



## Oregon Judicial Department Juvenile Court Improvement Program

**JCIP Today**  
E-Newsletter

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### **JCIP Highlights**

#### ***"Through the Eyes of a Child"***

The thirteenth annual "Through the Eyes of a Child" conference will be held in Salem, August 8, 2010 through August 10, 2010.

This year's conference will provide a variety of educational opportunities for judges and judicial referees. A pre-conference session on the Juvenile Interstate Compact is being held Sunday morning by Philip Cox, Assistant Director Community Services Division, Oregon Youth Authority. With the enactment of Senate Bill 107 in 2009, Oregon joined the new Juvenile Interstate Compact. This session will explain the process for implementation of the new Compact and its application to delinquent juveniles, non-delinquent and dependent children. The Department of Human Services will also host a demonstration of the new ORKIDS data system.

National speakers for the conference include: Dr. Shawn Marsh, Director of the Juvenile and Family Law Department, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges who will speak on "The Lens of Implicit Bias"; Kathryn Yetter, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, who along with JCIP's Rebecca Orf will speak about "Reasonable Efforts for Dependency Cases Involving Domestic Violence", and the Honorable Douglas Johnson, President, National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges who will speak about "Facilitated Pre-Hearing Settlement Conferences in Dependency Cases".

Local offerings will include presentations by: Lynn Travis, Travis Consulting, who will talk about the Relative Placement Project, Erinn Kelley-Siel, DHS CAF; and Judge Daniel Murphy and Judge Jim Fun who will provide updates on the Model Forms and Juvenile Dependency Benchbook. There will also be panel presentations on Courts Catalyzing Change, Coordination between Courts and CRB, and Parent Recovery Mentors.

#### ***"Model Court Day: Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect"***

On the last day of the conference, Judges will be joined by members of their local JCIP Model Court Team or other local child welfare and juvenile justice stakeholders at "Model Court Day: Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect". This day will include Keynote Speaker Shay Bilchik, Director of the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and former President and CEO of the Child Welfare League of America, who will talk about "Cross-Over Youth and Preparing Teens for Adulthood".

Other presentations will include: Rosemary Iavendetti, Independent Living Coordinator, DHS; Multnomah's Cross-Over Youth Practice Model Initiative; and back by popular demand, three

local Model Court Teams who will showcase their collaborative efforts and results in their local juvenile dependency system. This will be a great opportunity to see the innovativeness of other teams and possibly bring those ideas back to use in your own community.

Due to limited funding, JCIP has asked each local model court team to invite up to eight team members (not counting judges). Invitations and detailed information has been sent to the Presiding Judge or Lead Juvenile Judge in each county to distribute to their team.

### ***JCIP Mini Grants***

JCIP was able to grant the following requests for funding during the most recent funding cycle:

- Lincoln County Model Court Team's request for a computer and paper/ink/supplies to develop a resource web site
- Citizen Review Board's request for support for their "Every Day Counts" conference;
- Multnomah County Model Court's request for support for their " Implicit Bias and Family Engagement Conference";
- Oregon District Attorneys Association's request for support for a conference to train district attorneys and Department of Justice attorneys on juvenile dependency cases;
- Tillamook County CASAs' request to support foster children and their foster families to attend the Tillamook County Diversity Training;
- Oregon Post Adoption Resource Center's request to provide program support and scholarships for the Shoulder to Shoulder Conference;
- Multnomah County and DHS's request to support their participation as a Georgetown University Center for Juvenile Justice Reform (CJJR) Crossover Youth Practice Model Site;
- Polk County Model Court Team's request to provide support to update their Juvenile Court Procedure Manual and print an interactive children's book to be used during age appropriate consultation with children;
- Josephine County Model Court Team's request to provide support to develop and publish a user friendly brochure for children/teens to orient them to the dependency process;
- Juvenile Law Training Academy's request for program support for their October 18 -19, 2010 training;
- Juvenile Rights Project's request for support for attorneys who represent parents to attend the JLRC training;
- Douglas County Circuit Court's request for a computer for the judge's bench to facilitate electronic receipt of reports;
- Malheur County Circuit Court's request to purchase items for their juvenile conference room, and
- Klamath County MJCI's request for support to provide informational binders to foster youth about juvenile court, foster care and independent living programs at an orientation session.

JCIP will also provide funds for Judge Abernethy, Judge Kurshner and Referee Marshall to attend the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judge's 73rd Annual Conference.

