



WHAT IS A DEPENDENCY MODEL COURT TEAM?

LOCAL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT

VISION

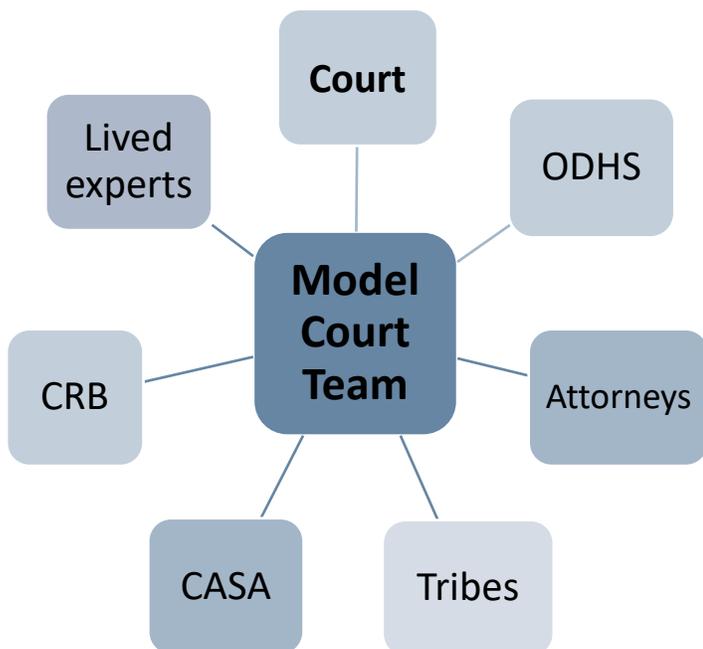
A team of local child welfare system partners working together to assess local court needs and implement responsive system improvements.

PURPOSE

To provide a vehicle for locally directed, state supported efforts to improve the court's handling of dependency cases. To identify and implement efforts that are collaborative, inclusive, multidisciplinary, and consider each system partner's role and responsibility in improving outcomes for families involved in the child welfare system.

RECOMMENDED TEAM MEMBERS

The MCT in each judicial district should be comprised of the local system partners needed to effectively identify, prioritize, and implement system improvements. The team's make-up may also look different depending upon the focus of its project(s).



Each district has different challenges and needs. MCTs understand their local issues and strengths and are best positioned to identify team members and identify projects that will have an impact. JCIP is here to provide support and resources to achieve team goals.

CORE POINTS REGARDING TEAM

- **Be intentional** about your team members
- **Seek diversity** in experience and thinking
- **Consider size** of team and its impact on functioning. Do you need a core group and an advisory group?
- **Right people @ right time:** Don't need the "large group" all the time, need them at the right time
- **Identify team "manager/lead"** to keep team on track
- **Be clear and specific** about member expectations
- **Be transparent** about distribution of control

RESOURCES FOR AN EFFECTIVE TEAM

- [8 Word Mission Statement](#) (clarity of purpose)
- [Purpose to Practice \(P2P\)](#) (planning a project)
- [1-2-4-All](#) (generating ideas, questions)
- And [more](#).

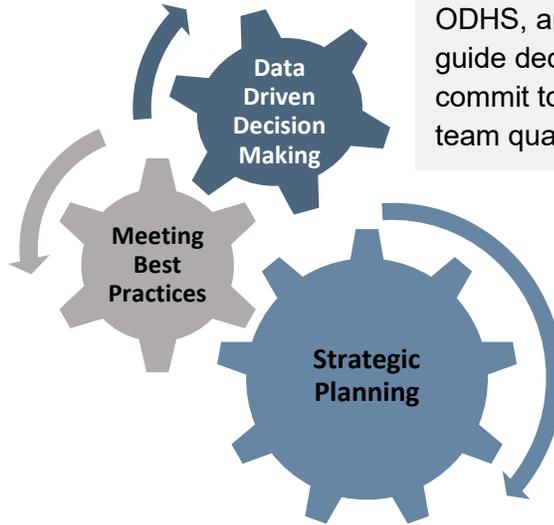


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AN EFFECTIVE MODEL COURT TEAM

Has **regular meetings** and a **standing agenda** detailing the steps needed to move projects forward & active discussion of system improvement efforts.

Has a **record of meetings**. Can be formal minutes, an action plan, or less rigorous documentation—something to track the team's progress toward its goals.



Reviews available data from OJD, ODHS, and elsewhere and uses it to guide decision making. OJD and ODHS commit to bringing relevant data to the team quarterly.

Develops projects **collaboratively** with specific outcomes to improve and a **shared commitment** to achieving the plan.

Focuses on **system improvement**.

RECOMMENDED TEAM MEETING PRACTICES

- Discuss improvement projects first before operational/program & policy updates. Even better, consider if court and partner updates can be shared via email.
- Consider dedicated meetings for improvement projects to ensure time for planning and follow through.
- Use tools like Slido or small group discussion to gather a wider range of input.

JCIP RESOURCES

What can JCIP provide our team?

JCIP is committed to supporting local efforts to improve dependency practice. JCIP can assist teams with creating a shared vision and purpose, identifying needs and developing responsive projects, and gathering and using data. JCIP can also provide technical and subject matter expertise on a range of best practices and offer educational opportunities locally and state-wide. Limited JCIP grant funding may be available to support local improvement projects.

Team Projects Library

JCIP is developing a library of projects and resources to support teams as they consider the needs, capacity & potential impact of projects on their local court and community.

Team Achievements

MCTs have implemented a range of important improvements to dependency practice like specialized courts/dockets (*i.e.*, *ICWA courts and Family Treatment Courts*) and efforts to improve engagement of youth, parents, and resource parents at hearings. JCIP highlights these achievements and connects teams across the state to share strategies and lessons learned from similar projects.