

# Keeping Current

A monthly newsletter for CCAN attorneys | Published by DC's Children's Law Center | April 2014

## D.C. Court of Appeals

***In re M.H.*, No. 13-FS-210 (D.C. March 6, 2014)** (challenging blanket policy of shackling all juvenile defendants without individualized showing of need; appeal moot as to appellant and dismissed due to insufficient record). <http://www.dccourts.gov/internet/documents/13-FS-210.pdf>.

***In re D.S.*, No. 10-FS-1556 (D.C. March 13, 2014)** (vacating and incorporating *In re D.S.*, 52 A.2d 887 (D.C. 2012) ("*In re D.S.-I*") and *In re D.S.*, 60 A.3d 1225 (D.C. 2013) ("*In re D.S.-II*"), and clarifying that absent a showing that a father has failed to meet the threshold criteria for custody, the applicable standard of proof to rebut the parental presumption is clear and convincing evidence). <http://www.dccourts.gov/internet/documents/10-FS-1556-Order-Opinion.pdf>

***In re D.M.*, No. 13-FS-406 (D.C. March 13, 2013)** (vacating and remanding TPR for further proceedings due to magistrate judge's failure to demonstrate requisite weighty consideration of birth mother's choice of caretaker). <http://www.dccourts.gov/internet/documents/13-FS-406.pdf>

## Child Welfare News

### National Issues

**Supreme Court says it cannot alter deadline set by international accord on child abduction.** (*Washington Post*)  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/supreme-court-says-it-cannot-alter-deadline-set-by-international-accord-on-child-abduction/2014/03/05/e34ec4f2-a496-11e3-8466-d34c451760b9\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/supreme-court-says-it-cannot-alter-deadline-set-by-international-accord-on-child-abduction/2014/03/05/e34ec4f2-a496-11e3-8466-d34c451760b9_story.html)

**A \$2 million settlement reached last week between Ohio's Stark County and 11 former adopted and foster children further illustrates what happens when children are incorrectly diagnosed with attachment disorder.** (*Slate*)  
[http://www.slate.com/articles/double\\_x/doublex/2014/03/attachment\\_therapy\\_at\\_the\\_center\\_of\\_many\\_high\\_profile\\_adoption\\_abuse\\_cases.html?wpisrc=burger\\_bar](http://www.slate.com/articles/double_x/doublex/2014/03/attachment_therapy_at_the_center_of_many_high_profile_adoption_abuse_cases.html?wpisrc=burger_bar)

### About This Publication

*Keeping Current* is a compilation of relevant news and information, including trainings and events. The materials referenced in *Keeping Current* are intended to be additional resources for consideration by members of the CCAN community, and Children's Law Center cannot verify the quality of all the materials or events referenced herein. CCAN attorneys should conduct their own independent research when reviewing these materials, and should review the weekly CCAN e-mail for current information. Please contact Jennifer Morris, Deputy Director, with comments or suggestions. *Keeping Current* is also posted on the Family Law page of ProBono.net/dc and [www.childrenslawcenter.org](http://www.childrenslawcenter.org).

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## Child Welfare (cont'd.)

**Why Americans hate welfare.** (*Bill Moyers*)

<http://billmoyers.com/2014/03/06/dog-whistle-politics-why-americans-hate-welfare/>

**Millions lifted out of poverty would beg to differ with Rep. Paul Ryan's report's conclusions.** (*National Journal*)

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/next-america/perspectives/millions-lifted-out-of-poverty-would-beg-to-differ-with-ryan-report-s-conclusions-20140306>

**Maryland lawmakers consider legislation that calls for increased penalties for violent crimes committed in front of children.** (*Washington Post*)

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dont-kill-her-children-who-witness-domestic-violence-carry-lifelong-scars/2014/03/08/d30cc6bc-9d83-11e3-b8d8-94577ff66b28\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dont-kill-her-children-who-witness-domestic-violence-carry-lifelong-scars/2014/03/08/d30cc6bc-9d83-11e3-b8d8-94577ff66b28_story.html)

