

2018 Model Courts Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect Evaluations

Of the 296 attendees at the 2018 Model Court Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect, 105 completed a post-summit evaluation, for a response rate of 35%.

The respondents included:

13 Judges

7 CRB/JCIP Staff

22 Attorneys

1 Parent/Foster Parent

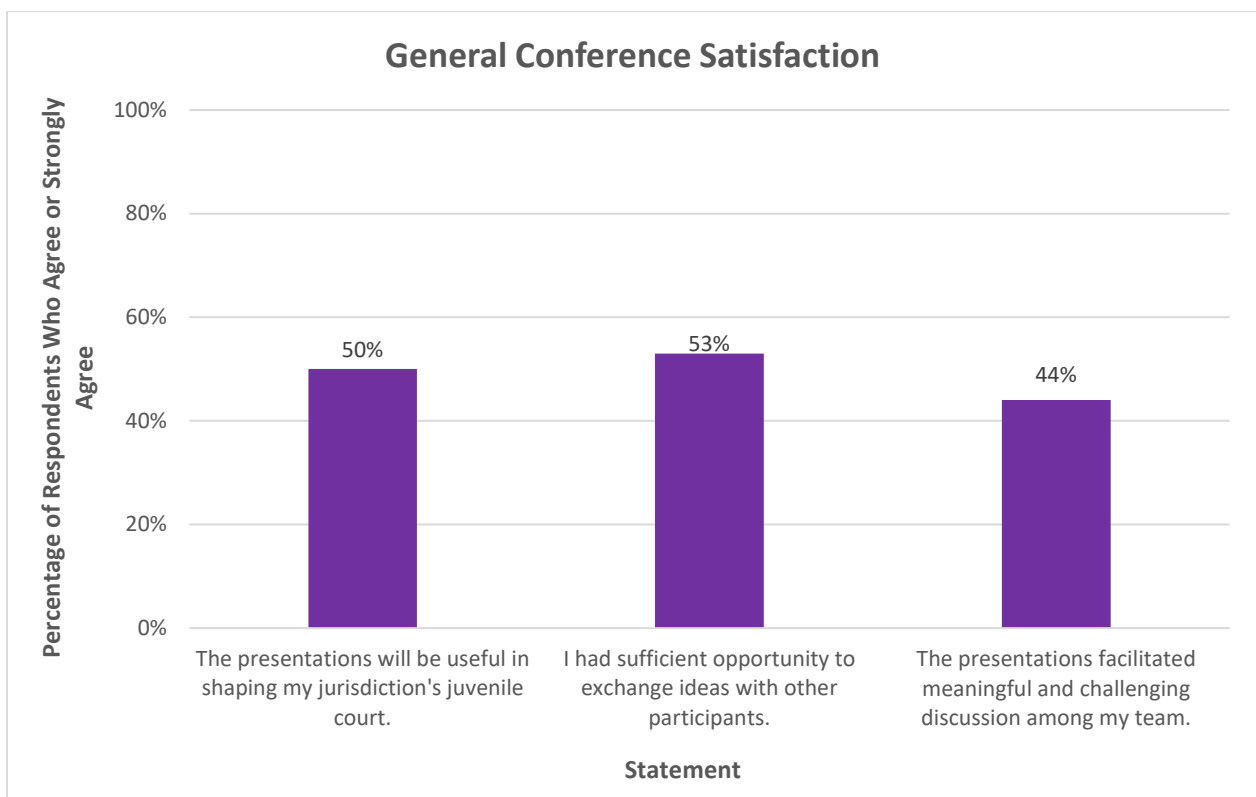
21 DHS Staff

1 Juvenile Department Staff

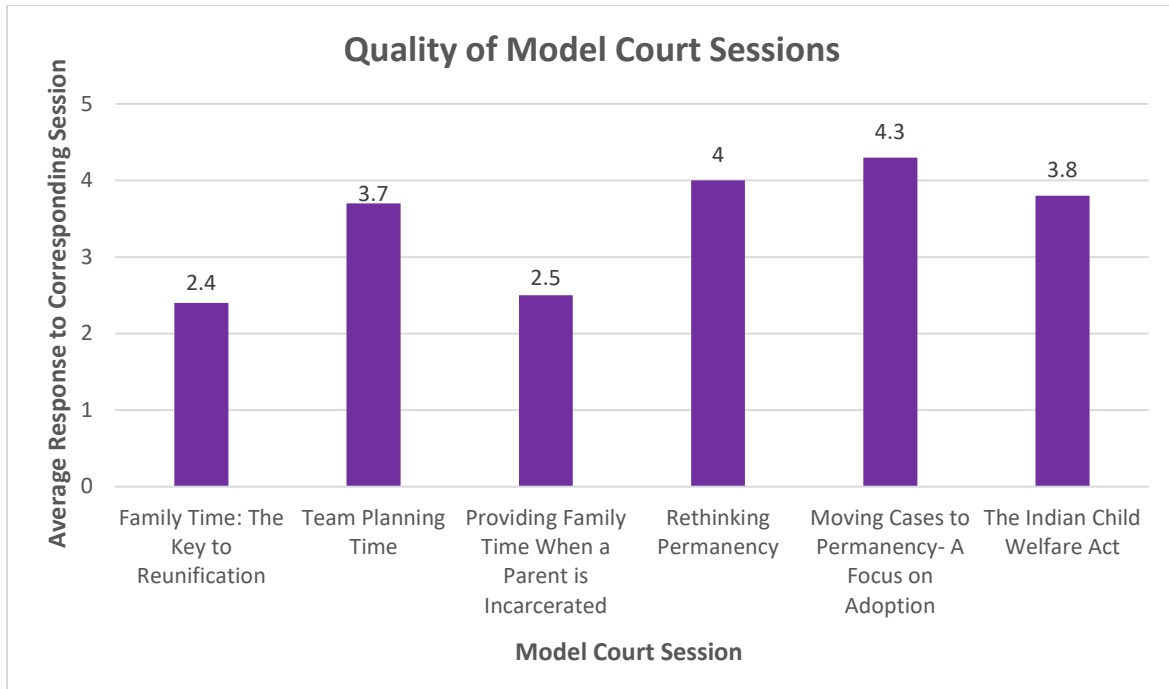
21 Court Staff

1 Mental Health Services Staff

18 CASAs



Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with three statements regarding the Model Court Summit in general. The graph above indicates the percentage of respondents that agree or strongly agree with the corresponding statement. Fifty-three percent of respondents thought they had sufficient opportunity to exchange ideas with other participants.

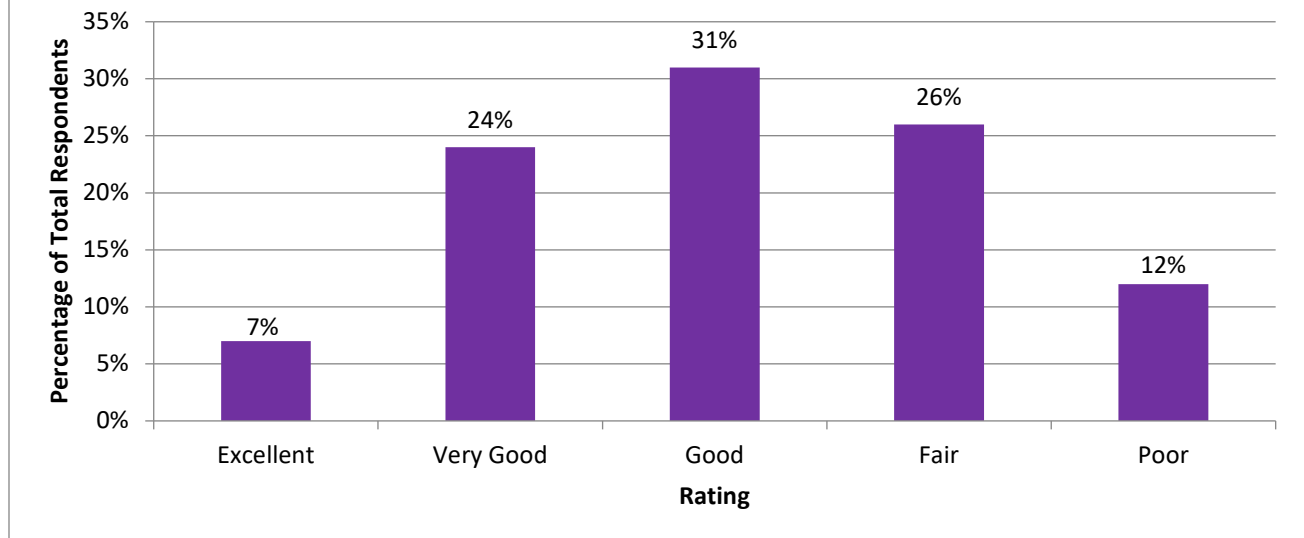


Respondents were asked to rate each model court session on a scale from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent). The above graph is an average of those responses. The highest rated model court session was Moving Cases to Permanency with an overall average rating of 4.3.



