



Kids are Different: Centering Child & Youth Perspectives in Juvenile Cases

25th Anniversary
Through the Eyes of a Child Conference
August 7-8, 2022

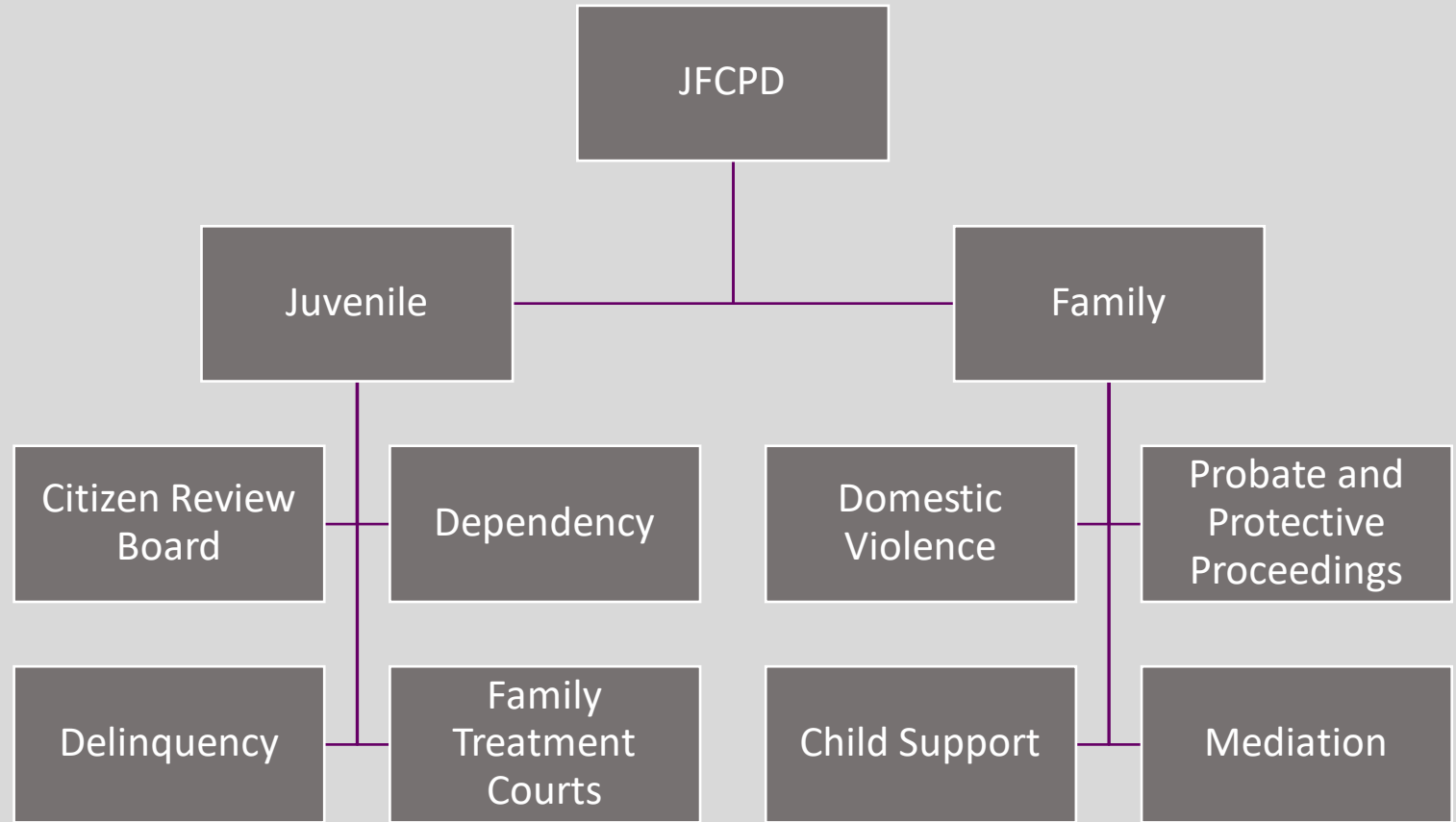


Juvenile and Family Court Programs

Through the Eyes of a Child Conference

August 2022

Structure



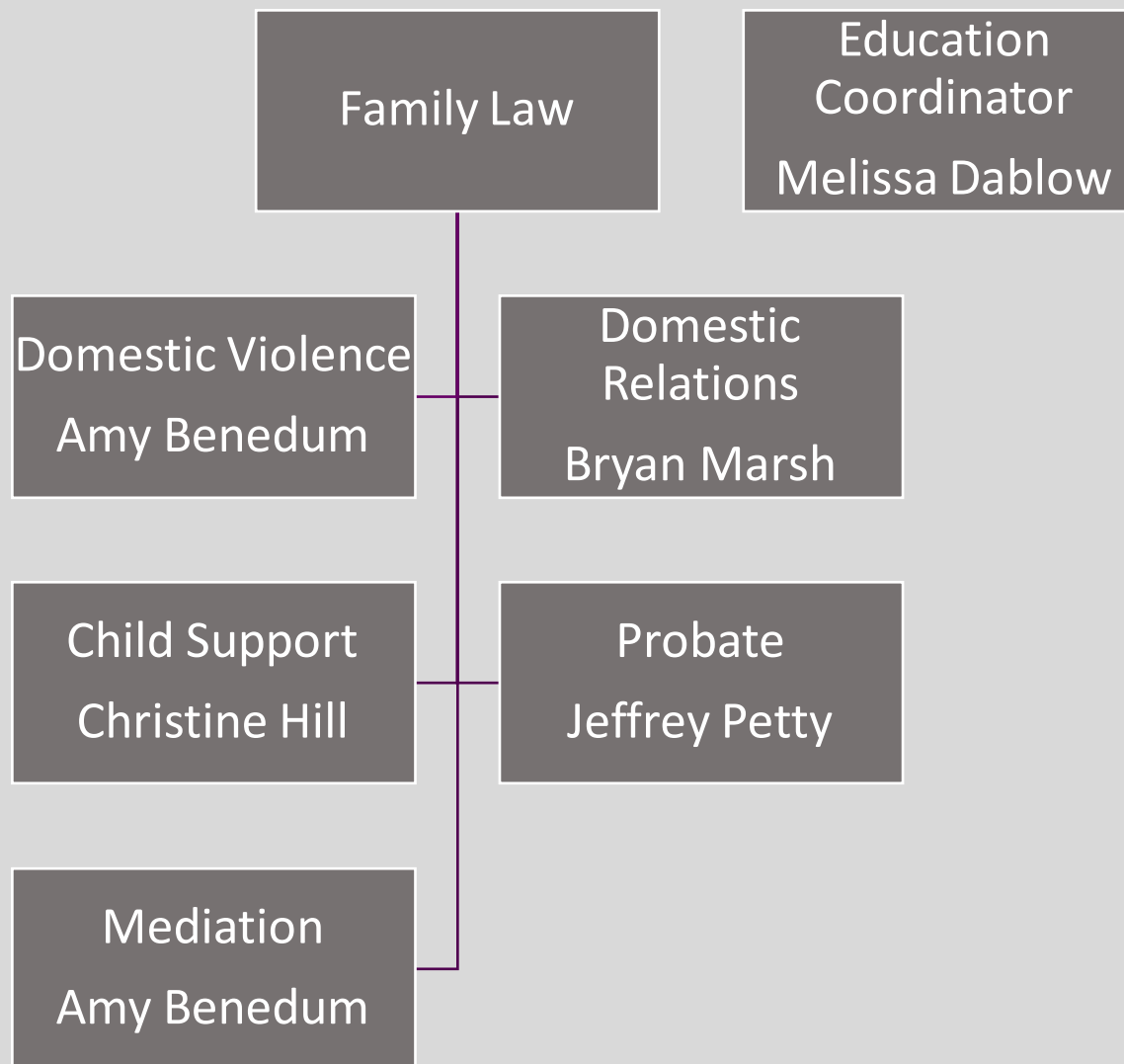
The statewide family law program provides technical assistance and support to family law facilitators who assist unrepresented parties involved in domestic relations proceedings in the trial courts.

The family law program provides education, support, and assistance to judges and staff on family law matters including probate, protective proceedings, mediation, and domestic violence issues. The program evaluates policies, procedures, and laws and makes recommendations to improve access to court services for Oregon families statewide.

It also provides staff and support for the statutory State Family Law Advisory Committee (SFLAC).

