

**Juvenile Court Improvement Program Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2021
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
x	Jessica Loyd-Rogers, President, Marion Polk Foster Parent Association, CRB Member		Daniel Schneider, Training Specialist, Child Welfare Partnership, Center for Improvement of Child & Family Services
x	Tom Maxwell, TCA Douglas County Circuit Court		Adam Becenti, ODHS Director of Tribal Affairs
	Rebecca Jones Gaston, ODHS Child Welfare Director		
INTERESTED PARTIES			
x x x	Gloria Vidal, OPDS- data Greg Montgomery, BFSD Kim Keller, ODHS Child Permanency Manager	x	Jay Wurscher-DHS drug counselor
JFCPD STAFF			
x	Nanci Thaemert, Director, JFCPD	x	Yousef Allouzi, Data Analyst, JFCPD
x	Amy Benedum, JFCPD Program Analyst	x	Nikki Hahn, Management Assistant, JFCPD

x	Heidi Strauch, Juvenile Court Programs Manager	x	Megan Hassen, Senior Juvenile Law Analyst
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I. Welcome & Introductions – Heidi Strauch

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting – Heidi Strauch

II. Reports:

a. Family Dependency Treatment Program – Heidi Strauch

Grant has been received, new staff have been hired, new analyst will be starting part time on 3/15/21 and full time on 3/22/21. New hire is Mia Ruston, Family Law Analyst.

b. ORICWA Implementation – Megan Hassen

Have released a new set of ORICWA forms, also Oregon specific judicial bench book, have held two brown bag meetings re: ORICWA. Links are on the website. Group requested training for advocates, that will be reviewed after the conclusion of the brown bag series. Megan has been covering the new ORICWA until new staff are up to date. New JCIP/ICWA Analyst start date of 4/1/21.

III. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) – Yousef Allouzi

a. Adoptions data

Statewide adoptions data is at 53%, is holding steady. Kudos from Judge Partridge to Gail Schelle, a lot of work done has improved the statistics.

IV. Discussion Topics:

a. Eyes and Model Court Summit Planning – Heidi Strauch

JELI Education committee has been meeting. Conference will be held remotely and not meet on Sunday. Focusing on Monday: reasonable efforts, effects of COVID, nuts and bolts of model court teams, appellate and legislative updates. Tuesday: supporting model court teams and looking at family treatment courts.

b. New JCIP Grant Application (*Priority topic*) – Heidi Strauch

Heidi Strauch: Background; JCIP grant is a 5-year cycle, the big picture gets reset every 5 years. Application for next cycle is due June 30th, 2021.

Federal government lays out what needs to be addressed, JCIP decides what will best meet those requirements. Previous project language may have been confusing, will try to alleviate that by using grant project language.

Mark Hardin: regarding federal expectations, not that strict, few specific rules. Up to JCIP to decide what is in plan to submit to federal government. Non-competitive grant, Oregon is entitled to get the money so long as it improves abuse and neglect cases. Hoping JCIP will take a second look strategically. Determine amount of backload post COVID and providing temporary resources.

Suggestions for how JCIP grant can improve justices:

Shaney Starr: Courts have different expectations of CASAs. Not a full understanding of abilities and how to reach out to the court if necessary.

Keren Farkas: enhancement of practice, improve advocacy of outcomes of case. Decrease risk but keep family together, ensure that atty's for children can have meaningful visits prior to shelter.

Amy Miller: focusing on high quality parenting time, developing visits around shelters, parents and children should not have to wait for a court hearing in order to reunite.

Darin Mancuso: Some consistency around the State with some understanding of what can occur within reason based on resources. A focus on cross-over youth and additional training for all involved in such cases.

Lacey Andresen: Likes the idea of children not entering care at time of shelter, prefer in home depending on circumstances. Currently have the ability to serve a child who is unsafe in-home with a safety plan. Relative certification is another issue but that should be something that is addressed.

Keren Farkas: pre-petition representation may be something that could be supported.

Judge Holmes-Hehn: agrees with what has been said, at same time generating a list of options would be helpful.

Judge Partridge: might be able to get judicial capacity if there is a backlog but hold up may be attorneys, etc availability. Maybe use technology to be able to connect children with parents quicker, should be able to do visitations using technology.

Lacey Andresen: likes using technology as a resource to connect children, parents, and foster parents.

Judge Partridge: would like something scheduled in May to talk about grant. Then next June meeting would summarize grant.

Mark Hardin: would like to see that charts are sent out periodically about county comparisons done graphically rather than as a table. What are means of improving on a particular measure; surveys, interviews, etc.

Yousef Allouzi: has 6 or 7 reports that are close to being uploaded to the data dashboard. Have to be able to show if there is improvement.

Megan Hassen: in past there has been a mix of general funds and JCIP funds that have supported work, the question is how to put that together, trainings have taken more funds.

What JCIP does well or group would like to maintain:

Judge Ostrye: relies heavily on the forms, opportunity that JCIP provides for judges and partners to collaborate. Conferences and training opportunities are important.

Judge Holmes-Hehn: relaying appellate and legislative information

Judge Temple: relies on forms. Is any funding used to train attorneys?

Judge Partridge: JLTA (Juvenile Law Training Academy) and OCDLA

Megan Hassen: JCIP staff helps develop training or serves as presenters

Joanne Southey: funding JLTA has been important

c. Amended petitions when parents agree to amended language – Judge Partridge

On the date of jurisdictional hearing, the agency is amending the petition without filing an amended petition. New jurisdictional judgment has amended language, DHS unsure if amended petition needs filed.

Joanne Southey: if there is an admissions form, JCIP's is used. Preference is to have exact language in judgment, strongly recommended not to file an amended petition because of confusion.

Judge Partridge: concerned about parent admitting to something that's not filed yet, or that they haven't seen.

Megan Hassen: The form is clear about whether the admission relates to an allegation in the petition or whether it is an amended allegation.

Joanne Southey: appellate issue is amending something after having been admitted to.

Keren Farkas: parents have to feel they are voluntarily admitting and should be getting sufficient counsel.

Amy Holmes-Hehn: In Multnomah, attorneys will email or text the language to parents so that language is in front of them.

Joanne Southey: maybe the language could be shared on a screen. Change may be something that could be discussed with Model Court Teams.

d. UA testing for Child Welfare cases – Kimberly Keller

Kim Keller: has asked Jay Wurscher to speak about upcoming changes.

Jay Wurscher: Is an addictions counselor with DHS. In the past, there has been the ability to drug test parents. DHS does not have a budget to drug test parents. Have asked the parents to utilize their own insurance, OHP, etc. it was the only resource that paid for testing. Rules are changing, will not be able to provide for UA's any longer. COVID has increased the need for UAs, however the testing is not being used adequately. If party is in a treatment program, that testing is covered due to own revenue source. There is literature about how to use UAs correctly. Worried there will be a bunch of court ordered UAs that will not get paid because there is no revenue stream.

V. Upcoming Events –

- a. Through the Eyes of a Child Conference and Model Court Summit: August 9-10, 2021

VI. Next Meeting: June 14, 2021; 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.