Respondents were asked to rate their experience registering for the summit online and in person, the facilities at the summit, and the food at the summit on a scale from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent). The above graph represents the percentage of respondents who rated each corresponding topic as 4 (Good) or 5 (Excellent). All four measures received an average of seventy-five percent or higher.

Overall, how would you rate the 2018 Model Court Summit?



Respondents were asked to give an overall rating of the 2018 Model Court Summit on a scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent). The above graph represents the percentage of respondents to the corresponding rating. A combined sixty-two percent of respondents identified the summit as a 3 (Good), 4 (Very Good), or 5 (Excellent).

What Topics Would You Like to See Covered in Future Summits?

Judges

- Input from children at hearings- accentuate the positives and mitigate the negatives.
- More discussion of legal and policy topics. The topics relating to child welfare services tend to be old news to DHS staff and of little value to the legal part of the community. But DHS can benefit from a better understanding of the legal framework they operate under.

Court Staff

- What other courts are doing that they think improves their juvenile courts.
- It would be valuable to experience what the entire process of a dependency case is like from all sides. DHS gets involved how? What do they do? How do they remove the child? How do they decide where the child will go? The shelter hearing: What steps does

DHS have to take to get a shelter hearing scheduled, how do they prepare, what do they need from the court? Attorneys: what is their need, experience working with child, mother, father, grandparent. The life of a dependency case from Shelter to Termination of Wardship.

- More relatable information to court staff / judges. Primarily the first part is DHS based.
- More regarding CRB and how they play a role in dependency cases; importance of CASA's.
- It would be nice to hear specific feedback regarding programs, etc. that other jurisdictions have implemented and how they have improved local dependency processes.
- Innovative ways we can do our jobs and serve families within existing resources. For example, the info on how important visits are is a good topic but we cannot do all that was suggested within existing resources. We need to see how other people are doing things better within our resources (e.g., through technology, volunteerism, fund raising, etc.).

Parent(s)/Foster Parent(s)

- Hearing from foster parents on their experience working with the agency. In an honoring space with opportunity to talk about the good and the difficulties.

Juvenile Department

- The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act. - How to ensure youth get services when they are trafficked or at risk for being trafficked.

CRB/JCIP Staff

- More team planning time, presentation of individual county successes/permanency outcomes, appellate law.
- Heroin epidemic, Trauma Informed, Housing.
- I felt the topics this year were appropriate, however many of them were presented at a novice level. I think cutting to the chase is a better approach. I think Gail Schelle did a nice job with her presentation, direct, to the point and concise.

- Planning for children/youth needing behavioral supports when services are limited. Ways to engage parents in doing services....

CASAs

- I'd like a panel of Oregon Supreme Court justices to field questions regarding parents' appeals and why the Court grants appeals without first delving into the lower courts' decisions. The most egregious neglectful parents' appeals are often granted, in direct opposition to achieving permanency for a child in a timeline that is child focused.
- Ways to use the permanency timeline more effectively, ideas for counties with few service resources and a lack of money.
- Trauma Informed Care - How can we make the state system as well as the court system more trauma informed? This will no doubt lead to better outcomes for children and families.
- Placement numbers and types, ideas
- How CASA can be most effective?
- How drug use is impacting casework planning and permanency with children; how can we better serve teens to help them succeed after foster care; the trauma of foster care; working with dads and working to shape them as primary parents in dependency cases.
- ICWA is always so challenging, and the presenters did a fantastic job of this. I always want more! I would like a presentation on the path through the system of a case and all the party's roles at those stages, attorneys/DHS/DOJ/CASA, in the court proceedings and leading up to. Particularly the negotiation of allegations, pleading out, admitting/denying, what happens after the plan changes to guardianship/adoption/fit and willing relative/APPLA.
- How to Engage all Legal Parties.....CASA, AAG, DA, Attorneys, etc. How other Legal Parties can assist DHS.
- Update on active Child Welfare efforts to address audit. Presentation by a tribal member on history of ICWA from a Native American perspective.
- More team meeting times interspersed with the presenters.
- Increased emphasis on insights and how to improve the foster care experience from beginning to end from the foster child's and foster family's perspectives.

