2018 Through the Eyes of a Child Conference Evaluation

Of the 65 attendees at the 2018 Through the Eyes of a Child Conference, 24 completed an online evaluation, for a response rate of 37%.

The results of the evaluation are summarized below:

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with three statements regarding the Through the Eyes of a Child Conference in general. The graph above indicates the percentage of respondents that agree or strongly agree with the corresponding statement. Over 80% of respondents thought the conference sessions were useful in job performance.

Respondents were asked to identify how many years they have presided over juvenile dependency cases. A combined 75% indicated they have presided for less than 10 years.
Respondents were asked to indicate which Pre-Session Seminar they attended (or if they did not attend one). 69% of respondents that indicated that they attended a pre-session seminar also indicated that they attended the Dependency 101 Refresher Seminar.

Respondents were asked to indicate how they rate the pre-session seminars on a scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent). Both pre-session seminars scored an average response of 4.3 or higher. Note: There were 4 respondents for the Child Abuse and Neglect Investigations and Entry into Care Seminar and 9 respondents for the Dependency 101 Refresher Seminar.
Respondents were asked to rate each conference session for day one of the Through the Eyes of a Child Conference on a scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent). The graph above indicates the percentage of respondents who identified the corresponding conference session as 4 (Good) or 5 (Excellent). The Appellate Update was the slight day one favorite, with 86% of respondents indicating a positive response to the session.

Respondents were asked to rate each conference session for day two of the Through the Eyes of a Child Conference on a scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent). The graph above indicates the percentage of respondents who identified the corresponding conference session as 4 (Good) or 5 (Excellent). Reasonable Efforts for Incarcerated Parents was the day two favorite, with 95% of respondents indicating a positive response to the session.
Respondents were asked to rate their experience registering for the conference online and in person, the facilities at the conference, and the food at the conference, on a scale from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent). All four measures received an average rating of 4.1 or higher.

Respondents were asked to rate their overall experience at the Through the Eyes of a Child Conference on a scale from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent). A combined 96% of respondents gave the conference a rating of 3 (Good) or greater. 38% of respondents indicated that the conference was excellent (5).
What Topics or Format Changes Would You Like to See at Future Conferences?

- Physical arrangements at court affect parties’ and other participants’ sense of involvement and safety. We have a somewhat unusual layout that reportedly alleviates some stress. It would be interesting to hear what other jurisdictions do to attain this goal.

- More “table time” with other judicial officers, particularly ones from other jurisdictions. Assigned seating helpful towards this end.

- What happens after parental rights are terminated? How do kids fare? If they end up having continuing contact with a parent how does that happen and with what support? Would love to discuss this.

- Improve the microphone situation. Seems to be a constant problem each year.

- Although the session on motivational interviewing was interesting, I felt it had little practical application, which is what I need.

- More legal/practical training.

- More time for judges to mingle informally in groups on specific topic areas of judicial choice.

- To change the plan or not to change the plan…. that is the question.

- More time to share ideas with other judges.

Any Other Comments on the 2018 Through the Eyes of a Child Conference?

- Sound system was really not good. The conference itself was great. Thank you.

- Great job.

- I like when there are opportunities for small group discussions.

- Excellent conference! Thank you for all the intelligent work. It would be nice if there were more vegan options at lunch (but I know I’m a small community).

- It would have been better if the microphones were all working. I would like to have the issues tied to more actual experiences from the judges.

- Microphone issues made it difficult to hear and follow presentations. Salmon at dinner was dry and overcooked.