

AL: Finding roots: Nonprofit reunifies Native American families

Auburn Journal - March 08, 2017

One of the alliance's main goals, though, is keeping Native families together not related to the United Auburn Indian Community tribe. As of 2010, Placer County had 3,011 Native residents, or .9 percent. Currently though, 14 percent of children in open welfare cases are Native.

<http://www.auburnjournal.com/article/3/08/17/finding-roots-nonprofit-reunifies-native-american-families>

CO: Caseworker crisis slows child welfare work (Includes video)

Coloradoan - March 08, 2017

Angela Keeley has been a child welfare caseworker with Larimer County for more than a year, but she still has a hard time remembering all her co-workers' names. That's because nearly half of the county's 90-some child welfare caseworkers quit in 2016, a turnover rate on par with the national average but nearly four times that of Weld County caseworkers and three times the turnover rate of Boulder County caseworkers.

<http://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/2017/03/09/larimer-caseworker-crisis-slows-child-welfare-work/98662840/>

FL: Foster mom charged in toddler's death was meant to be his lifeline

Tampa Bay Times - March 09, 2017

The repeated trips to the hospital should have meant the boy was considered for placement with medically trained foster parents, a Florida Department of Children and Families investigation into his death found. Each medical emergency was recorded in an incident log but no one at Eckerd Kids, the agency that runs Hillsborough's child welfare system, was checking for multiple reports on the same child, the DCF investigation concluded. Eckerd officials said they now have a system that will flag repeated medical incidents, and they plan to hire an employee to take on that responsibility.

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/foster-mom-charged-in-toddlers-death-was-meant-to-be-his-lifeline/2315904>

FL: DCF to judge: We didn't lie; we made a mistake (Includes video)

Miami Herald - March 08, 2017

Lawyers for the state's shaky child welfare agency assured a Miami judge Wednesday that it was a "simple mistake," rather than a deliberate lie, when they gave her incorrect information about a girl who might have witnessed the suicide of a foster sibling. The mistake was important, Judge Maria Sampedro-Iglesia said because it might have hindered the state's ability to provide counseling to the girl, who was in the same foster home as Naika Venant, a troubled 14-year-old who hanged herself with a scarf from a shower rod - while livestreaming on Facebook.

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article137328813.html>

FL: Foster parents charged

Times Daily - March 08, 2017

A Florida couple who were foster parents in Florence for seven years have been charged with hundreds of counts of child abuse, sexual abuse and other charges involving children they had adopted or were fostering.

http://www.timesdaily.com/news/crime/foster-parents-charged/article_cae16fc3-9a2d-5f19-bb3c-f1b8275fc4a5.html

IN: Drug epidemic leads to need for more foster parents in Indiana (Includes video)

WRTV - March 08, 2017

The drug epidemic in Indiana has caused a dramatic increase in the number of children in foster care over the last couple of years and agencies across the state are now scrambling to

find more foster parents.

<http://www.theindychannel.com/news/local-news/drug-epidemic-leads-to-need-for-more-foster-parents-in-indiana>

IN: Following neglect cases, local organization for disabled children speaks on importance of reaching out for help (Includes video)

WTHI - March 08, 2017

Reach Services of Terre Haute offers a lifeline to those families facing a wide spectrum of challenges. Services include, housing, case management and financial assistance. A new study suggests children with disabilities are, in fact, at a higher risk of abuse.

<http://wthitv.com/2017/03/08/following-neglect-cases-local-organization-for-disabled-children-speaks-on-importance-of-reaching-out-for-help/>

KY: A foster parent's ideas for helping Kentucky's children (Opinion)

Lexington Herald-Leader - March 08, 2017

The Herald-Leader also reported an increase in the number of abuse cases, many of which also concerned cases in which reports had been made to child protective services. These cases are heartbreaking and, to the extent they are preventable, should be a source of shame to Kentuckians. John Spires So I am cautiously optimistic following Gov. Matt Bevin's remarks in his state of the commonwealth address regarding improvements to Kentucky's foster care programs and adoption programs.

<http://www.kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article137213113.html>

NV: Proposed law would allow for victims to track status of rape kit testing

Las Vegas Review-Journal - March 08, 2017

Nevada may start a statewide program that tracks rape kits while keeping victims updated on the kits' progression through the system. The Legislature increased the statute of limitations from four years to 20 years in 2015. A separate bill is pending that increases to 20 years the statute of limitations for a victim of child sexual abuse to sue a perpetrator.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/news/politics-and-government/nevada/proposed-law-would-allow-victims-track-status-rape-kit-testing>

NY: Emotions Run the Gamut as NYC Students Receive High School Matches

WNYC - March 09, 2017

In a statement, Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña highlighted some trends she considered promising, including more support for students living in homeless shelters to engage in the application process, for both kindergarten and high school while she recognized the day as a pivotal one in the lives of many New York City children.