DHS Staff

- Information that is not generic. Everyone that attended was already familiar with the topics discussed as they were very simplified versions of the issues discussed.
- Panels regarding their experience of CW/Dependency Court: Oregon Foster Youth Connection Parent Mentors through Morrison Center Foster Parents Adoptive Parents Foster Siblings.
- Timelines for shelter hearings and the reasons why some counties (Coos) file an affidavit on day one, then have until day two to file their petition and have a shelter hearing when other counties (Grant) have to file a PCR and petition and have shelter in much shorter time lines.
- Anything with an engaging speaker that doesn't talk too slow, doesn't over simplify to a Group well educated in Child's welfare topics and does not have two sessions in a row.
- Consistency in processes (standard preliminary hearing days/etc.) and court documents (using JCIP orders/judgements/etc.) across jurisdictions.
- Strategies to facilitate/improve local court teams function. For example, the use of settlement conferences or other such tools to expedite movement through the legal process.
- Something more applicable- that is an important room to have wasted the morning on. Even though the presenter actually had some good information to share, it was lost due to her delivery.

Attorneys

- Alternate Family plans, K.C., T.L., A.B type issues to help families get their children back with grandparents' w/o DHS involvement, despite agency's inability to certify grandparents. Been getting this issue a TON. Would reshape system if we all litigated these, as more foster homes would open up for families that really needed it.
- Court of Appeals case updates, vicarious trauma, and presentations from OJD about eCourts or model court forms.
- Lack of BRS beds, lack of enough mental health treatment/the conflict of local providers holding the purse strings on children's inpatient beds, the lack of foster homes, how to keep siblings attached when you can't place them together, helping kids come to grips

with adoption, the Hague, how to engage teens who seem not to care about their future, how to support regular foster parents when the kiddo should be in a therapeutic bed, why is heroin so much worse than other drugs, how can we help the heroin parents, educate us on how the definitions of DV are changing to include nonphysical issues, the new definition of "intimate terrorism", how to evaluate that and how to identify it. How?

- Topics that consider the reality of what the budget will handle or include ideas on how to implement given budget realities; 2. Credible speaker(s) who will CONVINCED state actors with brain science and social science just how harmful and traumatic it is to remove a child, and then provide very little visitation and decline to return the kids until a parent has completed services that take over a year to complete; 3. Somehow rethinking what it takes to be a SAFE SSP--quit making it so hard to qualify that very few can meet the criteria.
- Hague service, juvenile delinquency /dependency cross over cases. Appellate updates. Accommodating children in court proceedings; Use and duties of GAL.
- Comparison of county practices and discussion of which practices produce most noticeable results.
- Conduct of shelter hearings, Oregon Safety Model, Time to jurisdiction.
- Minimally adequate parenting, what does it look like? Why is it the standard. Least intrusive agency involvement, what does that look like and how can it be achieved? Thinking outside the box to utilize family and community resources.
- How to implement the topics discussed. For example - how can the community start a dialogue with local jail regarding contact visits. How can community come up with plan for visit at DOC and overcome lack of resources for transportation and supervision when the prisons are a significant distance. I felt the information in multiple sessions was really basic and seemed oriented specifically to DHS workers. I have participated in past years in different counties and normally the team members have a fairly sophisticated knowledge of dependency law.
- How to implement the topics discussed. The focus is on how to improve the juvenile system, but there are no concrete avenues on how to do so.
- Topics geared towards attorney and judges.

How Might JCIP Provide Additional Help to Your Local Model Court Team Over the Next Year?

Court Staff

- Help with training DHS in the use of their tracking system. It was indicated that their numbers might not be correct because of lack of training.
- Starting a model court team separate from our juvenile dependency workgroup. Beginning discussions on crossover youth identification and study.
- Emailing more information regarding upcoming changes, informative articles re juvenile issues.
- Regular feedback in regard to what successes other programs, courts, etc. are having with implementation of new processes, programs.
- Provide court with information about each other for each of the topics for statewide improvement. For example, our goal is to improve shelters. It would help us to know how other courts do shelters such that we may adopt something from them to meet our statewide goal. If JCIP could be (if it is not already) a clearinghouse for all things juvenile in Oregon courts we would save a lot of time reaching out to other courts to look for improvements for us.

Juvenile Department

- Local DHS does not appear to be aware of the Sex Trafficking requirements and services. This makes it difficult to get youth services.