### ***Juvenile Judge's Institute***

A group of dedicated juvenile court judges, staff, and other child welfare stakeholders working on the JCIP Model Dependency Forms enjoyed robust discussion of what the law really requires and how current practice should be reconciled. These discussions led to the formation of a judicial juvenile justice institute - a group of dedicated juvenile dependency judges who would enjoy the challenge of discussing and reaching consensus on how the law should be applied. Members of the institute could also develop recommended practices, consistent with legal reasoning.

The scholarship of this group would be provided to the entire bench, which could benefit experienced judges who wish to improve their practices and judges new to juvenile law. The group could issue articles or reports when they come to consensus on an issue or could even create a new and unique "Judicial Law Review" published a few times a year.

If you have experience and/or an interest in juvenile dependency law, and would like to participate in this group, please contact Rebecca Orf, 503-689-0826 or [Rebecca.Orf@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:Rebecca.Orf@ojd.state.or.us). There will be approximately four meetings a year and JCIP grant funds will support your participation. A general meeting of the Institute will occur at the "Through the Eyes of a Child" conference in August.

### ***JCIP Advisory Committee***

Please welcome the following new members who were recently appointed by Chief Justice Paul DeMuniz to the JCIP Advisory Committee: Judge Pamela Abernethy, Marion county; Judge Gregory Baxter, Baker County; Judge Cynthia Easterday, Yamhill County; Judge Stephen Forte, Deschutes County; Judge Lisa Greif, Jackson County; Judge Kip Leonard, Lane County; Referee William Marshall, Douglas County; Referee Paulette Sanders, Lincoln county; Lois Day, Department of Human Services; Bill Foust, Southern Region Representative Oregon Foster Parent Association; Walt Gullett, Field Manager, Citizen Review Board; and Justin Snegirev, President, Oregon Foster Youth Connection.

They join reappointed members: Senior Judge Dale Koch, Oregon Judicial Department, Judge Paula Kurshner, Multnomah County; Judge Ronald Pahl, Umatilla County; Dana Ainam, ICW Supervisor, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Michele DesBrisay, District Attorney, Multnomah County; Leslie Harris, Professor, University of Oregon School of Law; Julie McFarlane, Supervising Attorney Juvenile Rights Project; Becky Smith, CASA State Coordinator; Ingrid Swenson, Executive Director, Office of Public Defense Services; and Cathern Tufts, Tribal Staff Attorney, Confederate Tribes of the Siletz Indians.

### **Announcements**

***First National Reunification Day, June 19, 2010*** <http://www.abanet.org/>

This year, a number of national organizations have worked together to organize the first National Reunification Day on June 19, 2010. The goal of National Reunification Day is to celebrate families and communities coming together and to raise awareness about the importance of family reunification to children in foster care. While June 19, 2010 is the official day, a number of jurisdictions are celebrating on different days and weeks. The important part of this initiative is to celebrate successful reunifications whenever it works for you. Some activities that Model Courts have planned include celebrating by: providing families with gift bags that include age appropriate items for the children, having a reunification day picnic, or issuing a "Family Reunification Certificate," at termination of jurisdiction, similar to those issued at Adoption proceedings. For more information see <http://new.abanet.org/child/Pages/nationalreunificationday.aspx>



## *From the Counties*

### *Hood River County*

Jennifer Lechuga, 7th Judicial District, invited Rebecca Orf and Shary Mason, JCIP staff, to facilitate a Model Court start up session for the Hood River Model Court Team. Hood River had a Model Court Team in the past, but it has not been active recently. They were pleased to find in reviewing past plans that one of the former team's goals, "increasing the number of attorneys for children and parents appearing at shelter hearings" had been successfully completed. After reviewing data provided by JCIP, they also noted they are 100% successful in holding the first permanency hearing within timelines. Areas identified for further planning included issues around jurisdiction, tribal affiliation and eligibility, service plans, and permanency plans.

### *Jackson County*

Judges and members of the juvenile advisory group in Jackson County recently endorsed an age appropriate consultation protocol developed by a member of the local Model Court Team. They join Malheur, Josephine, and several other counties who have developed local protocols based on JCIP's recommended practices outlined in "Courts Consulting with Children: Ensuring Meaningful Participation of Children in Juvenile Court Permanency Hearings".

### *Malheur County*

Judge Patricia Sullivan organized and moderated a local "Training for Attorneys in Dependency Matters." Twenty attorneys attended the training along with 7 CASAs and a DA.

