

**Juvenile Court Improvement Program Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2020
Via WebEx**

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
x	Hon. Lindsay Partridge, Marion County Circuit Court	x	Hon. Eva Temple, Umatilla and Morrow Counties Circuit Court
x	Hon. Rebecca A. Duncan, Oregon Supreme Court	x	Hon. Amy Holmes Hehn, Multnomah County Circuit Court
	Hon. Norm Hill, Polk County Circuit Court	x	Hon. Karen Ostrye, Hood River County Circuit Court
x	Lacey Andresen, Deputy Director, DHS	x	Amy Miller, Executive Director YRJ
x	Mark Hardin, Retired Director, Child Welfare Center on Children & the Law, American Bar Association		Nathan Schwab, Oregon Foster Youth Connection, Former Foster Youth
x	Darin Mancuso, Foster Care Ombudsman, Governor's Advocacy Office	x	Shaney Starr, Oregon Casa Network & Casa of Marion County
x	Gail Schelle, Adoptions Program Manager, DHS		Debra Gilmore, Oregon Casa Network
x	Keren Farkas, Deputy General Counsel, Office of Public Defense Services	x	Joanne Southey, Deputy Chief Counsel, Civil Enforcement Division, DOJ
	Mandy Augsburger, President, Marion Polk Foster Parent Association, Foster Parent	x	Daniel Schneider, Training Specialist, Child Welfare Partnership, Center for Improvement of Child & Family Services
x	Tom Maxwell, TCA Douglas County Circuit Court		
INTERESTED PARTIES			
	Emily Hawkins, Office of Tribal Affairs, DHS, ICWA Consultant		Gloria Vidal- OPDS- data Greg Montgomery, Kathy Steiner, ODHS Child Welfare Program Manager office, Kim Keller, ODHS Child Permanency Manager Adam- DHS Heidi Strauch
JFCPD STAFF			
√	Megan Hassen, Interim Director, JFCPD	√	Yousef Allouzi, Data Analyst, JFCPD
√	Amy Benedum, JFCPD Program Analyst	√	Melissa Dablow, Management Assistant, JFCPD

I. Welcome & Introductions – Hon. Lindsay Partridge

This meeting was held virtually via WebEx. Changes in the JFCPD staffing. Shary Mason retired and Leola McKenzie took a new job. Heidi Strauch will be the new Juvenile Court Programs Manager, and Nanci Thaemert will be the new Director for Juvenile Court and Family Programs. Both will start at JFCPD in January. Group would like a public way to recognize Leola and Shari for all their work. Megan added that JFCPD is very short staffed, including the absence of Michelle Markson and Kristen Farnsworth.

II. Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2020 Meeting – Hon. Lindsay Partridge

Approved.

III. Reports:

a. Family Dependency Treatment Court Grant Award – Amy Benedum

Grant Request was granted, 3 years of funding for statewide support of Statewide Dependency Treatment Court, work on uniform methods of referral, shore up treatment services, advisory committee, and training.

b. OJD Business Process for Assigning Case Numbers – Megan Hassen

Gave overview of change in law, starting January 1, 2021. Will be a group that have multiple case numbers on January 1st that carry over, but eventually everyone will have just one case number. Now new allegations filed under oldest case. Training rolled out last week. Under new rule, not amended petitions, it is 2nd or 3rd Petition. Amy Miller states it will bring much needed clarification, and ease confusion.

New form of judgment will be coming soon as well. Set forth basis of jurisdiction front and center. Draft form now, on the website with training materials, waiting for ICWA pieces to put in place. Will be released between now and January 1, 2021. ORICWA changes go into effect 1/1/21 as well. JELI forms committee will meet on Thursday, then it will be a matter of getting all technical work done. May be able to get a draft out while technical changes are being finalized. Judge Partridge-it might not be on everyone's radar especially if it's happening 1/2/21, the Judges on call will start getting the word out to Judges.

c. ORICWA Implementation – Megan Hassen

Incorporates federal provisions and adds additional protections, new issues for courts, attorneys and DHS to be aware of, working on a bench book sent out today in draft form. Video tape on JCIP website of model court summit that covers ICWA and ORICWA, changes to business processes since there are

brand new things that need to happen. Developing forms and processes and making sure all is documented.