**Sara Bartosz, the lead attorney representing foster children in a federal class action lawsuit filed four years ago against the state of Massachusetts on behalf of thousands of children in the state's care who were allegedly exposed to harm while in foster care, is outraged that the state missed a mandated 2010 deadline to put forth a comprehensive plan to improve the system.** (*Worcester Telegram and Gazette*)

<http://www.telegram.com/article/20140310/NEWS/303109959/1116>

**US Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) is proposing an amendment that would deny children of immigrants access to the refundable Child Tax Credit (CTC).** (*The Hill*)

<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/economy-budget/200232-attacking-fraud-by-assaulting-children-is-senseless>

**People – including cops – see black kids as less innocent and less young than white kids.** (*Atlantic Wire*)

<http://www.thewire.com/politics/2014/03/people-including-cops-view-black-kids-less-innocent-and-less-young-white-kids/359026/>

**Obesity rate for young children plummets 43% in a decade.** (*New York Times*)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/26/health/obesity-rate-for-young-children-plummets-43-in-a-decade.html?smid=fb-nyimes&WT.z\\_sma=HL\\_ORF\\_20140225&bicmp=AD&bicmlukp=WT.mc\\_id&bicmst=1388552400000&bicmet=142008840000&r=3](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/26/health/obesity-rate-for-young-children-plummets-43-in-a-decade.html?smid=fb-nyimes&WT.z_sma=HL_ORF_20140225&bicmp=AD&bicmlukp=WT.mc_id&bicmst=1388552400000&bicmet=142008840000&r=3)

**New York City's shelter population hits record high as number of families experiencing homelessness rises.** (*Salon*)

[http://www.salon.com/2014/03/12/new\\_york\\_citys\\_shelter\\_population\\_hits\\_record\\_high\\_as\\_number\\_of\\_families\\_experiencing\\_homelessness\\_rises/](http://www.salon.com/2014/03/12/new_york_citys_shelter_population_hits_record_high_as_number_of_families_experiencing_homelessness_rises/)

**Maryland Senate approves bill to increase penalties for domestic violence acts committed in front of children.**

(*Washington Post*)

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/md-senate-passes-bill-to-increase-penalties-for-violent-acts-committed-before-a-child/2014/03/13/7126fad6-aaed-11e3-98f6-8e3c562f9996\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/md-politics/md-senate-passes-bill-to-increase-penalties-for-violent-acts-committed-before-a-child/2014/03/13/7126fad6-aaed-11e3-98f6-8e3c562f9996_story.html)

**A new study in the Journal of the American Medical Association finds that boys in families who participated in an 1990s federal program to lift families out of poverty experienced depression and PTSD.** (*NPR*)

<http://www.npr.org/2014/03/12/289299044/study-boys-report-ptsd-when-moved-out-of-poverty>

**A closer look at child deaths: Detert bill aims to identify causes in DCF-related tragedies.** (*Herald Tribune*)

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20140313/opinion/303139997>

**Child abuse on the rise in South Florida – much of it attributed to overwhelmed parents.** (*Westside Gazette*)

<http://thewestsidegazette.com/child-abuse-on-the-rise-in-south-florida-much-of-it-attributed-to-overwhelmed-parents/>

## Child Welfare (cont'd.)

**Health care coverage for former foster youth should be easy, but...?** (*Georgetown Univ. Health Policy Institute*)  
<http://ccf.georgetown.edu/all/covering-former-foster-youth-should-be-easy-but/>

**More funds spent on foster care than on programs to reunite parents and children.** (*Journal-News*)  
<http://www.journal-news.com/news/news/local/more-spent-on-foster-care-than-programs-to-reunite/nfBjy/>

**Special investigative report reveals disturbing stories of more than 470 children who have died of neglect or abuse in Florida over the past six years.** (*CBS Miami, Miami Herald*)  
<http://miami.cbslocal.com/2014/03/16/a-look-inside-the-miami-heralds-special-report-innocents-lost/> and <http://www.miamiherald.com/projects/2014/innocents-lost/>

