



Oregon Judicial Department Juvenile Court Improvement Program

JCIP Today E-Newsletter

JCIP Highlights

2011 "Through the Eyes of a Child" and Model Court Day Conference August 14-16

Planning is underway for the 14th annual "Through the Eyes of a Child" conference and the 5th "Model Court Day: Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect". Judges are invited to attend the "Through the Eyes of a Child, XIV" on August 14 -15, 2011. As in years past, Judges will be asked to invite up to 8 members of their local Model Court Team to join them at the "Model Court Day: Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect" on August 16. The eight Casey County Teams also will join us on "Model Court Day." Thank you to the JCIP Advisory and Training Committees for their valuable input in planning this year's conference.

JCIP Mini-Grants

Over the years, the Juvenile Court Improvement Program has provided funds to local model courts, community partners, and agencies to support training events and projects that are consistent with local model court and JCIP goals. Grant awards range between \$500 to \$5000. To apply, please complete and submit the application forms located on the JCIP Website.

Applications received by March 7, 2011, will be reviewed at the March JCIP Advisory Committee meeting. Applications received after March 7, and before June 6, will be reviewed at the June Advisory Committee meeting. Applications received after June 7, will be considered on a "funds available" basis. Grant funds must be expended by September 30, 2011. Please visit the [Funding Requests and Information](#) page on the JCIP website for the Funding Request Guidelines and Application.

If you have questions about how to fill out the application form, or about any aspect of the process, please contact JCIP at JCIP.Info@ojd.state.or.us or by phone at (503) 986-5618.

JCIP Reassessment Update - by Torrey Giaquinta

Work continues on the 2011 JCIP Reassessment of how Oregon courts handle child abuse and neglect cases. Data collection in the seven sample counties (Baker, Jackson, Lane, Lincoln, Malheur, Marion, and Multnomah) is complete. The reassessment team led by - Torrey Giaquinta, JCIP Data Analyst, and Lynn Travis, Travis Consulting Co. - reviewed 380 case files, which included over 1,900 judgments! The team also observed 75 court and CRB hearings. This would not have been possible without CRB and CASA volunteer research assistants - Karen Bailey, Jodee Barnes, Kay Breithaupt, Wayne Breithaupt, James Castle, Jean Cauthorn, Marlene Fleischman, Sandra Fritz, Sandra Garland, Dorothy Glovka, Elizabeth Huntsman, Anne King, Marlene Krout, Mary LaMotte, LouAnn Martin, MaryAnn Miesner, Elizabeth Moulton, Kimberly O'Neil, Sally Scholz, Barbara Townsend, David Warner, and Kathy Warren. Thank you for the time and energy you devoted to this project.

Preliminary analysis of information gathered during the county visits has already started. The next step is to conduct focus groups with biological parents, foster parents, and foster youth; this portion of the reassessment will be completed by the middle of March. A statewide survey will be sent to stakeholders involved in dependency cases. Keep an eye on your inbox in February for a link to the online survey.

JCIP Team Changes



Rebecca Orf and Judge Daniel Murphy at the 2010 "Through the Eyes of a Child" Conference

We will miss Rebecca Orf, former Juvenile Law Staff Counsel, who retired at the end of December. For two years, Rebecca served as JCIP and VAWA Staff Counsel. Prior to her work with JCIP, she was a Circuit Court Judge in Jackson County. She will continue to serve as half-time VAWA Staff Counsel and on select juvenile committees for the OJD. The JCIP Advisory Committee bade her a fond farewell with a cake at its December meeting.

JCIP is very excited to announce that Michael Livingston has been hired as the new Juvenile Law Staff Counsel. He started Monday, January 31, just in time for session! Michael has worked the last 2.5 years as the Juvenile Court Referee in Marion County and worked for more than 20 years as an AAG with the DOJ. During that time, he represented the State of Oregon in trial courts, the Oregon Court of Appeals, the Oregon Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Additionally, he has significant experience in the legislative and workgroup processes that resulted in amendments to the Juvenile Code as far back as 1995's SB1. Welcome to the team, Michael!

E-Forms - by John Hamilton

Over the past few months, there has been a flurry of activity relating to the JCIP Model Dependency Forms. This activity was propelled by the Model Dependency Forms Committee, which is chaired by Judge Daniel Murphy. The committee worked diligently to ensure that the forms reflect the current threshold legal requirements for dependency proceedings, and are formatted in a manner that provides for ease of completion. The committee's efforts have been integrated with the [Dependency Benchbook](#), which now includes an explanation of the rationale supporting the legal requirements included in the model forms.

Following the work of the committee, JCIP staff responded to the requests of stakeholders by providing the forms in multiple formats designed to meet the needs of local courts. Model forms are currently available as downloadable Word documents that can be modified to meet local needs, and as electronic, fillable forms. You can access the [new forms](#) on the JCIP website.