Yousef is working on Data collection requirement for OJD and DHS: will have to report to legislature compliance every two years with the new rule, first report due 9/2022.

Hoping to have finalized forms by 1/1/21 on the website. Will be outlining the most pressing things Judges need to be aware of as a summary of the bench book to allow Judges to quickly see what has changed. Technical assistance guide for CRB, and providing Q and A on 1/8/21, also plan to have training for Judges. Judge Holmes-Hehn believes the form would be cleaner if it was separate for ICWA specific. Review Hearing and Permanency Hearing forms are biggest changes. Created a supplement to be added to judgment. Easier to have a separate judgment form? Megan can send out to anyone that can help look at the new forms. No agreement on what everything means. Discussed the purpose of ORICWA.

Emily Hawkins: In response to what is happening on national level, also mistakes made by OJD and DHS on application, need to make sure we are following the intent of the law. Oregon tribes wanted to see enhanced protections. Hold child welfare to higher standards, to hold true standard of active efforts for family, research if ICWA relates, and engage child with tribe. Child welfare do a stronger job to follow intent of the law.

Kathy Ostrye: love the idea of having ICWA on a separate judgment instead of having it imbedded.

Judge Temple: Mediation will now be required for ORICWA, there are no mediators in her court, how will this work without them? Mandate is that the court offer to order to mediation between tribe and guardian/proposed parent for the purpose of cultural connections. DHS has a program and has agreed for it to take place with them. Ironing out the details of how the referral will work. DHS created a cultural work group, there will be an amendment. Gail Schelle will have an email box where courts can send referrals to and DHS will coordinate. Also offering mediation for birth families.

d. Family First Prevention Services Act; Implementation – Kathy Steiner, ODHS

Legislation passed in 2019, QRTP already presented and implemented. Building a prevention system. All services must be approved as part of the clearing house. Implementation team 50 members, having it virtual has allowed much higher participation. Reviewed the Oregon's Family First Prevention Act Draft that was sent to the group. Submitted initial plan, the handout has a link to Family First website. It's final for submission but recognize there will be revisions. Phase I now, discussing when Phase II will begin. When do we start

family first prevention in Oregon? Implementation date is not set, working on business processes. Adam and Cheryl meeting with tribes to make sure we are working together to ensure it is equitable and effective. Family First prevention is part of a broader transformation of DHS, will help fund more and better prevention services. Supplement to services, not a replacement. The ultimate goal is fewer dependency cases and fewer kids in care. Prevention of foster care placement, vision is that we get to a place where we serve families with risk factors before they experience maltreatment.

Keren from OPDS- scope? How many people do you want to serve? Lacey, trying to quantify a population that has not been served well in the past, possibly will know more in a year. Families already in the system, children unsafe in their homes now. In Home units? Safety worker, in home safety planning and service delivery.

IV. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) – Yousef Allouzi

a. Quarterly Statistical Reports; Data Dashboard Discussion

Yousef reviewed Statewide Statistics reports sent out to the group. Noted that COVID has affected the statistics- Comparing 2 COVID Quarters together instead of non-COVID with COVID. Moving away from Data Summary sheet to move towards being more visual, move the data to the dashboard, and make it more interactive. Will be a public facing side and a license-required section. Reduction in time to TPR? Cases that had to be continued, normal process where many would have been adjudicated were postponed for a long time. Most hearings are done remotely now. Multnomah has not held many TPR proceedings yet by phone. Continue portions of trials, very complex. Taking longer. Keren: pending TPR's guidance from federal children's bureau, is this an appropriate time to file TPR? Do families have access to all services, not many new filings. Permanency change of plan. DOJ seems to be holding off. Guess is 4th quarter will show that the number is still down. Assume the large change in time to TPR is COVID Related.

Demonstrated how to get to the public data dashboard from JCIP website. Will be working on a summary, it's updated daily, and courts will be able to access data faster. Feedback? Mark Hardin: it looks great! Hope that we can routinely let courts know if they fall from the norm, really well, or falling behind. Bring things to their attention.

Lacey: Timeliness by case plan type

Yousef: Send out a link to the page. Put it in the chat, and will continue to include it in memos, correspondence.

Joanne asked to have statistics format kept the same through 2020. End of year and 4th quarter. Yousef will put them together for courts that need them. Can also connect courts with each other to help put plans together.