Agenda items included a discussion of implementation of the Oregon Safety Model, by DHS; preparing a child to appear in court, by Judge Sullivan; mentoring attorneys on juvenile proceedings, ethical issues, and performance standards, by Attorney Gary Kiyuna, a panel discussion with current and former foster kids, and mandatory child abuse reporting. JCIP is preparing a talking points guide from a recording of the training. Other courts who might be interested in having a similar training can contact [shary.k.mason@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:shary.k.mason@ojd.state.or.us). DHS is prepared to provide facilitators for the Safety Model discussion and JCIP can provide lunch and apply for CLE credit.

Malheur County has also developed a "Protocol for Dependency Proceedings" which outlines expectations for children to appear at permanency hearings and CRB hearings. Judge Sullivan was inspired by Judge Paula Brownhill's presentation at last year's *"Through the Eyes of a Child"* conference.

### **Multnomah County**

Multnomah County has been selected to participate in the launch of a Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) designed to enhance practices to meet the high needs of youth who are involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Not surprising, research demonstrates that a youth's history of maltreatment increases the likelihood of his delinquency.

Besides focusing on better operations and coordinated case planning, they want to learn how to keep kids in child welfare from entering the juvenile justice system. Key focus areas will be increased communication when kids are involved in both systems and better inclusion of family. The practice model fits into the work the courts, child welfare, and juvenile justice are already doing to improve services and outcomes. The principles are the same; use of family meetings, family engagement, etc. These strategies also align with their current safe and equitable reduction effort.

They have had two meetings with CYPM consultants from Georgetown's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform: the Guiding Coalition, and the Implementation Team. The Guiding Coalition is a group of about 50 stakeholders, providers and system representatives which will meet a few times during the year-long practice model. They will come together to discuss crossover youth and how CYPM can impact change and improve outcomes. The Implementation Team is a group of about 20 staff and managers from child welfare, juvenile justice, the court and community stakeholders. This group will operationalize and implement the model.

### **Washington County**

Washington County is one of 8 counties selected to participate in The Safely Reducing the Number of Children in Foster Care initiative, a partnership between Casey Family Programs, the Commission on Children and Families and the Department of Human Services. As one of their projects, the Washington County team hosted a Foster Care Summit, an event marked by animated discussion and growing excitement over the opportunity to have a positive effect on a difficult issue. The official hosts of the Summit were the Honorable Jim Fun, Circuit Court Judge Washington County; Rob Gordon, Washington County Sheriff; Kevin Aguirre, DHS District Manager, and Joan Brown-Kline, CASA Executive Director. The Foster Care Summit brought together a wide variety of citizens and community leaders to

dialogue and problem solve about an issue they care about deeply. Advocates and youth in foster care were among participants.

Another of the team's projects is the Reconnecting Children with Families (RCWF) program. RCWF is a program designed to reconnect youth who have been in foster care for several years with their biological family members. After conducting intensive searches for relatives, family members are brought together to create a lifetime network for the child, and to help the child learn more about their identity and family history.

## **Training, Conferences, and Resources**

### **Scott Modell Training**

The Children's Justice Act Task Force has arranged for Scott Modell to come to Oregon to speak about **Reducing Barriers to Interviewing Children with Disabilities**. This is a two day training. The first day is a general session for all who work in the child welfare and juvenile justice system. The trainer will describe disability perceptions, disability abuse, and disability characteristics related to interviewing children who have developmental disabilities. It includes specific techniques and considerations for different types of disabilities. Mr. Modell will also address age appropriate consultation with children who have disabilities.

The second day of the training is limited to those working in child protective services, child abuse assessment and advocacy centers, the DD community (OIT), and law enforcement who interview children about alleged abuse and neglect. Attendance at day 1 is required. Day 2 includes skill development (role playing, case scenarios and possible videotaping).

There is no cost for the training. Limited travel scholarships are available for those attending both days. For more information and to register go to

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/committees/cja/cja.shtml>

Salem - June 10 and 11 - Department of Public Safety Standards and Training

La Grande - June 14 and 15 -Blue Mountain Conference Center

Medford - June 22 and 23 -Rogue Regency Inn and Suites

### **Trauma Training**

Linda Bello, Portland State Child Welfare Partnership, has been providing trauma training in each of the Casey Project counties. The training addresses not only how trauma affects children, but provides concrete strategies to reduce trauma for children who remain in the home and children who have to be removed and placed. The following training sites still have openings:

Coos County - June 16 - 1:30-3:00 - Educational Service District in Coos Bay - contact Ed Jones [Ed.JONES@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:Ed.JONES@ojd.state.or.us) Marion County - June 25 - 1:00-2:30 - Marion County Child Welfare Office -Brian Johnson Room - contact Tamra Goettsch, 503-589 -3200.

