

Call for Proposals | New Mexico Children's Law Institute

January 9, 2024 | Virtual Pre-Conference

January 10-12, 2024 | In-Person | Hotel Albuquerque in Old Town, NM

The New Mexico Children's Law Institute (CLI) is seeking proposals for *in-person*, skill building workshops for the 31st annual conference.

Conference Theme - Illuminated by Hope: Forging a Path to Empathy, Equity, and Accountability

Hope is a transformative force to be cultivated, embraced, and shared. Research shows that hope predicts well-being and influences all aspects of our lives, from personal growth to public policy. Our collective embodiment of hope fuels our effort to actualize a system that embraces empathy, recognizes the importance of equity, and holds us accountable to protect and empower New Mexico's children and families.

Let us be inspired by the power of hope as our guiding light for the 31st Children's Law Institute. Join us for an energizing and thought-provoking conference where we will learn from experts, engage in meaningful discussions, and connect with our peers to celebrate the work of stakeholders committed to creating an empathetic, equitable, and accountable System of Care. Illuminated by the conversations and insights shared in community, and wielding hope throughout a year of review and reform, together we will forge a path toward a brighter future.

The Children's Law Institute is a statewide, multidisciplinary conference that brings over 1,000 various professionals together in a unique learning environment focused on improving the health, safety, and wellbeing of the 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 in-person 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 interactive virtual presentations for experienced professionals and volunteers. Academic paper proposals are not likely to be accepted.

To be considered, proposals must:

- **Relevance** to conference theme and attendees.
- Be able to present in-person in **Albuquerque, New Mexico**.
- 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 **audience interaction** and **critical thinking**.
- Include content related specifically to the **cultures in New Mexico** and the unique challenges we face.
- Provide **examples of the resource(s)** you will use during the workshop and share with participants (handouts, PowerPoint slides, additional resources etc.). We request all presentations provide **digital handouts** or other visual aid to accompany the presentation.
- Priority will be given to proposals and presentations that incorporate data.
- Virtual presenters only: Must be available for a **virtual practice session** with the conference planning team.

Please submit a Proposal at www.centerofinnovationnm.org/2024-cli-call-for-proposals or email a Word document or PDF that contains all the information above to cli-nm@nmsu.edu with the subject line **2024 CLI Proposal**.

Deadline for proposals: September 8, 2023

Questions: email cli-nm@nmsu.edu

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 topics will be considered.

Application of systems change in New Mexico - what these changes look like in implementation & practice

- Reflection and discussion of recent programmatic and legal changes in New Mexico – including strategy, successes, challenges, and early outcomes related to:
 - CARA (Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act implementation in NM)
 - Dependency Courts
 - Office of Family Representation and Advocacy
 - Direct Legal Representation for children in child welfare cases
 - Enhanced Family Support – Pre-legal initiatives, Quality Family Time
 - Increasing and improving family time
 - New Mexico/Bernalillo County ICWA Court Expansion and ICWA Court Practices
 - Protective Services System and Practice Changes
 - Individual Planning Process (IPP)
 - Child & Adolescent Needs & Strengths (CANS)
 - Quality Parenting Initiative
 - Kinship Guardianship and subsidized guardianships
 - Juvenile Justice System and Practice Changes
 - NM Family Advocacy Program/interdisciplinary model of legal representation

Changes in federal and state policies and statutes and how New Mexico is addressing them

- NM Fostering Connections Act - Extended Foster Care
- Families First Act
- Indian Family Protection Act (IFPA)
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)

Youth and families:

- Evolving models of family representation including multidisciplinary legal practice
- How should systems be designed to focus on the well-being of families and communities?
- 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 NM - what is available, how are we doing at meeting the needs in our communities, what needs remain unmet, and where are there service gaps? Including but not limited to:
 - Community based behavioral health services
 - Infant Mental Health and Child Parent Psychotherapy Services
 - Resources available for Native children and families
 - Support of and for kinship providers
 - Support for youth impacted by homelessness

Racial justice:

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

Timely issues related to addressing socio-economic equity and environmental justice

- Existing and developing infrastructure that creates safety and protection and/or creates opportunities to scaffold families out of poverty.
- Addressing environmental concerns including but not limited to:
 - Addressing disparities within communities ability to respond to natural disasters and climate change.
 - Technological and logistical resource and service gaps in rural and Tribal communities.
- How is New Mexico doing related to socioeconomic status: unemployment rates, access to financial support, access to education, and access to behavioral health services?

Other programs, topics and initiatives of interest - with focus on New Mexico

- Expecting and Parenting Youth with System Involvement
- Resource Family Connections and Training- updates to Pre-Service Training for Resource Families
- Substance use and the importance of harm reduction and an unbiased, non-judgmental approach.
- Working with differently abled parents - ADA
- Children's Mobile Response and Stabilization
- Infant Mental Health teams and Child Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) providers
- High-Fidelity Wraparound and other Evidence Based Practice expansion throughout the behavioral health service array
- Collaboration in an adversarial system (when, why, and how)
- Data – How data can be used in the courtroom/how data can support, shift and support work
- Examples of success stories and/or ideas for accepting and flourishing through change
- Incorporation of family and youth voice into planning, implementation, and evaluation processes
- Improving understanding of the legal processes related to child welfare and juvenile justice
- Implementing the Children's Court Improvement Commission 2021 – 2024 Strategic Plan
https://centerofinnovationnm.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/CCIC_Strategic-Plan-2021-24-FINAL.pdf
- Implementing accountability practices from within our systems (grievance processes, review boards, increased transparency, etc.)
- Leveraging funding to increase community based behavioral health services
- New Mexico Commission on Mental Health and Competency
- People first language & non-labeling language
- Successful implementation of solution-focused, prevention-based services

Professional development / role specific training:

- Enhancing Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Practice
- Innovative approaches to wellness and self-care, understanding secondary trauma, mindfulness, etc.
- Interdisciplinary collaboration between legal teams and social services; legal workshops for non-attorneys
- Prevention & Response - substance misuse, sexual abuse, human trafficking, trauma, etc.
- Sessions specifically for CASA, SCAC members, advocates, service providers etc.
- Specialized skills training for social workers, case workers, supervisors, CASAs, and community partners.
- Skill building for attorneys - motions practice, trial preparation and trial skills, understanding changes in the law and how they impact legal practice, mediation advocacy
- 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.

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. 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)
4. **Session Summary** (up to 300 words) intended for the conference program
5. 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.)
 - i. Do you intend to use interactive polls, breakout rooms, or other virtual features?
 - 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.
6. Indicate if this material has been previously presented. If yes, indicate when and where.
7. **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.
- **Availability:** Please indicate any day or time that you are NOT available to present. Presentations will occur in-person January 10th, January 11th, and January 12th between the hours of 8am – 5pm.
- If you are available and willing to present virtually January 9th please also indicate so.

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