Keren: Include status of child's placement? Yousef will look into it and see if that is a data point odyssey can track.
Yousef recognized that Conor Wall built much of it and he is happy to take it on.

b. County Adoption Timeliness Data

Reviewed information sent to the group. Lag one quarter behind.
Drastically increased timeliness of finalized adoptions. Great work!!
Improvement over the history. Biggest reason for improvement, moving forward with placing, improved tracking in central office able to find barriers to adoptions in general and on specific cases. Targeted case work, specific cases where free children in designated adoption placements and figuring out how to remove barriers. Field more resources, job rotation positions helping field with tracking adoptions, support positions has been on hold, hoping to fill positions on a permanent basis. Shining a light on children lingering in care because of paperwork has been a great help in motivating how to align practice with goals.

c. New reports in 2021

Several reports working on in 2021, for ORICWA, working with DHS to get reports ready and out on time. Representation: Number of attorneys at a hearing, # of juveniles in care, new reports may be here by March.

V. Discussion Topics:

a. Eyes and Model Court Summit Planning – Megan Hassen

Save the Date Memo going to Courts this week 8/8-8/10, proceeding with a plan for online conference. Megan shared preliminary ideas of topics and format and allowing local model court teams organize themselves.

Model Court:

Family Treatment Courts? Is it too soon for this to be a focus? Grant issues with it since there are two different sources of funding that can't be mixed up. Amy Miller Hearing from different parts of the state for what works, parenting time creativity.

Format Ideas:

A lot of breaks and sitting all day in front of a computer is hard. 90 minutes is too long without a break. How to keep people focused? Taking up the entire day will make it so people will check out and do other things during conference. Give people one hour in AM and PM to do other business. Scale down expectations, narrow the topic. Two 60 minute sessions to give local teams enough inspiration to go back in afternoon to work on it.

Topic Ideas:

Reasonable efforts, last summer, Survey questions keeping attention, polling, 45 minutes is better.

Eyes:

Judge Karen Ostrye, time to be creative with local teams is nice. Sunday afternoon in August on computer sounds a bit rough. Recommend, 5-7PM so the entire day, or skip Sunday and incorporate it into the Monday, if we can't do the networking part that happens on Sunday, it would be better to keep it in the one day. Also- if it is just an update, and we aren't interacting, why can't we just record it and post it online. Justice Rebecca Duncan: Judicial conference also has an appellate update, the judicial training group is going to do it on more of a regular basis, even quarterly, and recorded, can be made available to this group as well. Might not have as heavy of juvenile dependency cases or covered at the same depth. Not sure what drove the change, consider the same model. Video appellate update quarterly? More in depth per case with more time. Must decide by late Spring, budget concerns as well, if we don't use the money, we may make other purchases. Biggest benefit for the conference is the networking that happens. If it is remote, we can just do a series of webinars. Were discussion groups successful? Format: Series of brown bags for Judges and something more organized for Model Court.

Judge Ostrye – ingrained in the County that August is always reserved for this conference, encourage courts to keep those times set aside so we don't lose the momentum.

Brown Bag webinars for other education pieces too? Like for new Judges.

JCIP Staff start getting agenda together with JELI, or special committee, happy to have input! Reach out to Megan to make sure you are included as we sort it out.

Waiting until March might be too late. Scheduling might be difficult for speakers. Work offline from committee to move it along by March. Heidi will be the point person January 4th moving forward, get in contact with her no later than the end of January. Save the date information should go out now. Judge Partridge will reach out to Judges as well. Lacey from child welfare will reach out to Megan with what will be involved with planning model court.

b. ORICWA Training – Megan Hassen

Dates will go out by 1/1/21

Court Point of View

CRB Point of View

Standardized training for CASAs across the state, different interpretations now, we need a consistent message out, one in afternoon and one in morning each person can pick one to attend as a webinar.

Also Attorneys

c. JCIP online resources

Is there a better way for us to put this information on a website? How can we do this better, clunky and hard to get to, accessible to judges, some for public.

How can we get all this information more available? CASA loves the idea of

standardizing training viewing across the state. Heidi states it is a priority for her, many different people need access to this training.

VI. Upcoming Events – ORICWA Training; Date TBD

VII. Next Meeting: March 8, 2021, 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.