

Assessment of Strategies to Improve the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Our Juvenile Dependency System: Top Three Priorities, by Court

During 2017 Legislative System, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 5006 and attached a budget note directing stakeholders in the juvenile dependency system to "work collaboratively, at both the state and local levels, to solicit input on, develop, and implement strategies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Oregon's juvenile dependency systems and to determine the appropriate level of legal services."

To fulfill the mandate to work collaboratively at the local level, each court was asked to assemble a team of stakeholders and complete an assessment and identify priorities for system improvement. The table below shows the priority areas chosen by each court in the assessment submitted to the Juvenile Court Improvement Program. The assessment included fifteen court functions for courts to consider prioritizing, but courts were also able to work with their multidisciplinary teams to identify other improvements. An 'X' in a row indicates that the court selected that function as one of its top three priority areas. An 'X*' indicates that the court selected a strategy that was related to, but not identical to, the function in that row. For example, several courts indicated that they already have settlement opportunities in dependency cases, but have prioritized improving the quality of those settlement opportunities.

	Baker	Benton	Clackamas	Clatsop	Columbia	Coos	Crook / Jefferson	Curry	Deschutes	Douglas	Grant / Harney	Hood River	Jackson	Josephine	Klamath	Lake	Lane	Lincoln	Linn	Malheur	Marion	Multnomah	Tillamook	Union / Wallowa	Washington	Yamhill	Total		
Our court allows attorneys and/or parties and witnesses to appear telephonically or via video conference for certain brief, routine or short notice dependency hearings when it can be done without compromising the rights of parents or child.																									X*		1		
Shelter hearings consistently occur at regularly scheduled times each day.				X					X							X*					X*					X	5		
Our court provides parents an opportunity to meet with their attorney prior to the shelter hearing.				X				X*	X*		X*	X								X*	X					X	8		
Our court regularly hears other juvenile court matters at a consistent time and day.																								X*			1		
Our court has a frequency of review schedule that is tailored to the nature of the case.																	X*										1		
Our court prepares dependency judgments efficiently and timely by utilizing available court technology.			X*																				X	X*			3		
Our court provides all parties adequate opportunity to review judgments before they are signed by a judge.																									X*		1		
Our court has specific procedures to determine when complex judgments need more time and whether and when certain judgments should be prepared by the prevailing or moving party.								X*								X*											2		
Our court has effective settlement opportunities, including in-court conferences.			X		X*	X*						X	X	X	X*					X*				X*		X	X*	11	
Our court ensures that timeliness of juvenile dependency matters is prioritized. For example, our court reduces delays by restricting the availability of continuances or elevates the priority of juvenile dependency matters on court dockets.			X*							X				X							X*	X*				X	X*	7	
Our Model Court (Dependency) Team works collaboratively to use our respective data to inform decision making, plan for system improvement, and evaluate our efforts.						X*	X*	X*	X*							X*					X*	X	X*	X*				9	
Our court ensures that children who become legally freed have a finalized adoption within a year.	X*						X*										X						X*	X			X	X	7
Our court ensures timely discovery / information to the court and parties is available prior to the hearing.	X*			X	X						X*		X	X	X*		X*					X					X	10	
Our court asks, at every hearing being conducted pursuant to ORS 419B.449 or ORS 419B.476 where the case plan is reunification, what is preventing the child from returning home today.									X*		X																	2	
Our court individually schedules juvenile dependency hearings so that each hearing has a scheduled day and time.															X										X*			2	
Other	X								X		X	X							X	X				X				7	

Assessment of Strategies to Improve the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Our Juvenile Dependency System: Functions That Courts Are Performing Consistently

The assessment presented courts with fifteen practices and asked courts to indicate whether they perform the function consistently, perform the function but have room for improvement, or do not perform the function. The table below shows each function, and the boxes with a • identify courts that indicated that they are performing it consistently.