Also of note, the "Notice to Parents" document was recently translated into Spanish.

JCIP is currently working on a project to create interactive forms that will allow judicial decision makers to complete model dependency forms on the bench. The interactive forms will lead the decision maker through a series of questions and will only prompt for responses that are relevant based on prior findings and decisions. For example, instead of printing nine pages for the permanency hearing judgment, the interactive form eliminates unrelated findings options and reduces the final document to around four pages. The interactive forms are being created in Microsoft Word using Visual Basic programming and are based on the JCIP Model Forms. JCIP anticipates this project will be complete and available to courts by the end of March.

JCIP would like to express its sincerest gratitude to the following members of the Model Dependency Forms Committee: the Honorable Daniel Murphy, Chair, Linn County; the Honorable Jim Fun, Washington County; Lisa Fithian-Barrett, Referee, Multnomah County; Michael Livingston, Referee, Marion County; Sherril Kuhns, DHS-CAF Federal Compliance Manager, and Mary Herndon, Juvenile Clerk, Jackson County.

Announcements

The People Are Dancing Again - submitted by Cathern Tufts, Attorney

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, one of nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon, is celebrating the recent release of *The People Are Dancing Again*, written by Charles Wilkinson. Charles is the author of 13 books and numerous articles on public land and Indian law. As Donald L. Fixico, Distinguished Foundation Professor of History at Arizona State University explains, the book re-creates "... the inner experience of being Siletz ..." and provides "an inner Native perspective of history."

CASA Judge's Page

The February 2011 edition of the [CASA Judges' Page](#) will be dedicated to Court Improvement Program issues and updates.

Juvenile Law Reader

The December 2010/January 2011 [Juvenile Law Reader](#) is now available. It includes an article by Judge Patricia Sullivan: "Reasonable Efforts in Tough Budget Times."

Multnomah County Judge Selected as the National CASA Judge of the Year

The Honorable Nan Waller was selected by the National CASA as their Judge of the Year. Judge Waller will receive her award on March 20, 2011, at the 30th Annual CASA National Conference in Chicago, IL. "We are honored to recognize Judge Waller as a remarkable leader," said Michael Piraino, Chief Executive Officer of the National CASA Association. "She has demonstrated a passion for bringing people together to find innovative solutions for the complex problems facing the juvenile court system. Her commitment to ensuring equity for all children is appreciated by all of us at National CASA." ***Congratulations Judge Waller!***

From the Counties

Jackson County

Four-years-ago, OnTrack, Inc., the largest drug and alcohol treatment provider in Jackson County, applied for two federal grants. These grants funded a project designed to improve outcomes for children who are in the child welfare system because of parental neglect resulting from substance abuse. This family focused program reinvests funding currently reserved for foster care into innovative family services that reduce the need for foster care placement. The program is

credited with reducing foster care placements by 45% since 2007. However, the federal grants used to fund the program will soon expire. State Senator Alan Bates has introduced Senate Bill 196, the Foster Care Reinvestment Act, which would expand this successful Jackson County program across the entire state.

Klamath County- by Susan McDaniel, CRB Field Manager

As the Field Manager for Klamath County, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all the hard work that was provided over numerous months by the Klamath County Juvenile Court Improvement Team which resulted in the development of a DVD and process which is hoped to improve the participation of youth ages 12-18 (21) in their foster care experience.

In August 2010, at the most recent "Model Court Day: Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect," the team was able to show off the efforts of our labor which included a DVD, "You Have a Voice; Let It Be Heard," highlighting the roles of the court, child's attorney, CASA, and DHS Caseworker. The stars of the DVD were two local girls who had been in the foster care system and either aged out or were adopted. The DVD is now being shown to children (ages 12 – 21), within the first week of entering foster care. The assistant who works with the child's attorney sits down with each child and reviews the DVD and provides a folder with some written material, including the names and numbers of services and supports that can be accessed during their placement. We were pleased to add the Teen Magazine that was developed and published by FosterClub with support from the Children's Justice Act Task Force.

Our efforts could not have come to fruition without funding and support from JCIP who awarded us a mini-grant that went toward the professional development of the DVD. We are looking forward to gathering again and identifying another meaningful project that improves the lives of children who find themselves in the foster care system.

Malheur County

Malheur County recently started a birthday card brigade so all foster children receive a birthday card signed by the judge. The card is then given to the CASA who delivers the card. Pamela Barton, Malheur County TCA, shared a note from Judge Patricia Sullivan with JCIP staff about one of their successes:

Subject: Birthday cards

Please forward this to all the card makers: Saturday I was in the Wal-Mart and a lady came up to me, pushing a shopping cart. It was (child's) foster mother, with (child) in the cart. She told me (child) had something he wanted to tell me, and (child) said, "Thank you for the Birthday card." The [foster] mom told me he was so thrilled to get it, he has been carrying it around with him everywhere. Especially since (child) just had a lot of new trauma, his smile was the best feedback ever and I wish you all could have seen it.