### **Juvenile Law Reader**

The Juvenile Rights Project publishes a periodical for those involved in juvenile law issues in Oregon, THE JUVENILE LAW READER. The current edition includes: "Recent Case Law";

"Making Parenting and DV Services Available to Parent's Battling Substance Abuse"; "A View From the Bench", by the Honorable Deanne Darling; a legislative update; and various articles relating to delinquency cases. The READER can be accessed on the Juvenile Rights Project, Inc. web site: [www.jrplaw.org](http://www.jrplaw.org). The website itself has issue briefs and practice guides on numerous subjects.

### ***State Child Welfare Policy Database***

This easy-to-use Casey website provides state-by-state data and policy information on a range of child welfare topics. Visitors can access up-to-date information on individual state policies and can compare their own state's policies to those of other states.

<http://www.childwelfarepolicy.org/pages/map.cfm>

### ***Tools for Engaging Children in Their Court Proceedings***

The New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children, produced the following free tools to increase the participation of children in their permanency hearings.

Digital Stories: The commission developed digital stories in web-based and DVD formats to ensure the youth voice – the youth perspective – is heard and included in discussions on engaging children and youth in their court proceedings.

Handbook: The Tools for Engaging Children in Their Court Proceedings handbook highlights the developmental stages of school-age children (ages 5 to 20 years), provides a series of age-appropriate questions and tips on how to engage children in their court proceedings.

Visit the Commission's website at <http://www.nycourts.gov/justiceforchildren/youth.shtml> for more information.

### ***Community Partner Corner***

#### ***Everyday Counts***

The Citizen Review Board conference, *Everyday Counts*, was a huge success. The opening session featured a key-note address by Kevin Campbell of Seneca Center. On day two, Carmen Voilleque of Extreme Arts and Sciences began the day with a discussion of how technological advancements, demographic changes, and emerging generational attitudes are impacting CRBs. Materials and videos from the conference are now available on the CRB website at the following link:

<http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/OSCA/cpsd/citizenreview/EveryDay2010/2010CRBConference.page?>

This year the conference held a raffle fund-raiser of baskets donated by staff and board members to support Camp to Belong. Camp to Belong is dedicated to reuniting siblings who have been separated from each other in different foster homes, adoptive homes, or relative placement. The goal is to provide the children with fun events, emotional empowerment, and sibling connections. The CRB was able to raise enough money to send two campers to camp this year. To learn more about Camp to Belong, their history and programs, visit their website at [www.ctbnorthwest.org](http://www.ctbnorthwest.org),

## ***National Data on Education***

Oregon was one of the seven states who collected and submitted data for the National Foster Care Review Coalition's project, [Meeting the Educational Needs of Children in Foster Care: A National Perspective](#). Citizen Review Boards throughout the state collected data on every case they reviewed over a six-month time period. Project recommendations are important to all of us. Please contact [Christina.Jagernauth@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:Christina.Jagernauth@ojd.state.or.us) if you have any questions about the report.

The Citizen Review Board also recently developed a brochure for teens explaining the CRB and encouraging them to attend reviews. It can be found on the CRB website under resources - here is the link:

[http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/docs/OSCA/cpsd/citizenreview/Youth\\_Web\\_Color.pdf](http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/docs/OSCA/cpsd/citizenreview/Youth_Web_Color.pdf)

## ***Permanency Roundtables***

Research shows us that children fare better when they experience the stability of being part of a permanent family. Three counties have volunteered to participate in the Casey Family Permanency Roundtable Project. They are Multnomah, Marion and Washington counties. Permanency Roundtables are innovative and intensive case consultations that support the efforts of child welfare systems to find safe, loving, and permanent families for children in foster care. They are particularly effective at jump-starting permanency cases of children who have been in the system a long time. They bring together child welfare professionals, including caseworkers and outside experts, who gather in a structured environment to brainstorm possible pathways to permanency. For the first set of roundtables, Oregon will prioritize APPLA cases based on three criteria: 1) children of color; 2) children in foster care for the longest time; and 3) young children in long-term foster care.

***"When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it"***

***- Henry Ford -***

***Please e-mail comments, suggestions, announcements and articles to***  
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