

# Call for Proposals | 2022 New Mexico Children's Law Institute

Virtual Conference | January 12-14<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The New Mexico Children's Law Institute (CLI) is seeking proposals for *virtual*, skill building workshops for the 29<sup>th</sup> annual conference.

Submit your complete proposal as a word document or pdf to [cli-nm@nmsu.edu](mailto:cli-nm@nmsu.edu)

\*If you are not able to submit a full proposal by the deadline, please send a letter with your intention to submit including presenter information and a workshop/topic summary. **Deadline for proposal submission is September 30, 2021.**

Join us in exploring the theme for our 2022 conference:

## ***Finding Our Rhythm***

*Over the past several years, the New Mexico Children's Law Institute has carried the cadence of systems change with an emphasis on prevention, support, and radical acceptance. Committed stakeholders from far and wide have joined the chorus, lending their hearts, minds, and voices to the call for a collaborative approach to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of everyone in the community. This year we'll dive into the details of realizing the transformed practice we envisioned— a practice rooted in love and dignity. What does innovative systems change look like on the ground? What changes are working? Where have we struggled with implementing our vision? What resources and reserves are still needed as we engage in this transformative work? The 29<sup>th</sup> annual Children's Law Institute seeks to cultivate awareness, empathy, and enthusiasm as **we find our rhythm** in the collective process of transforming child welfare and juvenile justice to truly benefit those we serve.*

The CLI is a statewide, multidisciplinary conference which brings over 1,000 various professionals together in a unique learning environment focused on improving the health, safety, and wellbeing of those children and families who are involved in--or who are at risk of becoming involved in—state or tribal child welfare or juvenile justice systems in New Mexico.

## **Criteria for Submission: (see full application questions on last page)**

We are looking for **1.5 hour long virtual workshops (75 min presentation with the last 15 mins for Q & A)** that relate to the professionals and volunteers who work in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems, including social workers, service providers, advocates, educators, and legal professionals. Workshops can be geared toward one or more professions. We are seeking intermediate and advanced virtual presentations for experienced professionals and volunteers. Academic paper proposals are not likely to be accepted.

## **To be considered, proposals must:**

- **Be relevant** to conference theme and attendees
- Demonstrate ability to be **engaging and creative** on a virtual platform and proficiency with **online facilitation**
- Use innovative and applicable knowledge that is **solution focused**

- Incorporate tools for **skill building and real-world application** that can be applied to an attendees' individual area of expertise
- Include **virtual audience interaction** and critical thinking
- Include content related specifically to the **cultures in New Mexico** and the particular and unique challenges we face
- Provide **examples of the resource(s)** you will utilize during the workshop and share with participants (handouts, PowerPoint slides, additional resources etc.). We request all presentations provide handouts or other visual aid to accompany the presentation.
- Presenters must be available to coordinate **virtual practice session** with conference planning team.

### **Suggested/Requested Topics**

*Any topics that meet the criteria above are welcome. We are looking specifically for intermediate and advanced virtual workshops that focus on solutions. The following topics are of particular interest, but additional relevant topics will be considered.*

### **Application of systems change in New Mexico - what these changes look like in practice:**

- Reflection and discussion of recent programmatic and legal changes in New Mexico – including successes, challenges, and early outcomes related to:
  - Resource Family Connections
  - Safety Organized Practice
  - Safe and Together
  - CARA (Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act implementation in NM)
  - ICWA Court Expansion and ICWA Court Practices
  - Primary prevention
  - Outreach New Mexico Program – NM Warmline, etc.
  - NM Fostering Connections Act
  - Families First Act
  - Kinship Guardianship and subsidized guardianships
  - Dependency Courts
  - Expecting and Parenting Youth with System Involvement
  - High-Fidelity Wraparound and other Evidence Based Practice expansion throughout the behavioral health service array
  - NM Family Advocacy Program/interdisciplinary model of legal representation
  - Quality Parenting Initiative
  - Family Time Hosts (aka “visit hosts”)
  - Infant Mental Health Teams
  - Shifts in CYFD’s holistic approach to improving and increasing Kinship Care
- Collaboration in an adversarial system (when, why, and how)
- Understanding and implementing the Children’s Court Improvement Commission strategic plan. Link to CCIC Strategic Plan: <https://swrtc.nmsu.edu/files/2021/07/Strategic-Plan-2021-24-FINAL.pdf>
- Changes in Federal and State policies and statutes and how New Mexico is addressing them.
- Leveraging funding to increase community based behavioral health services

- Exploring expanded roles for Resource Families
- How CYFD's Strategic Plan is affecting systemic change. Link to CYFD Strategic Plan: [https://cyfd.org/docs/fy20\\_cyfd\\_annual\\_report\\_v1-1\\_final.pdf](https://cyfd.org/docs/fy20_cyfd_annual_report_v1-1_final.pdf)
- Implementing accountability practices from within our systems (grievance processes, review boards, increased transparency, etc.)
- Improving understanding of the legal processes related to child welfare and juvenile justice
- Examples of success stories and/or ideas for accepting and flourishing through change
- NM Legislative Task Force and Supreme Court Commission Updates- e.g. Different models of Direct Representation for Children, Family Representation Commission, Advisory Council on Racial Justice, NM Civil Rights Commission, Commission on Justice and Equity.