Just additional proof that a little thing can definitely touch someone's life!

Morrow and Umatilla Counties

Morrow and Umatilla Counties have engaged in a number of cost-saving measures to deal with recent budget cuts. The Citizen Review Board has combined its Morrow and Umatilla-1 boards and DHS has combined resources to allow DHS to hire another staff member in Pendleton. They are exploring electronic receipt of CRB Findings and Recommendations by the court and DHS submission of materials electronically to CRB. The Model Court Team's focus is on youth participation in reviews.

Multnomah County

Multnomah County is one of 8 communities selected as a demonstration site for the national Defending Childhood Initiative, launched by US Attorney General Eric Holder. This exciting nationwide initiative will support a one year planning process with a strong consortium of agencies that are currently working with children. The Defending Childhood Initiative aims to prevent children's exposure to violence, mitigate the negative impact of exposure, and develop knowledge and spread awareness about children's exposure to violence. The planning process will develop ways to increase communication between agencies, provide training and resources for professionals, and identify and implement strategies to prevent and respond to children's exposure to violence.

In addition, Julie McFarlane, Youth, Rights & Justice Attorneys at Law, is chairing a new committee on visitation with a goal of promoting positive visitation practices for children and their families through collaboration and agreements. One of their model court goals is to enhance and increase visitation between biological parents, siblings and children by: collaborating with the Department of Human Services and community members and providers to establish creative ways to increase visitation; increase quality step-down visitation as children prepare to return home; and networking outside the Department of Human Services to increase availability of visitation transportation.

Tillamook County

Tillamook County's Model Court team is focussing on access to Alcohol and Drug treatment services. They were very impressed by what Jackson County is doing and had several conversations with Judge Grief and Judge Crain at the Casey Summit. They are planning a site visit to Jackson County soon to learn more about their program. They have also arranged a training program for DHS and CASAs on children entering inpatient treatment with their parent, the treatment environment, what it looks like/what happens, and how it benefits the child.

Washington County

Judge Jim Fun had high praise for the Casey Initiative in Oregon. "The Safe and Equitable Foster Care Initiative for Washington County has focused our ability to give every child a family in ways no other initiative has," he said. "The encouragement and support has resulted in dramatic changes to our juvenile court system and the families we serve. That beginning has allowed us to answer that most important of questions - what is the meaning of family to this child."

Yamhill County

Judge Cynthia Easterday is planning an Indian Child Welfare Act training for her model court team and community partners to be held April 29, 2011, at the McMinnville Police Department. She is working with the Grand Ronde Tribe and JCIP staff to develop the training. Tribal Judge Suzanne Ojibway Townsend, Administrator Angela Fasana and Dana Aiman from tribal Social Services have been very active in the planning process.

Training, Conferences, and Resources

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act: What Court Systems Need to Know Webinar Series

This webinar series will give an overview of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, explain how it changes current law and most importantly, focus on what the courts can do to help implement the law. The series will be in three parts:

February 22, 2011 , 11 AM Pacific: Education Provisions; Kathleen McNaught, ABA Center on Children and the Law

March 8, 2011, 11 AM Pacific: Provisions pertaining to youth ages 18-21; Andrea Khoury, ABA Center on Children and the Law

Information about the webinars can be found on the [National Child Welfare Resource Center on Legal and Judicial Issues](#) website.

Fostering Success Act Training

The Portland Community College Staff & Organizational Development Office, in partnership with the PCC L.E.A.D. Academy Cohort II, is hosting "Fostering Success - Raising Awareness of Issues Facing Foster Youth in Accessing and Succeeding in Secondary Education." The event will occur February 11, 2011 from 8:30 to 1:30 at the Rock Creek Campus Event Center (bldg 9). A continental breakfast and salad buffet lunch will be served

The agenda will include: City Commissioner Dan Saltzman to speak on community efforts to aid foster youth; John Emerson (et al.) from the Casey Foundation, Seattle, WA to speak on challenges faced by foster youth in accessing higher education; a panel of foster youth to share their experiences in higher education, in particular their experiences at PCC; "Transition from Foster Care to College: Facilitating Access and Success of Former Foster Care Youth" presented by Janine Allen, Professor of Education, Portland State University; a presentation by community members/organizations working with foster youth; and a Think Tank session (Deep Dive Brainstorm) on next steps for PCC in serving foster youth

If you would like to attend this event **please RSVP** to beth.mela@pcc.edu with your name, position, and organization, by Friday, February 4, 2011.