Mental Health Services

- It would be helpful to learn how other counties schedule their hearings. In our county, we all show up at the same time and sit and wait for our turn sometimes waiting all morning. It's a time waste.

CRB/JCIP Staff

- Specific data.
- Comprehensive in-person meeting with team to review data and help develop action items that are data driven and measurable.
- Help keep track of issues and goals.
- Sharing other Model Court's successes as well as innovative ideas, check lists, procedures that have shown improvements in the DHS/court system.

CASAs

- Can JCIP find attorneys willing to move to the area to take court appointed cases?! There is a scarcity in our area, resulting in scheduling difficulties and children spending even more time in foster care without the hope of prompt permanency.
- A breakout session where we could choose our topics/presentations would be helpful as sitting in the same spot for 7 hours was exhausting.
- Emailing important updates to processes/policies as they become available.
- Have more time available for the local teams to meet.
- Possibly provide some budgetary funds to help implement some of our ideas regarding visitations. Small workshops/speakers related to what we are working on, at our monthly meetings.
- Make sure that the speakers, who are obviously qualified, are good public speakers. The speakers this year knew their material but were not very good at sharing it.

DHS Staff

- Discuss more in-depth matters, not so generic.
- Poll caseworkers on how things are going.
- Communicate any other training opportunities that may benefit the team.
- Technical assistance, lessons learned from other teams.

Attorneys

- Email updates on practical implications of big changes in case law? Us attorneys follow these, but the judges being told by someone else besides attorneys arguing case law is helpful.
- For starters, try and spend next year learning what our real challenges are. And not bringing in speakers who condescend to us. I have attended these for years, and this was by far the worse one, although their usefulness has been declining. Come see us! Come find out what our actual challenges are.
- I always appreciate the JCIP materials, information, forms that are found online--just keep that up. Thanks.
- Helping with docketing issues.
- Encourage judges to meet monthly and to develop subcommittees to address county-specific problems.
- Provide greater oversight and consistency in practice across all judicial districts. Work with TCAs to systematize eCourt filings and service. Work with judges to establish some standards and expectations for shelter and jurisdiction hearings. Shelter hearings range from 10 minutes to 5 hours across the state which makes practicing across the state very difficult. Train judges to complete their own orders and to do it competently.
- More DHS caseworkers should attend and we need more DHS caseworkers so that caseloads are more manageable.
- More time spent in discussion with other stakeholders.
- How to obtain additional resources for the county. One of the largest barriers is lack of counseling/parent training/ shortage of caseworkers, etc.

Any Other Comments on the Model Court Summit?

Judges

- Given the number of people on our team and the acoustics in the meeting room, it is difficult to have a meaningful conversation with the whole team.
- The initial speaker seemed to be addressing an issue that she had a very personal interest in promoting a particular service for. It lent an aura of simply trying to sell a product to the conference rather than encouraging any real discussion of the issue of improving parent child interaction.
- Dr. Beyer was terrible. It was hard to follow what she said and her presentation was too basic and condescending. It was a complete waste of time.
- Thank you for providing extra team time this year.
- First presenter was sleep inducing, which obscured the value of her content.
- The main speaker had good information but her delivery nearly put everyone at my table at sleep. There was not enough time given to Team planning.
- The main speaker was well qualified and had good material. But her speaking style was very difficult to listen to and was not a good fit for this format.

Court Staff

- The morning speaker had an excellent subject, her delivery was slow. Perhaps it was because she had so much time to fill. Every presentation felt long for the subject covered. Perhaps each subject could be addressed in less time, that would provide an opportunity to address more issues.
- More food options vs salad for lunch other than having dietary needs.
- Felt like ICWA presentation was more geared to attorneys than other stakeholders. Loved Mockingbird presentation. Like having lunch without assignment.
- The first speaker had some good content, but was very hard to listen to for 3 hours, with a slow, monotone delivery and no engagement for visual or kinetic learners.

- I missed not doing the end of summit team planning and goals - in the past that has provided good collaboration and discussion.
- Please allow much more time for the model court team to discuss things. Also, it is very difficult for a large team to hear each other when we are crowded around the round tables. Don't know if there is another option but spreading out to the corners of the rooms for team discussions might help. Thanks.

Parent(s)/Foster Parent(s)

- As informative as the first speaker was, it was very hard not to feel like it was dragging on. People were losing focus and getting a tad frustrated. Seems like that topic was perfect for those who are new, but that most folks in the room already understood the importance of visitations. Could have been received better if she would have gotten her information out in half the time is my opinion.