- **Related: DCF investigators stymied by their own lawyers.** (*Bradenton Herald*) <http://www.bradenton.com/2014/03/16/5049320/dcf-investigators-stymied-by-their.html>
- **Meanwhile, the Florida House and Senate have both proposed bills to offer an ambitious response to the deaths.** (*CBS Miami*) <http://miami.cbslocal.com/2014/03/14/child-welfare-bills-differ-but-both-chambers-offer-ambitious-response-to-deaths/>

**A RAND Corporation economist, policy analyst, and researcher writes that the new “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative takes a preventative, cost-effective approach that will positively impact the rest of society.** (*The Hill*)  
<http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/education/200713-realizing-the-potential-of-my-brothers-keeper>

**Maryland kids in foster care get much-needed support from court-appointed special advocates.** (*Washington Post*)  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/kids-in-foster-care-get-much-needed-support-from-court-appointed-special-advocates/2014/03/19/7f8c3a92-af6a-11e3-96dc-d6ea14c099f9\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/kids-in-foster-care-get-much-needed-support-from-court-appointed-special-advocates/2014/03/19/7f8c3a92-af6a-11e3-96dc-d6ea14c099f9_story.html)

**A new book called “50 Myths & Lies That Threaten America’s Public Schools” takes a look at some of the worst ideas being promoted by school reformers across the country.** (*Washington Post*)  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/03/18/50-terrible-ideas-for-improving-schools/>

## DC Children and Youth

**DC leads the nation in free school breakfasts.** (*Washington Post*)  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/dc-leads-nation-in-free-school-breakfasts/2014/03/06/f32b613e-a570-11e3-8466-d34c451760b9\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/dc-leads-nation-in-free-school-breakfasts/2014/03/06/f32b613e-a570-11e3-8466-d34c451760b9_story.html) and [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/in-dc-breakfast-is-served/2014/03/14/f255550e-aa10-11e3-8599-ce7295b6851c\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/in-dc-breakfast-is-served/2014/03/14/f255550e-aa10-11e3-8599-ce7295b6851c_story.html)

**DC’s homeless children are faring no better than 19 years ago when the city was being supervised by the Control Board.** (*Huffington Post*)  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/patty-mullahy-fugere/no-sweet-dreams-for-dcs-h\\_b\\_4908679.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/patty-mullahy-fugere/no-sweet-dreams-for-dcs-h_b_4908679.html)

**The city’s foster care system gets a thumbs up from a foster mother who writes in a Washington Post op-ed that her recent experience with CFSA has renewed her pride in being a Washingtonian.** (*Washington Post*)  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-heroes-in-the-dc-foster-care-bureaucracy/2014/03/07/3f1501f4-a3f0-11e3-a5fa-55f0c77bf39c\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-heroes-in-the-dc-foster-care-bureaucracy/2014/03/07/3f1501f4-a3f0-11e3-a5fa-55f0c77bf39c_story.html)

**A DC Superior Court judge orders the city to provide private rooms for homeless families.** (*Washington Post*)  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/judge-issues-restraining-order-forcing-dc-to-provide-safer-housing-for-homeless-families/2014/03/07/e1879716-a653-11e3-9cff-b1406de784f0\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/judge-issues-restraining-order-forcing-dc-to-provide-safer-housing-for-homeless-families/2014/03/07/e1879716-a653-11e3-9cff-b1406de784f0_story.html)

**DC Mayor Gray announces program to locate housing for homeless families.** (*City Paper*)  
<http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/housingcomplex/2014/03/11/gray-announces-program-to-locate-housing-for-homeless-families/> and [http://dcist.com/2014/03/as\\_activists\\_protest\\_gray\\_announces.php](http://dcist.com/2014/03/as_activists_protest_gray_announces.php)

