



Oregon Judicial Department Juvenile Court Improvement Program

JCIP Today E-Newsletter

This issue of JCIP Today marks the beginning of its second season. We would love to hear your voice in the coming months in order to better meet your needs and to share your great work with others. Please e-mail your comments, suggestions, announcements and articles to Shary.k.mason@ojd.state.or.us

JCIP Highlights

"Through the Eyes of a Child Conference" 2010

Three Tribal judges joined fifty Circuit Court Judges at the thirteenth annual JCIP "Through the Eyes of a Child Conference" this year. Judges appreciated time to discuss what other judges are doing - what works and doesn't work - and learning how creative people can be with limited resources. The sessions on facilitated pre-hearing settlement conferences, effective use of the CRB and appellate case law received particularly high ratings. All materials from the conference are posted on the JCIP website

<http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/OSCA/cpsd/courtimprovement/jcip/EyesConference/2010/2010EyesConference.page?>

2010 Chief Justice Juvenile Court Champion Awards

The Honorable Patricia Sullivan, Malheur County, and Lincoln County Judge Pro Tem, Paulette Sanders, have been named as recipients of the 2010 Chief Justice Juvenile Court Champion awards. The awards were presented by Chief Justice Paul J. De Muniz at the JCIP "Through the Eyes of a Child" conference.

Judge Sullivan received recognition as a judicial officer with significant lifetime contributions in juvenile dependency and child welfare issues and Referee Sanders was recognized for her significant contributions over the past year to raise the profile and priority of child abuse and neglect cases in Oregon courts. Chief Justice De Muniz also recognized efforts of the Citizen Review Board (CRB) Field Managers and acknowledged their contribution as an integral part of the juvenile court system.



Judge Patricia Sullivan, Chief Justice Paul J. De Muniz, and Judge Pro Tem Paulette Sanders

JCIP Model Court Day

A total of 260 participants representing 28 counties attended the "Model Court Day: Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect." True collaboration and partnership were demonstrated with more than 18 disciplines represented. Survey results showed overwhelmingly that participants believed the information was helpful and will be useful in shaping their jurisdiction's juvenile court.

The JCIP Team will be very busy this year responding to suggestions of how JCIP can provide additional support to local model court teams and following up on recommendations to improve efficiencies within court operations to meet the needs of court-involved families. Teams repeatedly indicated that they want to know what other teams are doing - so please send your requests, information about your projects, your successes, and any questions you may have about how others have successfully addressed barriers you may be experiencing, to shary.k.mason@ojd.state.or.us. We'll share via the newsletter.

JCIP Reassessment

Per federal funding, JCIP must conduct an assessment of how Oregon courts handle child abuse and neglect cases every seven years. This is accomplished through statewide surveys, interviews, and data analysis, as well as in depth file reviews and court observations in specified representative counties. The indicator counties for the 2011 Reassessment are: Baker, Jackson, Lane, Lincoln, Malheur, Marion, and Multnomah. Numerous CRB Board Members have volunteered as research assistants for the in depth data collection.

The 2011 Reassessment will build off of the first reassessment conducted in 2004, and the original assessment from 1999. The 1999 and 2004 reports are posted on the JCIP website under Education & Training Resources. If you would like more information, please contact Torrey Giaquinta, JCIP Data Analyst, 503-986-5504, torrey.giaquinta@state.or.us.

JCIP Grant Applications Approved

JCIP is pleased to announce that our Basic, Training, and Data Court Improvement Program application for 2011 has been approved and we will be receiving federal funds to support the work in these areas.

Announcements

OJD officially joins the "Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction" Partnership.

Chief Justice Paul J. De Muniz and Governor Ted Kulongoski signed the "Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction Partnership Declaration," along with Casey Family Programs, to emphasize the importance of maintaining or creating lifelong family connections for every child in Oregon. The partnership, which includes the Commission on Children and Families, and DHS, underscores our commitment to ensuring that children of color, including Native American children, are not unfairly over represented in foster care. William C. Bell, president and CEO of Seattle based Casey Family Programs, hailed the declaration as a landmark event, stating that "with the state's chief executive and its chief judicial officer making safe and equitable foster care reduction a priority, Oregon leaves no doubt that the state understands what it takes to provide hope for the future for all of its children." While the partnership is new, the work is not. Many judges and CRB field staff sit on their local "Casey" team.