Juvenile Department Staff

- It would be beneficial to seek out more engaging speakers (Annie Blackledge was an engaging speaker). Content is very DHS heavy. There are many stakeholders attending and it would be beneficial to have a broader range of topics.

Mental Health Services

- Thank you, the summit was very informative.

CRB/JCIP Staff

- I really appreciated the adoption handouts and commend the staff for their efforts. Unfortunately, the poor quality of the main speaker overshadowed the content.
- More time for teams to talk in their individual groups about the info being presented.
- Not enough time for sharing what Model Courts are doing to enhance visitation and decrease the timelines for permanency. I did like the content of visitation for incarcerated parents, but the presentation was painful.
- The morning keynote was terrible. Good content but was not a good presenter.

CASAs

- While the information imparted by Ms. Beyer will be helpful to our children living in foster care (if parties pay attention) her delivery bordered on comical and set a tone of restlessness that affected my attention to her presentation and presentations to follow.
- While the first speaker was qualified, she was not engaging.
- The first speaker had incredible information but lacked presentation skills. Within minutes you could see the entire room go to their phones, iPads and laptops.
- First presenter was horrible--she literally read a sophomore level term paper--both of her sessions. Zero spontaneity, The ICWA lawyer read PowerPoint slides to us--he was rancid. Annie was 5-star!
- Re: the "poor" rating: Overall, it was good information, however, it would have been easier to stay engaged if the speaker used more inflection, tone and energy and spoke at a quicker conversational tempo. As it was, it was difficult to keep focused attention on the subject matter.
- So, honestly, the information and handouts from the first two sessions on visits was actually really great information. I was able to bring back the info to my team and it will be incorporated as we move forward with making recommendations to the Judges regarding visitation. I hate to say that the presenter, herself, was not good. Her intent was good, but I felt she was not great at conveying the information. I have been to thousands of presentations in my career and this was one of the worst. I wanted to get up and walk out. The importance of the information was lost via the presenter's style.
- The information/materials were on point, however the morning's speaker had a monotone of a meditation narrator. Not good for engagement.
- I appreciated the content presented by Dr. Beyer, but her delivery was painfully drawn out.
- The Family Time speaker had valuable information, however, it presented at such a slow pace that I had a hard time focusing. Thank you for ALL the hard work by the committee for putting this Summit on. So appreciate ALL your efforts!
- It's difficult to overstate how terrible the morning speaker was -- both from a delivery and a substantive perspective. The entire morning was a complete waste of time.

DHS Staff

- I was disappointed in the speakers and topics discussed. The first speaker was not engaging or entertaining at all which made you not even want to listen to what she spoke about. The registration, facilities and food was excellent.
- There was insufficient time for groups to work together and communicate/strategize on ways to be more efficient. The information provided in the two visitation presentations was good information, but was not new information and lacked practical implementation suggestions. Our visitation issues are due to a lack of financial resources, not lack of effort to engage parents in meaningful parenting time. Also, the delivery of the information was difficult (slow and flat speech).
- This was the worst of the last three years.
- This was my first Model Court and I was hoping for some time to really dig in and have some discussions or projects to do within our group. I really enjoyed the information provided regarding visits from the first presenter however, her delivery was very slow.
- The morning was a waste of time. The presenter was speaking to us as if we had no background or knowledge about the importance of visitation. Her delivery was incredibly dry and she lost the attention of our table very early on.
- Really, my ratings were brought significantly down due to the presentation style of the person who presented the 1st and 2nd topics. Info wasn't bad, though dated, but it was excruciating to sit through.
- The information provided regarding visitation for the opening session was good, but the presentation was challenging. Unfortunately, the way the presenter spoke made it difficult to get engaged in the discussion. Also, for the incarcerated parent piece, that information would be critical to share with the Dept. of Corrections and or local municipalities as the participants of the conference don't really have control over the physical locations of those kinds of visits.
- The material was good information but the delivery by the presenter was non- engaging and boring. The morning presenter was not aware of her audience and spoke in a very monotone voice. The staff at the summit were amazing and helpful throughout the day.
- Keynote speaker did not appear to know her audience. Material was basic and engagement/presentation was poor.