Family Law Programs

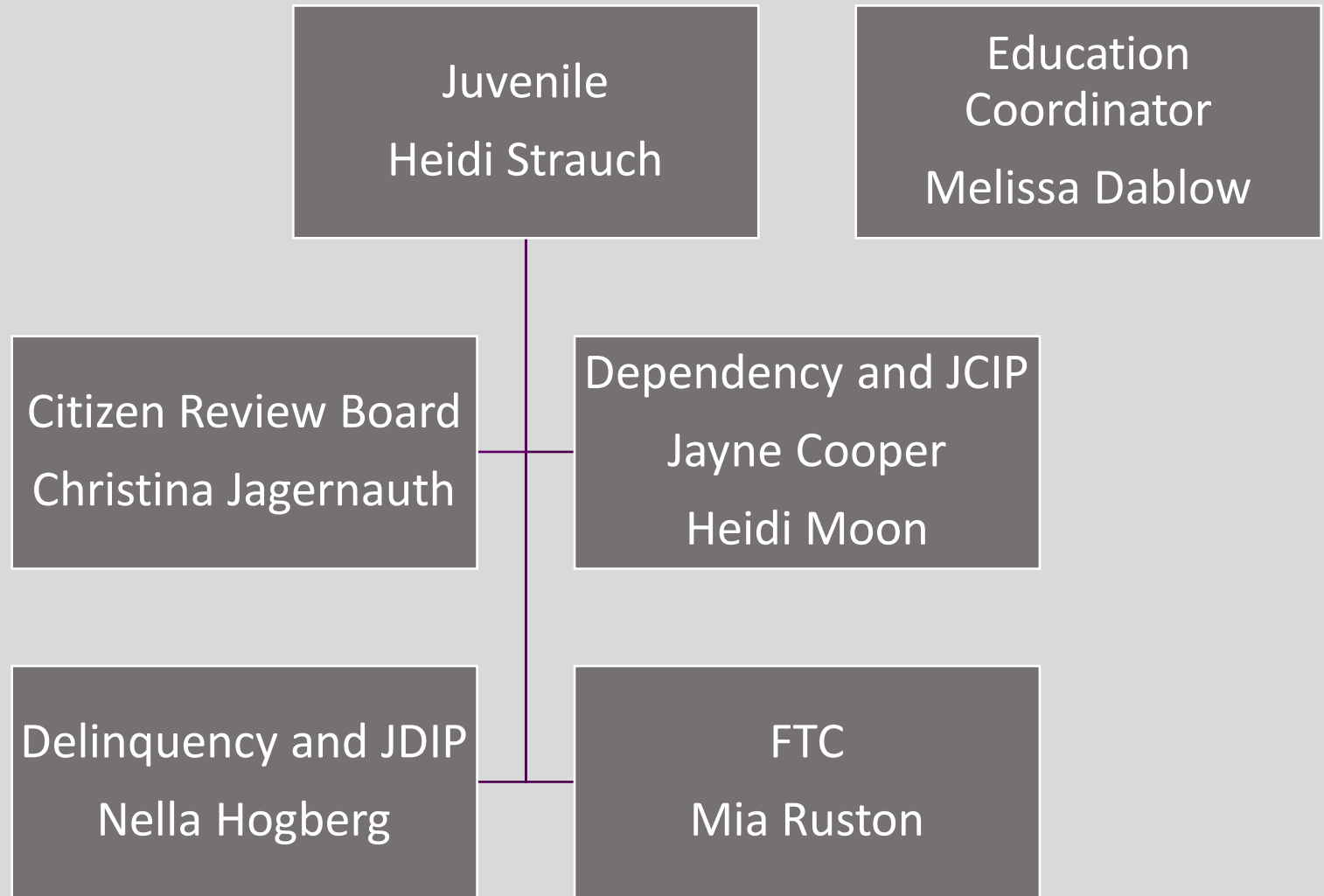
Family Law Structure



Juvenile Programs is responsible for strategic planning, collection and evaluation of statistics, and performing high level liaison work to develop policies, procedures, and evaluate laws affecting juvenile court operations statewide. It develops and delivers training and education for judges, OJD staff, and juvenile court system stakeholders at all levels. It includes the Juvenile Court Improvement Program (JCIP), the Juvenile Delinquency Improvement Program (JDIP) and Family Treatment Courts (FTC).