Chief Justice Paul J. De Muniz, Governor Ted Kulongoski, and Theresa Tanoury, Casey Family Programs

Oregon -Washington Cross-Border Child Welfare Agreement Finalized

After many years of planning and negotiations, child welfare managers from Oregon and Washington have finally signed an agreement to streamline the placement of children in state custody across state lines. Prior to the agreement, an inter-state transfer could take 30 to 90 days to process. Now a child taken into care in Vancouver could be placed with a grandmother in Portland in as few as seven days. The border agreement will be limited to 75 children from each state during the first year. It will initially apply only to Clark and Cowlitz Counties in Washington, and Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties in Oregon.

Judge Dale Koch Named Interim Director of NCJFCJ

Former Multnomah County Judge Dale Koch, has been named Interim Executive Director of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges effective October 1, 2010. Executive Director Mary Mentaberry's plans to retire after 37 years at the Council. Judge Koch is a familiar face to Council staff and to people with whom the Council works in the field; he served as Council President in 2006-2007, and has been active in committee and project work, as well as teaching on behalf of the Council. He trained Oregon Judges new to juvenile work this year.

Abuse of Drugs While Pregnant is a Growing Issue

Mail Tribune September 16, 2010

Pregnant Southern Oregon women participating in a national research study ranked among the highest in the nation for using substances harmful to fetuses, according to health care professionals.

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100916/NEWS/9160325>

A New Generation of Caregivers Takes Control of Kids

Washington Post September 10, 2010

The number of children being raised by their grandparents has risen sharply since the start of the recession in 2007, according to a new Pew Research Center study that found one in 10 children in the U.S. now lives with a grandparent. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/09/09/AR2010090906576.html>

Pew study available at <http://pewsocialtrends.org/pubs/764/more-children-being-raised-by-grandparents-great-recession>

2010 Foster Youth Policy Recommendations

Check out the 3rd annual policy recommendations report authored by the 2010 Foster Youth Internship Class. Nicole, Sam, Jeremy, Serena, LaTasha, Markus, Wendy, Josh, and Victor spent their summer in DC reading reports and analyzing legislation related to 3 major topics in child welfare: Federal Financing, the Adoption and Safe Families Act, and the Chafee Foster Care Independence Act. This report is their way to forever leave their mark on federal policy makers.

To view the report, click here:

<http://www.ccainstitute.org/images/stories/pdf/2010%20foster%20youth%20internship%20report%20small.pdf>

From the Counties

Clackamas County

Judge Douglas Van Dyk has asked Deputy District Attorney, Coleen Gilmartin, of the Juvenile Unit of the Clackamas County DA's office to approach the current Dependency Work group about becoming a JCIP Model Court. Colleen reports they are very interested in accomplishing that and look forward to making dependencies more effective and efficient. ***Welcome! The JCIP Team looks forward to working with you.***

Hood River County

Hood River's Model Court Team is working on a process to resolve Dependency Cases while criminal cases are pending. This is a complex matter. Some of their ideas include: taking jurisdiction on some matters while

holding other issues in abeyance, stipulating to certain problems or working voluntarily, or finding a way wherein a party can admit/stipulate without admitting to criminal issues.

Efforts continue toward preliminary hearings and efforts are being made to more thoroughly address the possibility of permanency greater than permanent foster care during Permanency Hearings. Parties will now be introduced to the court by the Juvenile Department in order to insure that everyone (particularly foster parents) has an opportunity to be heard.

Lane County

Judge Eveleen Henry contacted JCIP for information, and is working with Rebecca Orf, JCIP Staff Counsel, to start a model court team in Lane County.

Lincoln County

Lincoln County's model court team developed a video for children coming to court with the help of a young person who aged out of foster care in Benton County. After the judge had her two children, ages 8 and 12 watch it, they decided to make a second tape targeted towards younger kids. The judge's twelve year old will narrate this new video.

