

**Juvenile Court Improvement Program Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2018**

Juvenile & Family Court Programs Division – Oregon Room
1133 Chemeketa Street NE, Salem, OR 97301
1:30 – 4:00 PM

COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
√	Hon. Stephen Forte, Chair, Deschutes County Circuit Court	√	Hon. Lindsay Partridge, Vice Chair, Marion County Circuit Court
√	Hon. Don Costello, Chief Judge, Coquille Indian Tribe	√	Hon. Amy Holmes Hehn, Multnomah County Circuit Court
√	Hon. Norm Hill, Polk County Circuit Court	√	Hon. Karen Ostrye, Hood River County Circuit Court
	Lacey Andresen, Permanency Program Manager, DHS		Mandy Augsburg, President, Marion Polk Foster Parent Association, Foster Parent
√	Mark Hardin	√	Lauren Kemp, Multnomah County DA's Office
√	Darin Mancuso, Foster Care Ombudsman, Governor's Advocacy Office		Laurie Price, Deputy Director, Child Welfare, DHS
√	Gail Schelle, Adoptions Program Manager, DHS	√	Karyn Schimmels, Child Welfare Training Manager, DHS
	Daniel Schneider, Training Specialist, Child Welfare Partnership, Center for Improvement of Child & Family Services		Nathan Schwab, Oregon Foster Youth Connection, Former Foster Youth
√	Joanne Southey, Deputy Chief Counsel, Civil Enforcement Division, DOJ		Shaney Starr, Oregon Casa Network & Casa of Marion County
√	Liz Wakefield for Amy Miller, Deputy General Counsel, Office of Public Defense Services		
INTERESTED PARTIES			
JFCPD STAFF			
√	Leola McKenzie, Director, JFCPD	√	Megan Hassen, Juvenile Law & Policy Counsel, JFCPD
√	Shary Mason, Model Court & Training Analyst, JFCPD/CRB	√	Conor Wall, Data Analyst, JFCPD
√	Amy Benedum, Program Analyst, JCIP	√	Kim Morgan, Management Assistant, JFCPD
√	Yousef Allouzi, Data Analyst, JCIP		

- I. Welcome & Introductions – Hon. Stephen Forte**
 - a. New Data Analyst – Yousef Allouzi**

- II. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting – Hon. Stephen Forte**

Approved.

III. Reports:

a. Re-Imagining Dependency Courts – Conor

Conor gave an update on the Reimagining Dependency Courts project and stated that it is a differentiated case management (DCM) project in four courts (Clackamas, Deschutes, Lane, and Polk). He said that the courts had implemented the project in May 2017 and that the main update was that JCIP was working with the OJD Office of General Counsel on a contract for the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to conduct an evaluation of the project.

JCIP is planning on a two-part evaluation, with a process evaluation to be completed in January 2019 and an outcome evaluation to be done in 2020 after the project has been underway for more than two years.

The process evaluation will include:

- Analysis of factors driving case assignments
- The number of cases assigned to each case management track
- Analysis of whether hearings and CRB reviews are occurring in accordance with the track schedules
- A file review of prior cases to determine whether the factors used to assign cases to tracks have previously been associated with longer stays in foster care
- Focus groups with DHS staff, attorneys, judges, and court staff in each county
- Preliminary analysis of whether cases are exiting foster care more quickly under DCM than they were previously

JCIP is working with OJD's Office of General Counsel to finalize a contract with NCSC to conduct the evaluation, and work will begin as soon as a contract is finalized.

Judge Forte asked if we have checked to make sure that courts are implementing the tracks as they were intended to be implemented. Judge Hill said that he is keeping the cases on the track schedules, and Judge Forte said that he is doing the same but fears that courts for which the DCM Project is a major change (Lane and Clackamas) that may be more difficult.

Conor stated that the other courts have said that they are keeping the cases on the tracks, but we will have to look at the results of the process determine how closely the courts have observed the tracks.

b. New Judge Seminar – Megan

Megan Hassen reported that JCIP delivered a one-and-a-half-hour presentation to approximately 20 new judges at new judge school in June. Megan and Judge Amy Holmes Hehn delivered the training to new trial and appellate judges, focusing on an overview of juvenile dependency law. This is the fifth year JCIP has delivered the training. The feedback from participants was positive.

c. Tribal Court State Court Forum – Amy

The JCIP Advisory Committee was updated about the Tribal Court/State Court Judicial Forum annual meeting in July 2018 at Warm Springs. The Tribal Court/State Court Forum is working with stakeholders to create and disseminate a training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and courts regarding full faith and credit for tribal protection orders.

d. QEW Trainings – Shary

We've done two QEW trainings since our last JCIP Advisory Council Meeting one in Siletz and one in Klamath Falls. In addition to Siletz and Klamath Tribal members we trained QEWs from the following Tribes: Tolowa Dee-Ni, Karok, Burns Paiute, Coquille, Quartz Valley and Urok.

e. "Through the Eyes of a Child" and "Model Court Summit" Conference Evaluations – Megan

The committee reviewed the conference evaluations. Overall, the conferences went well with the exception of the keynote on visitation at the Model Court Summit. We received feedback that the information in the presentation was good, although some thought it was too basic. The main problem was the delivery. It was too slow and monotone. Shary Mason suggested adopting the approach used by the planning committee for Shoulder to Shoulder. They don't invite a speaker who a committee member hasn't seen. Megan Hassen recommended that a subcommittee be formed to begin planning for the next Model Court Summit. Many people volunteered to serve, and it was agreed that they would meet with a goal to make recommendations at the full committee meeting in December. At that time, the Eyes agenda will also be developed. Feedback was also provided that more opportunities for discussions need to be worked into the next Eyes agenda.