Juvenile Programs

Juvenile Structure



Citizen Review Board

A program that reviews the cases of children in foster care. Reviews are conducted by boards of citizen volunteers from local communities. CRB brings transparency and public oversight to foster care cases and a path for citizens to shape public policy affecting Oregon's children and families in the dependency system. Currently, there are 62 boards in 33 of Oregon's 36 counties, with about 250 volunteer board members.



Family Treatment Courts (FTC)

FTC's focus is to implement and solidify best practices, facilitate collaboration among system partners, increase access and participation to family treatment courts and provide ongoing evaluation and continuous quality improvement to existing treatment courts. It is guided by a statewide FTC Advisory Committee and dedicated to improving the well-being of families, reduce the length of time children spend in foster care and increase the rate children reunify with their parents.



Juvenile Delinquency Improvement Program (JDIP)

Modeled after the successful Court Improvement Program in the dependency system. It expands training, resource development, and support to work with courts, stakeholders, and community partners to improve Oregon's delinquency system.



JDIP Values

1. Collaborate with Stakeholders
2. Address all disparities
3. Identify gaps and barriers
4. Utilize a rehabilitative lens
5. Acknowledge adolescent development
6. Recognize that children are different
7. Promote trauma informed practice
8. Recognize the importance of both public safety and accountability
9. Look at prevention vs. intervention
10. Address the tension between rehabilitation and protecting youth's rights
11. Ensure that victim voices are heard and their rights are protected
12. Effectively intervene with youth before they are criminalized
13. Elevate marginalized voices

JDIP Goals

1. Improve consistency and quality across counties and court systems
2. Empower youth and their families
3. Improve processes and provide equal access to justice statewide
4. Educate judges on best practices
5. Utilize data-based practices
6. Improve youths' connection to supports in the community
7. Educate stakeholders on best practices
8. Improve victim involvement and satisfaction in the system

JDIP Judges Committee (JJC)

A committee of judges who initially guided the development of JDIP, it now acts as a platform for judges to bring their voices to the Advisory Committee, through their judge representatives, develops and delivers educational content to judges presiding in juvenile delinquency matters, and acts as a conduit between the broader JDIP Advisory Committee and juvenile delinquency judges.



Juvenile Court Improvement Project (JCIP)

JCIP is a federally funded program that works to improve court and system-wide practices in child abuse and neglect cases. Under the grant, JCIP activities require ongoing collaboration with the Department of Human Services, Office of Public Defense Services, Department of Justice, statewide CASA programs, tribes, and other child welfare stakeholders. JCIP develops and delivers education programs for judges, OJD staff, CRB volunteer board members, and stakeholders in the child welfare system.



JCIP Federally Required Priority Focus Areas



PRIORITY AREA 1:
QUALITY COURT
HEARINGS



PRIORITY AREA 2:
TIMELINESS AND
PERMANENCY



PRIORITY AREA 3:
QUALITY LEGAL
REPRESENTATION



ADDITIONAL PRIORITY
AREA 4: ICWA AND TRIBAL
COLLABORATION

Priority Area 1: Quality Court Hearings

JCIP is using the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) model with the strategic planning subcommittees to identify areas of need and develop interventions to improve the quality of hearings and reviews in dependency cases, focusing on shelter hearings and/or reasonable efforts.

The three projects being developed under this project area are:

1. Offer training to judicial officers on trauma-informed courtroom management and communication
2. Develop a statewide reasonable efforts framework to ensure equal access to justice across the state courts
3. Support Model Court Teams as they develop their local implementation projects to improve practice in shelter hearings



Priority Area 2: Timeliness and Permanency (Joint ODHS Project)

The JCIP-ODHS Subcommittee has also been using the CBCC's CQI model to identify areas where interventions could improve the time to permanency for children in foster care. For this project, the subcommittee is focused primarily on improving time to reunification, while also looking at ways to improve time to guardianship.



Priority Area 3: Quality Legal Representation (QLR)

The JCIP QLR Subcommittee utilized the CBCC's CQI framework and identified 4 areas in need of improvement, including:

1. Access to comprehensive, foundational training for attorneys new to dependency law.
2. Increased compliance with Oregon's attorney performance standards.
3. Increased recruitment and retention of attorneys to dependency practice.
4. Increased supports for attorneys practicing dependency law, including attorney (e.g., for secondary trauma) and case (e.g., social workers and/or parent advocates) supports.



