



# WHAT IS A MODEL COURT TEAM?

## VISION & PURPOSE FOR MODEL COURT TEAMS

### VISION

A team of representatives from local child welfare stakeholders and partners working together to assess local system needs and implement system improvements.

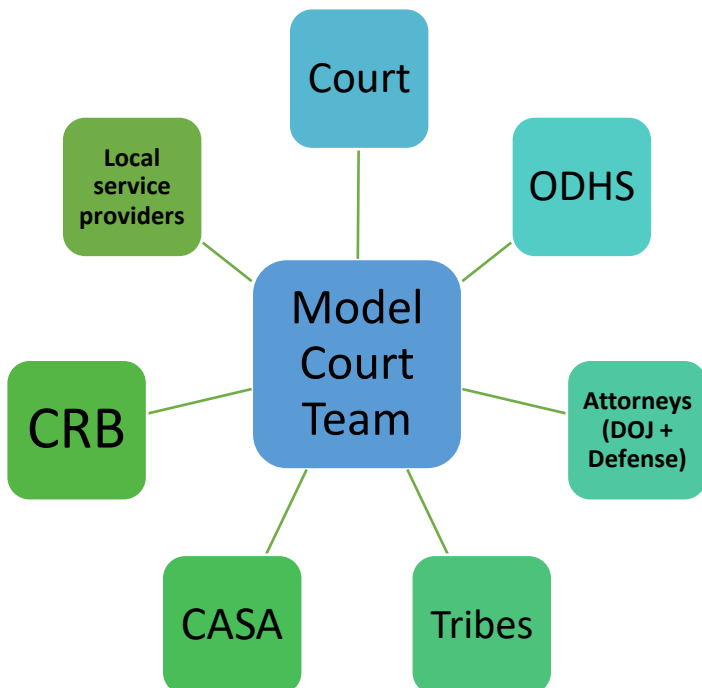
### PURPOSE

To provide a vehicle for locally directed, state supported efforts to improve the juvenile court's handling of dependency cases. Improvement efforts focused on by the Model Court Team should be collaborative, inclusive, and multidisciplinary, looking at each stakeholder's role and responsibility to improve outcomes for families involved in the child welfare system.

**MODEL COURT TEAM** = Team + Focus on System Improvement + Standing Agenda + Projects → **ACHIEVE GOALS.**

## RECOMMENDED TEAM MEMBERS OF A MODEL COURT TEAM

The Model Court Team in each judicial district should be comprised of the local stakeholders and partners needed to effectively make change. The team's make-up may also look different depending upon the focus of its project(s).



Each district has different challenges and needs. **Model Court Teams** understand their local issues and strengths and are **best positioned** to identify **team members** and to create projects that will **have an impact**. **JCIP** is here to **provide support** and **resources** to achieve team goals.

### CORE POINTS REGARDING TEAM

- **Be intentional** about your team members
- **Seek diversity** in experience and thinking
- **Consider size** of the team and its impact on functioning. Do you need more than one group?
- **Right people @ right time:** We don't need the "large group" all the time, we need them at the right time.
- Identify team "managers" to keep team on track
- **Be clear and specific** with what team members are invited to do
- Be **open** and **honest** about how you're distributing control.

### RESOURCES FOR ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE TEAM:

- Liberating Structures: [Purpose to Practice \(P2P\)](#)
- [8 Word Mission Statement](#)
- [Ecocycle Planning](#)



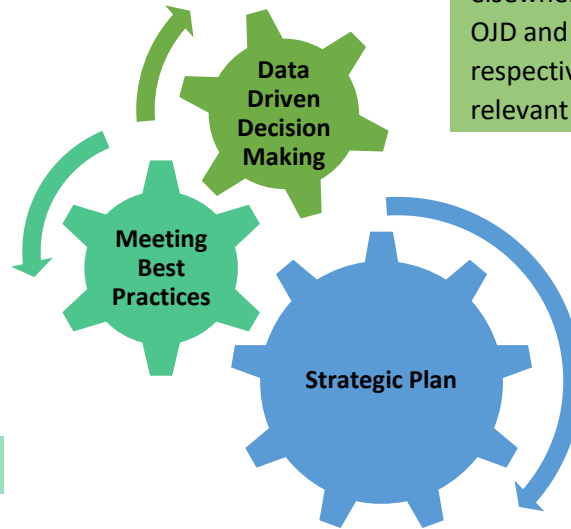
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## AN EFFECTIVE MODEL COURT TEAM

Has a **standing agenda** detailing the steps needed to move projects forward & discussion of system improvement efforts.

Has a **record of meetings**. Can be formal minutes or less rigorous, but something to keep track of where the team is in its steps on various projects.

Is focused on **System Improvement**



Reviews available data from OJD, ODHS and elsewhere and uses this to guide decision making. OJD and ODHS staff could commit to bringing their respective data on whichever data points are relevant to the team quarterly.

Develops projects collaboratively, with specific outcomes to improve and a shared commitment to efforts toward achieving the plan.

## BEST PRACTICE IDEAS

Distinguish between operational updates and system improvement discussions. **Create space for system improvement.**

- Start with system improvement discussions & address operational or program & policy updates after
- Consider 2 separate meetings to ensure dedicated time for strategic change projects
- Incorporate a tool like slack for project updates or send updates on via email, allowing time in meeting to be dedicated to system improvement discussions and project challenges.

## JCIP RESOURCES FOR TEAMS

### **What can JCIP provide our Model Court Team?**

JCIP staff are committed to supporting local efforts to improve the child welfare system. Staff can assist teams with foundational planning to help the team establish a shared vision and understanding of its team, can provide technical and subject matter expertise on a range of best practices, can assist teams with identifying needs and developing projects to address these needs, can provide educational opportunities both locally and state-wide, and can at times provide funding necessary for projects.

### **Good Idea Library for Model Court Team**

JCIP is developing a library of ideas for model court team projects with resources to help. This is meant to support model court teams as they consider the needs, data, capacity & potential impact of projects.

### **Model Court Team Achievements**

Local Model Court Teams have planned and implemented a range of reforms and improvements to local child welfare practice including planning and implementation of specialized courts/dockets like an ICWA court and a family dependency treatment court, practices to improve participation of youth and resource parents at hearings, know your rights and responsibilities materials for parents, and many others. JCIP is here to highlight these achievements and connect teams interesting in learning more.