## Child Welfare (cont'd.)

**A new analysis of Census data reveals that DC ranks fourth highest in income inequality among US cities.** (*Washington Post, DC Fiscal Policy Institute*)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/mike-debonis/wp/2014/03/13/report-d-c-is-among-most-unequal-u-s-cities-by-income/> and <http://www.dcfpi.org/dcs-income-inequality-ranks-among-highest-in-u-s>

**How some homeless families cope in a broken system while city officials still debate how to solve the problem.** (*City Paper*)

<http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/articles/45550/no-place-like-home/>

**The Children's National Health System mobile dental unit, now in its fourteenth year of service, is busier than ever.** (*WTOP*)

<http://www.wtop.com/109/3579344/Say-Aaaaa-Mobile-dentist-office-takes-care-of-kids-one-cleaning-at-a-time>

**DC Councilmember Mary Cheh introduced a bill Tuesday that would require the city's Department of Parks and Recreation to provide free meals for poor children on days when schools are closed for snow or other inclement weather.** (*Washington Post*)

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/cheh-introduces-bill-to-provide-poor-dc-children-with-meals-on-snow-days/2014/03/18/d61b6526-aebc-11e3-a49e-76adc9210f19\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/cheh-introduces-bill-to-provide-poor-dc-children-with-meals-on-snow-days/2014/03/18/d61b6526-aebc-11e3-a49e-76adc9210f19_story.html)

**City's campaign to house 500 families in 100 days launches one day after hypothermia season ends.** (*DCist*)

[http://dcist.com/2014/03/500\\_homeless\\_families\\_100\\_days.php](http://dcist.com/2014/03/500_homeless_families_100_days.php)

**How will DC's next mayor tackle inequality?** (*Washington Post*)

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-will-dcs-next-mayor-tackle-inequality/2014/03/14/69256ee6-aae1-11e3-af5f-4c56b834c4bf\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-will-dcs-next-mayor-tackle-inequality/2014/03/14/69256ee6-aae1-11e3-af5f-4c56b834c4bf_story.html)

**Judge rejects city's argument that sheltering homeless families in partitioned spaces at recreational centers meets the requirement that the District house families in private rooms during extreme weather, but stopped short of ordering the city to stop using the rec centers as shelter.** (*City Paper, DCist, Washington Post*)

<http://www.washingtoncitypaper.com/blogs/housingcomplex/2014/03/20/judge-rejects-citys-arguments-on-use-of-rec-centers-as-shelter-but-stops-short-of-ruling/> and [http://dcist.com/2014/03/judge\\_rules\\_recreation\\_centers\\_home.php](http://dcist.com/2014/03/judge_rules_recreation_centers_home.php) and [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/crime/dc-judge-expands-lawsuit-filed-by-homeless-families/2014/03/20/9b9e117e-b04b-11e3-9627-c65021d6d572\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/crime/dc-judge-expands-lawsuit-filed-by-homeless-families/2014/03/20/9b9e117e-b04b-11e3-9627-c65021d6d572_story.html)

## Education News

### National Issues

**State grants to help educate poor children and improve special education are included in President Obama's 2015 budget.** (*Washington Post*)

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/education-gets-budget-love/2014/03/04/01235d2c-a3dd-11e3-8466-d34c451760b9\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/education-gets-budget-love/2014/03/04/01235d2c-a3dd-11e3-8466-d34c451760b9_story.html)

**Socialization technique helps in academic achievement, trial study finds.** (*Washington Post*)

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/socialization-technique-helps-in-academic-achievement-trial-study-finds/2014/03/05/674d1e0e-a495-11e3-a5fa-55f0c77bf39c\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/socialization-technique-helps-in-academic-achievement-trial-study-finds/2014/03/05/674d1e0e-a495-11e3-a5fa-55f0c77bf39c_story.html)

**What the House Budget Committee Report got right and wrong about early childhood education.** (*Center for American Progress*)

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/news/2014/03/05/85282/what-the-house-budget-committee-report-got-right-and-wrong-about-early-childhood-education/>

## Education News (cont'd.)

**Maryland officials hope increased pre-K funding will help an additional 1,600 children across the state.** (CBS Baltimore)  
<http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2014/03/10/md-legislators-want-to-make-pre-k-more-accessible-to-children/>