Attorneys

- Needed more time (and also, time between each panel would have been good), to discuss each new concept presented. Each panel had a couple nuggets that would have been good to process with the group as for as how to implement. Even the group time we had after panel 1 was not enough time for all of the people in our group to share. Round tables made it hard for everyone to see the presentation. Had to crowd around back side of table, or crank neck.
- The first presenter had some good information, but her delivery was so slow and condescending that it was impossible to get anything out of the presentation.
- It is apparent to me that whomever plans this does not understand the issues regularly facing the practitioners. Your committee needs DHS workers and practicing attorneys. To have a speaker come in and lecture us on the basics of visitation, with no time spent on how, in rural counties where there is only one parent trainer, to do this, is useless. To talk to us about how to interact with incarcerated parents, without involving the DOC who controls most of that, is useless. (And I further understand that they gave opposite information to the judges the day before.) Don't talk down and condescend to us. We know what is lacking out there, what we need is to get together and hear how/what creative ways people are using to tackle these problems. How do you recruit volunteers to be parent trainers? How much training do you give them, or ask them to write reports? How are you using your SPRF money and what creative programs have you come up with? We all understand how important visits are, and we are painfully aware of how little resources we have to make that happen. The lecture we got would have you think DHS had SSA's just sitting around doing their nails because they don't understand the importance of the issue, not that we are underfunded and desperately struggling. Talk about that! And how to help it. Talk about the actual challenges we are facing, not visitation 101. This is a spendy conference, both in time and money. It needs to be useful. We need infusions of new ways to fight the challenges we face. This whole presentation seemed to treat us as though we have "model" court funds and options, not in any way connected to our reality.
- The speaker in the morning was one of the worst I have ever heard in 30 years of CLEs. Overall, the conference was a waste of time.
- My guess is that you will hear many complaints about Dr. Beyer, but I think that what she had to say was relevant and helpful but simply it was her "delivery" that was too slow and overenunciated which diminished her as an "engaging" speaker. I was aware prior to attending that she is a VERY respected expert, and I was disappointed that people did not get more from her talk due to her speaking style.

- This conference was poor. The morning speaker was extremely slow and the information was so basic it was useless. The ICWA portion was the only useful part of the training. Most people I spoke to were frustrated that they had traveled and taken time away from their clients, counties and courts for such an incredibly poor conference. The quality of this conference is getting worse every year. The main speakers -(like the judge from Texas last year and the morning this year) are irrelevant and often counter to Oregon practice . I really think you need a new committee to reimagine this conference or just stop having it. We are practitioners, judges, DHS and CASA. We understand the basics. We need to hone in on issues that matter that we can have an effect on. We need legal updates. We need accurate data - if it is not accurate data do NOT present it. The visit data was inappropriate to hand out given that it was so inaccurate - it will now be portrayed as accurate and be passed on causing issues in court and/or with community partners. I appreciate that many people worked hard on this conference and I thank them for it. Unfortunately, it was the worst conference I have ever attended. I have spoken to at least 10 other people that agreed. I hope they step up and tell you in this survey because I know this this conference wants to be better - and it can be.
- Marty Beyer's presentation is the same information she has been presenting for 20 years. Unless she develops new material, it's not particularly helpful after multiple viewings. Also, she spoke in an odd, incredibly slow manner for the first hour that most found disconcerting and led many to leave the room.
- The morning speaker was awful. Everyone I spoke to was extremely bored and did not feel the information was new and felt that the speaker was not engaging (to put it in much nicer terms than what was said).
- Dr. Beyer was abysmal, condescending, robotic, repetitive and singularly a waste of precious time that could have been better used for group discussions. She treated us like preschoolers new to dependency practice. Her material was the same thing she had presented 20 years ago to DHS. She should not be invited back and I expect people will not register if her name is on any CLE agenda. I understand she may be presenting for the JLTA and would encourage those organizers to seriously reconsider. She is an atrocious speaker that gave no context or data/facts for her conclusions or propositions. She provided no practical solutions. She didn't engage, inspire or elevate the conversation. As organizers for the summit JCIP should have at least reviewed some of her prior presentations and materials before giving her any time on the agenda let alone 2.5 hours.
- One presenter was a duplicate from a Juv. Law CLE which was disappointing.
- One of the positives of this year's conference for my county was more discussion and "relationship" building between different parts of the dependency team (DHS

caseworker and attorneys). I would like to see the conference used more for team building.

- The morning speaker was horrible.
- Did not find this useful to my work as an attorney at all. Most useful time was team planning, but that was over structured and too short.