Priority Area 4: ICWA and Tribal Collaboration

The JCIP Tribal Collaboration Subcommittee is considering two projects:

1. An ICWA Court in one or more judicial districts with the highest volumes of ICWA cases
2. An implementation guide for Oregon courts and model court teams to use in order to implement (a) an ICWA Court and/or (b) best practices in dependency cases involving Native families.



Judicial Engagement and Leadership Institute (JELI)

Around 2008-2009, a group of judges began to propose an ongoing initiative for juvenile judges to collaborate throughout the year in examining *system improvement* issues—this became JELI. JELI came to fruition in 2012 and the JELI Judges developed their mission: *to assist and encourage judges and referees to be actively engaged year-round in examining juvenile court dependency system issues and developing solutions and strategies to address them, with the goal of improving outcomes for Oregon children and families.*

Today, JELI primarily fulfills its mission through education, mentorship, and forms development, supported by JCIP staff.



Additional Juvenile Program Support

- Legislative Support
- Subject Matter Expertise for Courts and Stakeholders
- Education and Training
- Collaboration with System Partners
- Data Collection and Business Process Support



Training and Education Opportunities

Court Staff

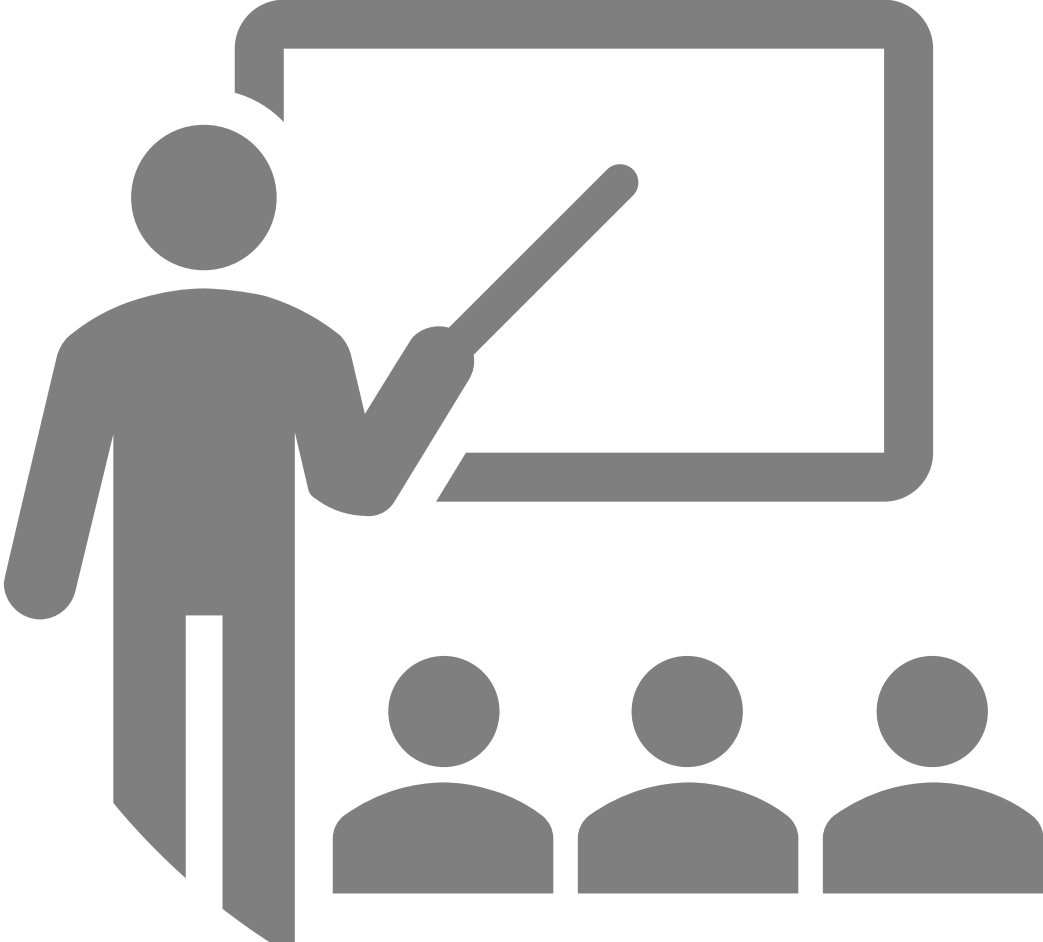


- Juvenile Lunch and Learns
- Family Law Lunch and Learns
- Family Law Facilitator Calls
- Staff and Facilitator Discussion Boards
- Family Law Facilitator Conference