IV. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI):

a. Quarterly Statistical Reports – Yousef

Yousef reported that dependency petitions were down 10.8% from Quarter 1, dropping from 1245 to 1110. For a data analyst, this change can be a challenging dilemma, because while he can't provide any causal explanations, he provided a by-county report that shows the biggest changes from quarter 1 to quarter 2. The Portland area counties, mainly Washington and Multnomah (as well as Clackamas to a much smaller degree) went up, while the counties that fell the most were Marion, Lane, Josephine, Douglas, Malheur, and Tillamook. He also included a chart that shows dependency petition trends over time, including the counties with the largest drops and the state-wide trend over the past year and half, which as you can see has been trending down.

Yousef also reported that time to subsequent permanency hearing and time to TPR reports show a reduction in 5 and 4 percentage points, respectively. In digging a bit deeper, he found some instances where counties had multiple cases (siblings typically) that were going on longer than in Q1. He is seeing some data entry error, but he doesn't see it as large enough to push the percentage downward.

A common example he found was where a court listed a hearing as “Held” in Odyssey when it should have instead been listed as a “Multi-Day Hearing.” This can lead to many subsequent permanency hearings being listed as having occurred one or two (or seven or ten, etc.) days after an original permanency hearing when the same permanency hearing has been continued over multiple days. This could, with enough similar examples, skew our statistics.

Finally, the Dependency Petition to Termination or Relinquishment went up 112 days. Part of that could be connected to the time to TPR number in that sibling cases going longer are pulling that number down and driving the median days number up. Another part of this could simply be a correction, due to a downward trend in median days over the first three quarters of 2017.

b. Data Reports in Development – Yousef

We are also in the very beginning stages of building three new reports. We are hoping to have the first drafts ready by the first of the year and of course we will be soliciting feedback from courts. But what we are working towards are

1. A report that examines time to exiting foster care, whether that’s through guardianship, adoption, reunification, aging out, etc. and how long it takes for that resolution to happen.
2. A second report that looks at attendance and representation at hearings. What percentage of hearings have children/attorneys/and parents present, including state attorneys, attorneys for children, attorneys for parents, and doj staff.
3. Number of hearings that are rescheduled and why.

These reports are in the very earliest of stages of development, but he wanted to give an update on some of the reports we are working to roll out.

c. Adoption Finalization Project – Shary

The new adoption tracking page has been completed and distributed to the field for testing. This report will pull information from ORKIDS and will replace the screen shots of the ORKIDS Adoption Tracking Sheet which was often blurred and difficult to understand. Once field tested, DHS and JCIP will be developing training materials for adoption finalization.

V. Discussion Topics:

a. Juvenile Dependency System Efficiencies Budget Note

Leola requested that the Advisory Committee members review the Joint Status Report on HB 5006-A Budget Note and reminded people that the JCIP AC recommended, and the Chief approved that all courts focus local improvement efforts on one of four statewide strategies:

1. Improve shelter hearings: consistent scheduled times each day & parents have an opportunity to meet with their attorney prior to the shelter hearing.
2. Develop and implement effective settlement opportunities.

3. Develop local policies that prioritize juvenile dependency matters on court dockets.
4. Improve timeliness to permanency – Finalize adoptions w/in a year of child being legally free.

Due to a lack of time for the AC to recommend potential activities at the local level for courts/model court teams to take to further these strategies, Leola asked people to send her specific ideas that can be forwarded or discussed with local courts.

b. Juvenile Law Training Academy Mini Grant Request

Liz Wakefield presented the mini grant request for \$5,000 for the juvenile law training academy (JLTA). Some of the sessions at the JLTA will be the same as sessions that were held at the JCIP Model Court Summit. Additionally, there will be a session on permanency planning for teens, ethics of representing children for newer lawyers and agency standards of representation, an appellate update, and a session on working with interpreters. JCIP funding and support is necessary for this event. Committee members expressed that JLTA is an excellent program and has helped to improve attorney practices. Leola reported that there are 3 statewide events that JCIP has traditionally supported over the years (Shoulder to Shoulder, ICWA Conference, and JLTA). There were some questions and a little confusion around the budget; Liz reported that the OPDS and the OCDLA do not see this as a money-making opportunity. Liz explained that the funds are used to subsidize tuition to keep tuition low, so more attorneys will participate in the conference. There was also a question about why the OCDLA did not submit a timely invoice for last year's mini grant. The JCIP Advisory Committee approved the mini grant request of \$5,000 for the JLTA with the understanding that OPDS will ensure that an invoice is submitted for the mini grant within 30 days of the conference.

VI. Upcoming Events – All

- Shoulder to Shoulder – October 28-29, 2018: We will be presenting a judge's panel. Judge Menchaca, Judge Grove and Referee Long will present and Leola will facilitate.
- ICWA Conference – October 16-18, 2018: JCIP has been given 3 slots one for Shary and two others. The conference will be in Pendleton at the Wildhorse Casino. If anyone is interested in attending, please let Shary know.
- Juvenile Law Training Academy – October 8-9, 2018
- Appellate Dependency CLE – February 7, 2019
- JELI Spring Convening – April 5, 2019

VII. Next Meeting: Monday, December 10, 2018, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.