### **Covid-19 Pandemic Related - Lessons learned from the pandemic:**

- What has COVID-19 really meant to families in New Mexico?
  - How has it affected reunifications, family time (aka visits), families' experiences?
  - How has it affected the mental health of infants and toddlers?
  - What worked? What remains challenging?
- Addressing trauma related to COVID-19 for children & families and/or for practitioners
  - Economic impact and downstream effect on child welfare
- Addressing disparities within communities impacted by COVID-19, including the disproportionate impact in rural and Tribal communities
- Use of technology to connect with the community during and beyond pandemic
  - How have virtual services affected participation and engagement in services?
- How is New Mexico doing as a whole related to socioeconomic status: unemployment rates, access to financial support, access to education, and access to behavioral health services?

### **Racial Justice Related:**

- Addressing racism in child welfare and/or juvenile justice systems
- Proven approaches to address implicit bias, racism, homophobia, or transphobia, etc.
- How system reforms address the intersectionality of race, poverty, and gender and impact on outcomes
- Working collaboratively with indigenous populations and sovereign governments within tribal systems
- Violence prevention, alternatives to detention, and restorative justice
- Addressing the intersection of immigration and child welfare

### **Youth and Family:**

- How should systems be designed to focus on the well-being of families and communities?
- Evolving models of family representation including multidisciplinary legal practice
- Improving outcomes for youth aging out of CYFD (protective services and juvenile justice).
- Youth voice - workshops/presentations led by system impacted youth about topics important to them.

- Family voice - workshops/presentations led by system impacted parents/families about topics important to them
- Resources and services for children, youth and families in New Mexico - what is available, how are we doing at meeting the needs in our communities, what needs remain unmet, and where are there service deserts? Including but not limited to:
  - Resources available for Native children and families
  - Community based behavioral health services
  - Infant Mental Health
  - Support of and for kinship providers
  - Support for youth impacted by homelessness

**Professional Development/Role Specific Training:**

- Skill building for attorneys - motions practice, trial preparation and trial skills, understanding changes in the law and how they impact legal practice, mediation advocacy
- Specialized skills training for social workers, case workers, supervisors, management, CASAs, and community partners.
- Workshops for State and Tribal Judges - how changes in laws/policy should be addressed in the courtroom, what judges need to know about the education, medical, and social history of individuals and families, courtroom management/setting expectations for other professionals/holding parties and counsel accountable
- Interdisciplinary collaboration between legal teams and social services; legal workshops for non-attorneys
- Enhancing Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Practice
- Sessions specifically for CASA, SCAC members, advocates, service providers etc.
- Innovative approaches to wellness and self-care, understanding secondary trauma, mindfulness, etc.
- Prevention & Response - substance misuse, sexual abuse, human trafficking, trauma, etc.

**Please submit a Word document or PDF that contains all of the information below to [cli-nm@nmsu.edu](mailto:cli-nm@nmsu.edu) with the subject line 2022 CLI Proposal.\***

**Application Requirements:**

The Proposal Review Committee seeks high quality virtual presentations. Proposals must include all the following:

1. Name and **Contact information for Primary Presenter**, and co-presenters (if known)
2. Proposed Session **Title** or Topic
3. **Presenter's Experience** with online/virtual presentations and workshops and a preferred participant capacity per workshop

4. A **Biography** for each presenter (150-200 words) which is written in the third person and includes education and relevant credentials (required for CEU/CLEs)
5. **Session Summary** (up to 300 words) intended for the conference program
6. An **Abstract** that:
  - a. Describes how your workshop responds to the conference theme
  - b. Includes primary learning objectives or goals for workshop
  - c. Describes how your workshop will use innovative and applicable knowledge that is solution focused
  - d. Describes your presentation methodology (how your workshop will be experiential, interactive, etc.)
  - e. Describes the intended audience
  - f. Explains whether and your workshop will provide intermediate or advanced content
  - g. Explains whether and how your workshop focuses specifically on the cultures of New Mexico.
7. Indicate if this material has been previously presented. If yes, indicate when and where.
8. **Include all materials** including copy of power points or other handouts and links to additional resources on your topic.  
**Note:** if you do not have all materials ready to submit please describe what your materials will be and acknowledge the expectation that all presentations must have some written materials available for participants prior to the conference. All materials will be uploaded onto conference website. If your workshop has specific materials that must be read prior to the session, please indicate.
9. **Availability** to present and willingness to present twice during the three-day event. Please indicate any day or time that you are NOT available to present.
10. Would you be willing to have your **session recorded** with a link provided only to the CLI participants?

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