Judges



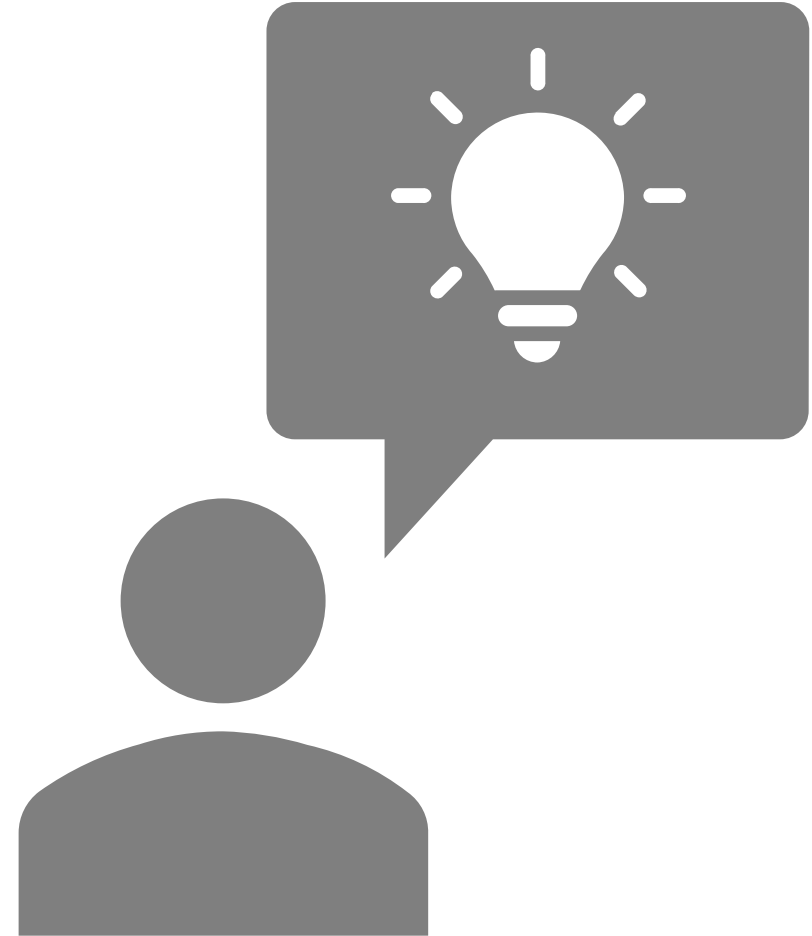
- Spring Convening
- Juvenile Judges Food for Thought
- Through the Eyes of a Child Conference
- Mini-CANI
- Juvenile Delinquency Judges Education Day



The Future of Juvenile Programs

Juvenile Dependency and JCIP:

1. Provide additional outreach and support to Model Court Teams and expand capacity to provide technical assistance;
2. Build on the work of JCIP subcommittees through the CQI process;
3. Add capacity by bringing our staffing back to two full-time analysts and working with the new OGC Juvenile Law Counsel.



The Future of Juvenile Programs

Juvenile Delinquency and JDIP:

1. Institutionalize structure to continue systems change efforts in delinquency system;
2. Expand educational opportunities for judges and court staff;
3. Create guides and educational material;
4. Identify delinquency system gaps and interventions to fill those gaps.



The Future of Juvenile Programs

Family Treatment Courts:

1. Support existing FTC courts with technical assistance and resource development;
2. Expand FTC courts to other interested jurisdictions;
3. Provide statewide training and educational opportunities targets to unique needs of family treatment courts.





Questions



Contact

JFCPD Director

Nanci Thaemert

nanci.a.thaemert@ojd.state.or.us

Juvenile Program Manager

Heidi Strauch

heidi.o.strauch@ojd.state.or.us