<http://www.wnyc.org/story/high-school-acceptance-letters-new-york-city-students-admissions/>

NY: Child Abuse Increase Seen In Oswego County

Oswego County Today - March 08, 2017

"I think there's a really big correlation between poverty and child abuse," Christine Patrick, the director of services at the DSS, said. "People have a hard time meeting their own needs and subsequently have a hard time meeting their children's needs. They turn to other things, such as self-medicating, which in turn leads to drug use."

<http://oswegocountytoday.com/child-abuse-increase-seen-in-oswego-county/>

NY: For Families in Custody Fights, a 'Black Hole' of Oversight

ProPublica - March 07, 2017

Though psychologists who appear in New York's Family and Matrimonial Courts help shape decisions of grave consequence - from custody to child protection to juvenile delinquency - their work is subject to little or no professional oversight, purportedly because the confidentiality of such proceedings makes them hard to penetrate even for regulators.

<https://www.propublica.org/article/for-new-york-families-in-custody-fights-a-black-hole-of->

[oversight](#)

SD: Governor mum on religious adoption protections

Associated Press - March 08, 2017

South Dakota's Republican governor isn't saying whether he'll sign a measure aimed at protecting faith-based organizations that refuse to place children with gay couples or other arrangements contrary to their religious beliefs.

<http://whlt.com/ap/south-dakota-governor-mum-on-religious-adoption-protections/>

TX: Reforming the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (Opinion)

Nueces County Record Star - March 08, 2017

Last week, the Texas Legislature took steps towards fixing long-running problems in the state's child welfare system. Texas Governor Greg Abbott recognized changes to Child Protective Services as an emergency item for the Legislature. He announced it would be the top priority during his State of the State address.

Also: Abilene non-profit weighs in on House bill to assist CPS (Includes video):

<http://www.ktxs.com/news/abilene-non-profit-weighs-in-on-house-bill-6/384756032>

Also: TX: House, Senate approve bills to protect children in foster system:

<http://www.wcmessenger.com/2017/opinion/columns/house-senate-approve-bills-to-protect-children-in-foster-system/>

<http://www.recordstar.com/opinion/20170308/reforming-texas-department-of-family-and-protective-services?rssfeed=true>

WA: Nordstrom expands parental leave benefits:

Seattle Times - March 08, 2017

Nordstrom has joined the list of companies expanding their parental leave benefits. As of May 1, the Seattle-based retailer will offer up to 12 weeks of fully paid leave to birth mothers, and up to six weeks of fully paid leave to other new parents.

Also: Attain Announces Paid Parental Leave:

<http://business.dailymtimesleader.com/dailymtimesleader/news/read?GUID=33868427>

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2017/mar/08/nordstrom-expands-parental-leave-benefits/>

WI: Heroin in rural communities

Milton Courier - March 08, 2017

The Wisconsin Department of Justice website (www.doj.state.wi.us/dci/heroin-awareness/cases-county) lists heroin cases by county. Looking at data collected in 2015 and years prior, the number of heroin cases processed by the Wisconsin State Crime Lab has steadily increased in almost every Wisconsin county.

http://www.hngnews.com/milton_courier/article_564589ec-0438-11e7-8716-632a9d2d4041.html

WI: Investigators wrongly said teen prison probe ended (Includes video)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - March 08, 2017

Criminal investigators told the Department of Corrections they had completed a probe of Wisconsin's troubled juvenile prison in the summer of 2015, even though it was far from over, state records show. A year and a half later, the investigation continues into prisoner abuse and child neglect at Lincoln Hills School for Boys and Copper Lake School for Girls.

<http://www.wisconsinrapidstribune.com/story/news/investigations/2017/03/08/wisconsin-investigators-wrongly-said-lincoln-hills-probe-had-ended/98683340/>

US: Baylor Professor's Research Sparks Calls for Change in Adoption, Options Counseling Process

Baylor Media Communications - March 08, 2017

Qualitative study includes interviews of birth mothers discussing pros and cons of adoption process.

Report: Understanding Options Counseling Experiences in Adoption: A Qualitative Analysis of First/Birth Parents and Professionals: <http://www.adoptioninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Understanding-Options-Counseling-Experiences-in-Adoption-Qualitative-Study.pdf>

Information Gateway resource: Options Counseling for Expectant Parents: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/preplacement/working-parents-families/options-counseling/>

<http://www.baylor.edu/mediacommunications/news.php?action=story&story=178122>

US: Can You Sue Child Protective Services for Emotional Distress?

FindLaw - March 08, 2017

Unfortunately, unless your civil rights are violated, you likely won't have any legal claim against Child Protective Services stemming from the agency's, or its representatives', routine actions. So, you likely won't be able to sue for emotional distress. However, when civil rights are violated, individuals can sue CPS, and these claims can be costly for cities.

<http://blogs.findlaw.com/injured/2017/03/can-you-sue-child-protective-services-for-emotional-distress.html>