**Findings from the Discipline Disparities Research-to-Practice Collaborative underscore disparities in school suspension rates among students of color and those with disabilities and highlight promising new practices.** (Washington Post)  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/researchers-point-to-racial-disparities-in-school-suspension-spotlight-new-practices/2014/03/14/0017cd98-aaa7-11e3-adbc-888c8010c799\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/researchers-point-to-racial-disparities-in-school-suspension-spotlight-new-practices/2014/03/14/0017cd98-aaa7-11e3-adbc-888c8010c799_story.html)

**Is there a link between charter school expansion and increasing segregation?** (Washington Post)  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/03/13/the-link-between-charter-school-expansion-and-increasing-segregation/>

**Special education teachers-in-training know that hitting, kicking, punching, and hair pulling can be part of the job, but they still find themselves called to the field.** (Lubbock Avalanche-Journal)  
<http://lubbockonline.com/interact/blog-post/natalie-gross/2014-03-18/special-ed-special-calling-k-12-education-blog#.UyxjSqhdWIW>

**What Applying to Charter Schools Showed Me About Inequality.** (The Atlantic)  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2014/03/what-applying-to-charter-schools-showed-me-about-inequality/284530/>

**New data from the US Department of Education reveals that more than 8,000 preschoolers were suspended at least once during the 2011 school year.** (Politico)  
<http://www.politico.com/story/2014/03/civil-rights-education-race-equity-104879.html>

- **Related: Theory: Maybe Black Toddlers are Suspended From Preschool More Because of Racism.** (Atlantic Wire)  
<http://www.thewire.com/politics/2014/03/maybe-black-toddlers-are-suspended-preschool-more-often-because-america-racist/359422/>

## DC Education News

**Children's Law Center front-and-center as DC Council member David Catania introduces sweeping special education legislation developed in partnership with CLC that will change how parents are able to determine and secure educational services for their children.** (Washington Post, WAMU, WUSA9, Washington Informer)

- [http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/catania-to-propose-sweeping-special-education-legislation/2014/03/18/187236ac-ae8b-11e3-9627-c65021d6d572\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/catania-to-propose-sweeping-special-education-legislation/2014/03/18/187236ac-ae8b-11e3-9627-c65021d6d572_story.html)
- <http://wamu.org/news/14/03/18/dc-legislator-introduces-package-of-bills-addressing-special-education>
- <http://www.wusa9.com/media/cinematic/video/6578057/catania-proposes-special-educations-reforms/>
- <http://washingtoninformer.com/news/2014/mar/18/catania-bills-highlight-needs-special-education-st/>

**The DC Council approves the DC Promise Scholarship program.** (Washington Post)  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/dc-council-approves-dc-promise-college-scholarship/2014/03/04/8c3eed4a-a3e7-11e3-8466-d34c451760b9\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/dc-council-approves-dc-promise-college-scholarship/2014/03/04/8c3eed4a-a3e7-11e3-8466-d34c451760b9_story.html)

**17,000 students use new DC lottery to apply for schools.** (WAMU)  
[http://wamu.org/news/14/03/05/17000\\_students\\_use\\_new\\_dc\\_lottery\\_to\\_apply\\_for\\_schools](http://wamu.org/news/14/03/05/17000_students_use_new_dc_lottery_to_apply_for_schools)

**DC Council member David Catania says former Washington Post publisher Donald Graham's recent assessment of DC Public Schools' progress is a bit too rosy because of a glaring student achievement gap.** (Washington Post)  
[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/david-catania-dcs-elected-leaders-have-an-important-role-to-play-in-education/2014/03/07/c373946e-9f2d-11e3-9ba6-800d1192d08b\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/david-catania-dcs-elected-leaders-have-an-important-role-to-play-in-education/2014/03/07/c373946e-9f2d-11e3-9ba6-800d1192d08b_story.html)