Malheur County

Malheur County has shared the letters that it uses to communicate with schools when a child appears in court. This is particularly timely tool now that the new school year is underway. They are posted on the JCIP Website under the "Courts Consulting with Children" link within JCIP Initiatives:

<http://courts.oregon.gov/OJD/OSCA/cpsd/courtimprovement/jcip/CourtsConsultChildren.page?>

Thanks Malheur County!

Multnomah County

Multnomah County's model court team is also a National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' (NCJFCJ) Model Court Team. They are currently setting goals for the upcoming year. Some of their Ideas include early engagement of parents, improvements in the shelter hearing process so that attorneys can meet their clients prior to preliminary hearings, including parent mentors prior to the shelter hearing, shortening timelines for appointment of counsel, engagement of children attending court, and enhanced visitation. They are also interested in continuing their work on disproportionality and their cross-over youth project. They will not be finalizing their goals until after they attend NCJFCJ's all-site meeting this month.

Polk County

Polk County introduced their Some Bunny Books at the Model Court Day: Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect. Funds for the original printing of these books were provided through a JCIP mini-grant. Judge Lukinen is quoted as saying "The Sum Bunny series of books has been instrumental in helping us determine, from the child's perspective, who the child considers to be the child's friends and source of protection and refuge in times of need or danger. This in turn allows us to effectively and appropriately plan for the child's future."

www.sumbunnybooks.com

Tillamook County

Tillamook County youth have an advocate in Judge Neal Lemry. He was recently honored by the Northwest Regional Education Service District for his work with student truancy issues. His unusual approach involves assisting students in non-traditional ways, such as helping them enroll in classes at Tillamook Bay Community College, checking on their progress and, in some cases, simply being a really good listener. Rather than mete a fine, Judge Lemry works with students and their families to find a solution. A range of factors can lead to truancy including transportation difficulties, poor health, disorganization at home, or a student's feeling of failure at school. When he thinks it will help, Judge Lemry visits the student's home or goes to the school in search of answers. He was recently approached in a local store by a young woman who wanted him to know

she had graduated from high school. She was the first in her family to do so and now wants to go on to college to become a nurse. She was so proud, Lemry said. "That's the reward".

Judge Mari Trevino engaged Tillamook County's Model Court Team in the development of a flow chart for the Drug and Alcohol referral process. The flow chart starts with the identification of substance abuse as an issue by the caseworker and goes through screening, referral, financial issues, evaluation, results etc. The new flow chart clearly outlines for all partners and the judge the steps, the time-frame for each, and who is responsible.

[Training, Conferences, and Resources](#)

Oregon Juvenile Justice Symposium - October 11-12, 2010

You are invited to join other members of the state's juvenile justice and public safety systems to collaborate on how to best invest the state's limited resources to ensure an effective and sustainable juvenile justice system for Oregon. "Coming Together to Make Oregon Safer" will be held at the Eugene Hilton Conference Center. For more information go to: http://www.oregon.gov/OYA/jjs/jjs Summit_home.htm

Juvenile Law Training Academy's Annual CLE for Lawyers - October 18-19, 2010

This year's seminar will focus on some of the changes taking place at DHS and what lawyers can do to challenge practices, policies and procedures of the agency. In addition, there will be information on immigration law, caselaw updates, and more. JCIP is one of the sponsors of this must attend conference for public defenders practicing juvenile law. It will be held at the Hilton, in Eugene, OR.