	Baker	Benton	Clackamas	Clatsop	Columbia	Cook / Jefferson	Coos	Curry	Deschutes	Douglas	Grant / Harney	Hood River	Jackson	Josephine	Klamath	Lake	Lane	Lincoln	Linn	Malheur	Marion	Multnomah	Polk	Tillamook	Union / Morrow	Walla Walla	Washington	Wasco	Yamhill	Total
Our court allows attorneys and/or parties and witnesses to appear telephonically or via video conference for certain brief, routine or short notice dependency hearings when it can be done without compromising the rights of parents or child.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•		•				•		•	•	•	•					17
Shelter hearings consistently occur at regularly scheduled times each day.		•	•		•	•	•	•			•			•		•	•	•	•		•	•	•		•				•	17
Our court provides parents an opportunity to meet with their attorney prior to the shelter hearing.	•									•			•					•	•		•	•	•			•				9
Our court regularly hears other juvenile court matters at a consistent time and day.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•						•	•			•	•		•			•			•	16
Our court has a frequency of review schedule that is tailored to the nature of the case.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•			•	•			•	•		•	•	•	•	•			19
Our court prepares dependency judgments efficiently and timely by utilizing available court technology.		•		•		•							•							•	•	•	•			•	•		•	11
Our court provides all parties adequate opportunity to review judgments before they are signed by a judge.		•																					•			•				3
Our court has specific procedures to determine when complex judgments need more time and whether and when certain judgments should be prepared by the prevailing or moving party.				•	•	•		•								•				•	•		•		•	•			•	11
Our court has effective settlement opportunities, including in-court conferences.	•	•		•	•			•		•	•										•	•		•		•	•			12
Our court ensures that timeliness of juvenile dependency matters is prioritized. For example, our court reduces delays by restricting the availability of continuances or elevates the priority of juvenile dependency matters on court dockets.	•	•		•	•	•		•			•	•	•			•				•	•		•	•	•	•	•			17
Our Model Court (Dependency) Team works collaboratively to use our respective data to inform decision making, plan for system improvement, and evaluate our efforts.		•								•		•								•	•			•		•	•			8
Our court ensures that children who become legally freed have a finalized adoption within a year.												•									•					•	•			4
Our court ensures timely discovery / information to the court and parties is available prior to the hearing.		•				•		•		•										•	•		•			•				8
Our court asks, at every hearing being conducted pursuant to ORS 419B.449 or ORS 419B.476 where the case plan is reunification, what is preventing the child from returning home today.					•	•								•		•					•	•		•					•	8
Our court individually schedules juvenile dependency hearings so that each hearing has a scheduled day and time.	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•				•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	22

Assessment of Strategies to Improve the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Our Juvenile Dependency System: Functions That Courts Are Not Performing

The assessment presented courts with fifteen practices and asked courts to indicate whether they perform the function consistently, perform the function but have room for improvement, or do not perform the function. The table below shows each function, and the boxes with a • identify courts that indicated that they are **not performing** that function.

	Baker	Benton	Clackamas	Clatsop	Columbia	Crook / Jefferson	Coos	Curry	Deschutes	Douglas	Grant / Harney	Hood River	Jackson	Josephine	Klamath	Lake	Lane	Lincoln	Linn	Malheur	Marion	Multnomah	Tillamook	Polk	Union / Morrow	Union / Willows	Washington	Wasco	Yamhill	Total
Our court allows attorneys and/or parties and witnesses to appear telephonically or via video conference for certain brief, routine or short notice dependency hearings when it can be done without compromising the rights of parents or child.																														0
Shelter hearings consistently occur at regularly scheduled times each day.	•			•					•		•	•				•				•			•		•	•	•			10
Our court provides parents an opportunity to meet with their attorney prior to the shelter hearing.				•			•		•																				•	4
Our court regularly hears other juvenile court matters at a consistent time and day.												•											•							2
Our court has a frequency of review schedule that is tailored to the nature of the case.											•										•								•	3
Our court prepares dependency judgments efficiently and timely by utilizing available court technology.								•	•			•				•						•		•						6
Our court provides all parties adequate opportunity to review judgments before they are signed by a judge.	•		•	•			•	•		•	•	•		•			•	•			•	•		•	•				•	16
Our court has specific procedures to determine when complex judgments need more time and whether and when certain judgments should be prepared by the prevailing or moving party.	•	•	•							•		•						•	•			•	•		•					10
Our court has effective settlement opportunities, including in-court conferences.																•		•											•	3
Our court ensures that timeliness of juvenile dependency matters is prioritized. For example, our court reduces delays by restricting the availability of continuances or elevates the priority of juvenile dependency matters on court dockets.																														0
Our Model Court (Dependency) Team works collaboratively to use our respective data to inform decision making, plan for system improvement, and evaluate our efforts.				•	•												•					•								4
Our court ensures that children who become legally freed have a finalized adoption within a year.				•			•													•	•			•	•					6
Our court ensures timely discovery / information to the court and parties is available prior to the hearing.										•				•																2
Our court asks, at every hearing being conducted pursuant to ORS 419B.449 or ORS 419B.476 where the case plan is reunification, what is preventing the child from returning home today.		•		•						•	•								•					•						6
Our court individually schedules juvenile dependency hearings so that each hearing has a scheduled day and time.							•																			•				2