## Education News (cont'd.)

DCPS narrowly misses a determination that would have required OSSE to withhold funds or take legal action because schools are still struggling to implement the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), and charter school advocate Mark Lerner says DC charter schools are responsible for student academic progress. (*Examiner; Greater Greater Education*)

<http://greatergreatereducation.org/post/21983/most-dc-schools-arent-serving-special-needs-kids-the-way-theyre-supposed-to/> and <http://www.examiner.com/article/councilman-catani-s-numbers-on-student-academic-progress-do-not-compute>

DC moves to extend school day at low-performing schools. (*WAMU*)

[http://wamu.org/news/14/03/11/henderson\\_moves\\_to\\_extend\\_school\\_day\\_at\\_low\\_performing\\_schools](http://wamu.org/news/14/03/11/henderson_moves_to_extend_school_day_at_low_performing_schools)

DC school system's gaping achievement gaps – in seven graphs. (*Washington Post*)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/03/12/d-c-school-systems-gaping-achievement-gaps-in-seven-graphs/>

Eight groups apply to open new DC charter school, including one with a particular interest in serving children in foster care. (*Washington Post*)

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/eight-groups-apply-to-open-new-dc-charter-schools/2014/03/11/62c37b08-a92c-11e3-8599-ce7295b6851c\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/eight-groups-apply-to-open-new-dc-charter-schools/2014/03/11/62c37b08-a92c-11e3-8599-ce7295b6851c_story.html)

Bowser wants to solve middle school problem by replicating Deal Middle School but Wells says that won't work. (*Greater Greater Education*)

<http://greatergreatereducation.org/post/22033/bowser-wants-to-solve-middle-school-problem-by-replicating-deal-but-wells-says-that-wont-work/>

DC teacher evaluation errors burn teachers and students. (*Labor Notes*)

<http://labornotes.org/blogs/2014/03/dc-teacher-evaluation-errors-burn-teachers-and-students>

DC schools see progress under Mayor Gray, but questions linger. (*Washington Post, Washington Informer*)

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/dc-schools-see-progress-under-gray-but-questions-linger/2014/03/13/b60f5e30-a4a9-11e3-a5fa-55f0c77bf39c\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/dc-schools-see-progress-under-gray-but-questions-linger/2014/03/13/b60f5e30-a4a9-11e3-a5fa-55f0c77bf39c_story.html)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/local/wp/2014/03/13/dcps-outlines-baseline-courses-for-all-middle-school-students/>

<http://washingtoninformer.com/news/2014/mar/12/local-program-prepares-girls-college/>

DC by the numbers: many students are well-schooled on being homeless. (*WAMU*)

<http://wamu.org/news/14/03/18/>

[dc\\_by\\_the\\_numbers\\_many\\_students\\_are\\_well\\_schooled\\_on\\_being\\_homeless#at\\_pco=cfd-1.0](http://www.wamu.org/news/14/03/18/dc_by_the_numbers_many_students_are_well_schooled_on_being_homeless#at_pco=cfd-1.0)

Introducing DC KIDS COUNT new ward snapshots. (*DC Action for Children*)

<http://www.dcactionforchildren.org/node/1322>

Maryland and DC schools to begin field-testing the new Common Core exams. (*Washington Post*)

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/maryland-and-dc-schools-to-begin-field-testing-new-common-core-exams-next-week/2014/03/20/e5f960a4-b058-11e3-a49e-76adc9210f19\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/maryland-and-dc-schools-to-begin-field-testing-new-common-core-exams-next-week/2014/03/20/e5f960a4-b058-11e3-a49e-76adc9210f19_story.html)

In school reform, 'caliber of teacher matters,' DC chancellor Kaya Henderson tells Nevada educators. (*Las Vegas Sun*)

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2014/mar/21/school-reform-caliber-teacher-matters-dc-chancellor/>

## Mental Health News

**Orphans' lonely beginnings reveal how parents shape a child's brain.** (*NPR*)

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/health/2014/02/20/280237833/orphans-lonely-beginnings-reveal-how-parents-shape-a-childs-brain>