<http://www.ocdla.org/seminars/shop-seminar-2010-juvlawtraining.shtml>

OCDLA Annual Public Defense Management Conference - October 21-22, 2010

This conference will be held at the Agate Beach Inn, Newport, OR. For more information go to:

<http://www.ocdla.org/seminars/shop-seminar-index.shtml>

Trauma -Informed Workshop - October 28-29, 2010

Positive Human Development will be holding a workshop October 28th and 29th in Portland. The first day is an in-depth look into the neurobiological, psychological, social and cultural responses to trauma at all ages, as well as exploration of vicarious trauma and techniques to identify and address it. The second day will guide a work group through the process of developing a trauma informed program, with tools for design and sustainability. Organizers are hoping for judicial system representatives as studies have shown traumatic symptoms tend to sabotage those trying to exit the system. www.positivehumandevlopment.com

Northeastern Oregon CRB Fall Conference - November 4, 2010

Registration is now open for the Northeastern Oregon CRB Fall Training being held at the DHS Child Welfare Office in Pendleton. Training topics include CRB Fundamentals, New Relative Rules, and the Indian Child Welfare Act. JCIP is sponsoring this training for CRB members, judges, attorneys, DHS staff, CASAs, and other community partners. See the attached brochure for more information. Register online before October 22, 2010 at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/neoregoncrbtraining2010



Brochure.pdf

Shoulder to Shoulder - November 16, 2010

Shoulder to Shoulder's twelfth annual conference, "Nurturing Resilience in Children and Families", will be held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. The keynote speaker is Judge Patricia Martin of Cook County, Illinois. She will talk about ways in which courts and child welfare may impede that process and describe lessons learned in her own jurisdiction. Judge Jim Fun, Judge Michael Livingston, Judge Douglas Van Dyk, Judge Nan Waller and Tribal Judge Anita Jackson will make up the judge's panel. There will be 35 workshops including presenters such as Kevin Campbell, Dr. Julian Davies, Judge Michael Nash, and Shay

Bilchik. Visit the conference web page at <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/children/fostercare/conference/> for more information. Scholarships are available.

Moving Beyond Foster Care Mini-Summit -December 1 -2, 2010

This two-day conference for the eight "Casey" counties will highlight national and state experts working to safely and equitably reduce the number of children in foster care. Teams will be asked to identify eight participants to attend the conference. Legislators and judges are being encouraged to attend. Sponsored by the Oregon Commission on Children and Families, the Department of Human Services, Oregon Judicial Department, Casey Family Programs, National Governors Association and National Conference of State Legislatures, the summit will be held at The Grand Hotel Salem Conference Center, Salem, Oregon.

Jackson County ICWA Training - December 10, 2010

Jackson County's ICWA training will feature nationally known keynote speaker, Judge William Thorne. They are also planning a panel discussion with some of the tribes and a video over the lunch hour that is from the perspective of dependent ICWA children. JCIP will be assisting with CLE credit.

Judge Thorne is working to recruit members of the tribes to participate. The tentative plan is to have a history of ICWA, the distinctions between ICWA and ASFA, the jurisdictional provisions of ICWA, the procedural requirements of ICWA, the placement provisions of ICWA, and how to better engage the tribes in ICWA cases. The panel discussions will involve judges, tribes, DHS, etc., and will talk about their experiences with barriers and successes in ICWA cases.

"Introduction to Parent-Child Visits."

Child Welfare Information Gateway and the National Resource Center for Permanency and Family Connections (NRC-PFC) partnered to provide this free, self guided online training on facilitating visits between parents and children involved with the child welfare system. The training promotes safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families by providing information to help child welfare professionals maintain family connections when children are in out-of-home care. Participants will learn how parent-child visits can enhance efforts toward family reunification and improve outcomes for children and families. The training includes best practices regarding parent-child visits for child welfare workers, supervisors, and related professionals.

Access this free online training sponsored by Child Welfare Gateway at <http://training.childwelfare.gov/oltMain.cfm?z=z>. If you are a new user, you will need to register before entering the training. To register click on the "register now" link on the right hand of the screen.



Judicial Excellence in Child Abuse and Neglect Proceedings

The American Bar Associate's House of Delegates recently approved the attached principles and standards; an excellent resource for reviewing your court's handling of juvenile dependency cases. JCIP will also be utilizing these standards in conducting our required reassessment of juvenile dependency court practices and procedures during this next year. This resource will help us assess how well Oregon's dependency courts are doing, and assist in prioritizing areas for further improvements.