CLE on Permanency Hearings

The executive committee of the Juvenile Law section has put together a CLE on permanency hearings to be held on February 25, 2011, at the World Forestry Center in Portland. [Information about cost and registration is available from the Oregon State Bar.](#)

CRB Conference

The Citizen Review Board "Every Day Counts" Annual Training Conference will be held on April 8-9, 2011 at the Keizer Renaissance Inn & Conference Center in Keizer, Oregon. The conference is open to CRB members, OJD Judges and staff, and other community partners in the area of child welfare. The conference brochure and registration information are available on the [CRB website](#).

Child Abuse and Family Violence Summit

The 12th annual Child Abuse and Family Violence Summit will be held April 16-29, 2011 at Red Lion on the River in Portland Oregon. The summit is hosted by the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office Child Abuse Team and the Domestic Violence Enhanced Response Team. For more information and to register, visit www.ChildAbuseSummit.com

National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect

The 29th Annual "Protecting Our Children" National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect will be held April 17-20, 2011, in Anchorage, Alaska. The conference workshop selection committee has chosen JCIP's proposed workshop, Active Efforts: Principles and Expectations, to be included on the agenda. The *Active Efforts Principles and Expectations* is a tool, created by DHS, the Judicial Department, and Oregon's nine federally-recognized Tribes to

implement the active efforts mandate of the ICWA. These guidelines are used by courts, DHS staff, and local CRBs in evaluating whether active efforts have been made in ICWA cases. The workshop will include history of the creation of the *Active Efforts Principles and Expectations* and a panel presentation on how the tool can be used to improve practices. The panel will include the Honorable Lisa Greif, Jackson County Circuit Court; Cheryl Baldomaro-Lucas, Department of Human Services; Cathern Tufts, Tribal Staff Attorney, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; Ronald Hudson, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; and Leola McKenzie, Director of Juvenile Court Programs. For more information on the conference visit <http://www.nicwa.org/conference/>

Northeastern Oregon CRB Fall Conference

Materials from the Northeastern Oregon CRB Fall Training on CRB Fundamentals, New Relative Rules, and the Indian Child Welfare Act are now posted on the [CRB website](#).

Shoulder to Shoulder Conference

The Judge's panel was once again one of the highlights of the Shoulder to Shoulder conference in November 2010. Several attendees of the workshop expressed disappointment that there was not enough time to get all of their written questions answered. Thank you to the Honorable Douglas Van Dyk for taking time to answer the following question directed to him and to the Honorable Jim Fun for agreeing to answer general questions that were not directed to any particular judge. The [questions and answers](#) are posted on the JCIP website.



Judge Van Dyk



Judge Jim Fun

Jackson County ICWA Conference

Judge William Thorne from the Utah Court Of Appeals, and a member of the Pomo Indian tribe, was very well received at the Jackson County Model Court Team's ICWA Conference, which was attended by 125 people. Judge Thorne has travelled around the country to provide training and participate on panels. His presentation focused on the history behind ICWA, why the Act was passed and the provisions of the act.

Community Partner Corner

Moving Beyond Foster Care Summit

The eight counties involved in the Safe and Equitable Foster Care Reduction Initiative supported by Casey Family Programs participated in a two day summit entitled Moving Beyond Foster Care. Judges from the eight counties, legislators, and members of all nine federally-recognized tribes in Oregon were invited to join them. This was a first effort of getting judges, Casey teams, tribes, and local stakeholders to come together. Five of the nine Tribes gave presentations about their tribe at the Summit.

Because a high percentage of Oregon children who enter foster care are victims of neglect, the Summit focused on strategies for safely keeping more of these children at home or with relatives. Carol Wilson Spigner, professor emeritus from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice, led the segment "Child Neglect: An Overview" and facilitated discussions over the two days. DHS representatives presented Oregon data and context and national experts shared promising practices and cross-system approaches to working with families in the child welfare system. Click the following link to get the presentations and see videos from the summit!<http://oregon.gov/DHS/children/beyondfc/features/news-summit-convenes.shtml>

Child Welfare ICWA Advisory Committee

The ICWA Advisory Committee has established an expert witness subcommittee. They are working on a brochure and a list of questions to ask expert witnesses as well as how to become a certified expert witness.

Office of Public Defense Services

Judge Elizabeth Welch is member of Public Defense Services Commission Advisory Council. She has observed that dependency cases often remain on the review docket because there is no one to process the domestic relations piece because PDSC does not/cannot pay lawyers to do work outside of the dependency case. She would like to gather data on how often it is an obstacle to closing a case. You can send information on how many cases you have had where you continued the case in order to process the domestic relations order to Ingrid Swenson.

Ingrid.L.Swenson@opds.state.or.us

Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may get better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better.

King Whitney Jr.

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