**A panel of mental health experts recommends expansion of DC's early mental health intervention and treatment program for children.** (*NBC4*)

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/health/Panel-Recommend-Expansion-of-DCs-Early-Mental-Health-Intervention-and-Treatment-248918161.html>

**Obesity, depression linked in teen girls, new study shows.** (*Science Daily*)

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2014/03/140321095344.htm>

**Bullying has lingering effects on children's mental health.** (*Fox News*)

<http://www.foxnews.com/health/2014/02/17/bullying-has-lingering-effects-on-children-mental-health/>

**Study: Mental health hospitalizations increasing in children.** (*U.S. News & World Report*)

<http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/03/17/study-mental-health-hospitalizations-increasing-in-children>

**Overlooked after Virginia Tech shooting, children's mental health gets attention.** (*Washington Post*)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/local/wp/2014/03/11/overlooked-after-va-tech-shooting-childrens-mental-health-gets-attention/>

## Reports and Publications

**A Framework to Design, Test, Spread, and Sustain Effective Practice in Child Welfare.** (*Children's Bureau, Framework Workgroup, JBS International*) Describing a process for exploring problems in child welfare, developing interventions, building evidence about their effectiveness, integrating effective interventions into routine child welfare practice, and continually improving on their delivery, this framework is designed to promote a better integration of evaluation with program and policy decision making, to encourage stronger partnerships between child welfare stakeholders, and to serve as a tool for those who evaluate programs, those who make decisions about the funding, development, and implementation of interventions, and those who fund research and evaluation studies.

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/pii\\_ttap\\_framework.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/cb/pii_ttap_framework.pdf)

**From Collaboration to Consolidation: Developing a More Expansive Model for Responding to Family Violence.** (*Deserie A. Kennedy, Touro College*) Proposing a decisive move from collaboration and communication to a consolidation of domestic violence and child welfare agencies that would fund domestic violence agencies to provide services to families experiencing domestic violence except in families where the harm or threat of harm to the children is severe.

[http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=2406974](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2406974)

**Resources to Improve Medicaid for Children and Adolescents.** (*National Academy for State Health Policy*) Includes interactive map.

<http://www.nashp.org/epsdt/resources-improve-medicaid-children-and-adolescents>

**Assessing Accessibility: Do Teens in Foster Care Have Access to the Full Range of Reproductive Health Care Services Under Medicaid?** (*National Center for Youth Law*) Exploring the gap that exists between best practices and the level of services offered by states and the lack of accessibility of those services to youth in foster care.

[http://www.youthlaw.org/publications/yln/2013/apr\\_jun\\_2013/assessing\\_accessibility\\_do\\_teens\\_in\\_foster\\_care\\_have\\_access](http://www.youthlaw.org/publications/yln/2013/apr_jun_2013/assessing_accessibility_do_teens_in_foster_care_have_access)

- Related: **Cause for Concern: Unwanted Pregnancy and Childbirth Among Adolescents in Foster Care.** (*National Center For Youth Law*) [http://www.youthlaw.org/publications/yln/2013/jan\\_mar\\_2013/cause\\_for\\_concern\\_unwanted\\_pregnancy\\_and\\_childbirth\\_among\\_adolescents\\_in\\_foster\\_care/](http://www.youthlaw.org/publications/yln/2013/jan_mar_2013/cause_for_concern_unwanted_pregnancy_and_childbirth_among_adolescents_in_foster_care/)

## Reports and Publications (cont'd.)

**Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care: An Evaluation of Supplemental Security Income Policy Change.** (*Laura King and Aneer Rukh-Kamaa, Social Security Office of Retirement and Disability Policy*) Examining the administrative record on SSI applications from before and after policy changes allowing youth aging out of foster care to apply for benefits sooner than previously allowed.