The Connection

National CASA's quarterly magazine features an in-depth article about the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse. This feature was written by Z. Ruby White Starr, assistant director of the Family Violence Department at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

The Summer *Connection* is now online.

http://www.casaforchildren.org/site/c.mtJSJ7MPIsE/b.5405973/k.6686/IThe_ConnectionI_Magazine.htm



Juvenile Rights Project - Family Guide

Another new addition to the JRP website is "A Family's Guide to the Child Welfare System adapted for Cases in Oregon Juvenile Courts – a guide for parents involved in dependency cases. Here is the link:

<http://www.jrplaw.org/Documents/FamilyGuideCWSOregon.pdf>

Community Partner Corner

Permanency Roundtables Are Being Expanded to the Other 5 Casey Counties

As a part of Oregon's safe and equitable foster care reduction, Oregon piloted the Permanency Roundtables in three counties with assistance from Casey Family Programs. Permanency Roundtables, are a professional case staffing designed to support caseworkers in a strengths-based way, to develop strategic action plans designed to obtain legal permanency for children in long-term care. They are now being expanded to the other five Casey Counties.

A total of 174 cases and 243 children were staffed in the pilot counties, and short-term action plans were created. All caseworkers, supervisors, and members of the Permanency Roundtables received a full day of training around the value and benefit of children receiving legal permanency and permanent connections. Roundtable members received an additional day of training for their role in consultation. Cultural Guides are utilized, as available, on cases of children of color. Tribes were also invited to the Roundtables on cases where a Tribal worker was assigned. Caseworkers and supervisors were overwhelmingly positive about the Roundtable process utilized in the pilot counties: Marion, Multnomah, and Washington.

Some common themes emerged:

- Participants appreciated the strength-needs approach, felt it was helpful to have "fresh eyes" on cases, were open to new ideas, found that cultural guides added significantly to the process, and enjoyed having the time to look at a case holistically instead of in a crisis.
- There was an overall belief that Permanent Foster Care is a higher level of permanency for children, and children remain in long-term foster care for perceived or real benefits. In fact, children's attorneys were often found to counsel foster parents into permanent foster care versus other permanency plans, strictly for the benefits. Once a stable placement is achieved, there is a lack of understanding of the importance for legal permanency for a child. Stability was often considered a short amount of time (30-60 days, in some cases). Reunification efforts stop with parents once a child is in long-term foster care.
- DHS overly relies on letters for engagement of relatives, relative searches happen in the beginning of the case, but do not seem to be updated on a regular basis.
- Once a child is designated DD or Permanent Foster Care, the case tends to go on autopilot.
- There is a lack of knowledge and/or understanding of DHS policy changes and how to access policy by supervisors and caseworkers.

New Options for Relatives Brochure

DHS Children, Adults & Families Division has published a new brochure outlining the importance of relatives, options for relative engagement, assisting in managing a child's safety, communication and visitation with a child, notice of court hearings, assessment as a temporary placement resource, and preference as a permanent placement resource. <http://dhsforms.hr.state.or.us/Forms/Served/DE9360.pdf>

Foster Club Publications

Foster Club is excited that they're ready to go! Below are links where you can view the final pieces:

Coloring book: http://issuu.com/fosterclub/docs/coloring_book_v3_edits

Teen mag: http://issuu.com/fosterclub/docs/guide_final2

Casey County Themes

Here's a summary of the types of activities for which counties utilized their 2009 planning grants in the Casey Counties:

Wrap-around training (consultant fees, logistics); Family Finding Consultation (Kevin Campbell); multi-cultural competency workshops (consultant fees, logistics); Relief Nursery Support (training, supplies); disproportionality awareness presentations (consultant fees, logistics); community training (foster care prevention); Family Preservation Model (Parent Mentor Training, stipends); community engagement training & forums (targeting communities of color); marketing (targeting NA/AA families, web domain, public service announcements); alcohol/drug treatment & recovery community meeting; Family Finding implementation (internet search engines, meetings, supplies), and a Foster Care Summit.

Contact Us:

Juvenile Court Improvement Program

1163 State St.

Salem, OR 97301

(503) 986-5618

JCIP.info@ojd.state.or.us