event are currently posted on the NRCPFC website at: <a href="http://www.nrcpfc.org/teleco">http://www.nrcpfc.org/teleco</a> <a href="nferences/2012-11-05.html">nferences/2012-11-05.html</a>
- The event will be archived on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at the above link.