<http://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/ssb/v73n3/v73n3p53.pdf>

- Related: **SSI Transition Project** (*John Burton Foundation, Public Interest Law Project, Alliance for Children's Rights*) (website). <http://www.ssitransitions.org/index.html>

**Antipsychotic Treatment Patterns and Aggressive Behavior Among Adolescents in Residential Facilities.** (*Journal of Behavioral Health Services and Research. (NIH Public Access)*). Examining and questioning the adequacy of antipsychotic medications in managing aggressive behavior by adolescents in residential care facilities.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3637837/pdf/nihms436222.pdf>

**Estimating the Size and Structure of the Underground Commercial Sex Economy in Eight Major US Cities.** (*The Urban Institute*)

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/413047-Underground-Commercial-Sex-Economy.pdf>

**Medical Ethics Concerns in Physical Child Abuse Investigations: A Critical Perspective.** (*George J. Barry and Diane L. Redleaf, The Family Defense Center*)

<http://www.familydefensecenter.net/images/documents/medicalethicspaper.pdf>

## Upcoming Events

**Housing Law Training, Part 2 — Thursday, April 17, 3:30-5:00, at Children's Law Center.** This second session will address tenants' rights in DC, across all forms of housing, and will be led by Dorene Haney, a solo-practitioner and a highly-acclaimed tenants' rights attorney.

**All Day Trial Skills Training— Friday, April 18, 9:30-5:00, Family Court Conference Room (4224).** This session will be led by Supervising Attorney Gabrielle Mulnick-Majewski and will focus on common issues in family law litigation. Please contact Gabby at [gmajewski@childrenslawcenter.org](mailto:gmajewski@childrenslawcenter.org) to RSVP for this training, but please feel free to come even if you have not registered in advance.

**DC Department of Behavioral Health Process for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities—Wednesday, April 30, 3:30-5:00, at Children's Law Center.** Please join us for a special Wednesday edition of Thursday Training — this session will cover the DC Department of Behavioral Health (formerly DMH) process for psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PTRFs) and the community-based alternatives to prevent the need for PTRFs. The presenters will be Christopher T. Raczynski, M.D., Associate Chief Medical Officer for the DC Department of Behavioral Health and James M. Ballard, III, Ph.D., Clinical Program Manager for the Residential Treatment Center Reinvestment Program (RTCRP) for the DC Department of Behavioral Health.

## Save the Date

**19th Annual National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect — Tuesday, April 29 to Friday, May 2, 2013, in New Orleans, LA.** The 19th National conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, sponsored by the Children's Bureau Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (OCAN) will be held April 29—May 2, 2014 in New Orleans, LA. The theme for the 2014 conference is "Making Meaningful Connections." For more information or to register, please visit the National Conferences on Child Abuse and Neglect website: <http://www.pal-tech.com/web/NCCAN/>

## Don't forget about Children's Law Center's Helpline!

Our **Helpline** provides CCAN attorneys with legal information and advice.

- *Staffed by CLC attorneys*
- *Confidential*
- *Legal information and assistance on general and case-specific topics, such as help identifying resources and services, sample pleadings, and other materials*
- *All Helpline calls are screened to identify potential conflicts of interest*

**Call (202) 467-4900 (Option 3) — Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

## Save the Date (cont'd.)

**Case Rounds with CLC—Wednesday, May 14, 1:00-2:00, Family Court Conference Room (4224).** Case rounds are an opportunity for attorneys to discuss issues and questions that arise in their cases with their peers. Someone might have had a similar problem in a case and can help you think about next steps or best practices for an issue. Children's Law Center hosts case rounds on a bi-monthly basis. The next case rounds will be held in July, and reminders will be present in the next issue of Keeping Current as well as being the subject of forthcoming reminder emails.

**Half-day Special Education Training—Thursday, May 15, 9:30-1:30, Family Court Conference Room (4224).** More details to follow!

**37th National Child Welfare, Juvenile, and Family Law Conference—August 18-20, 2014, Denver, CO.** For details, registration, and a copy of the full conference brochure, please visit the National Association of Counsel for Children website at [http://www.naccchildlaw.org/?page=National\\_Conference](http://www.naccchildlaw.org/?page=National_Conference).