

2019 Model Courts Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect Evaluations

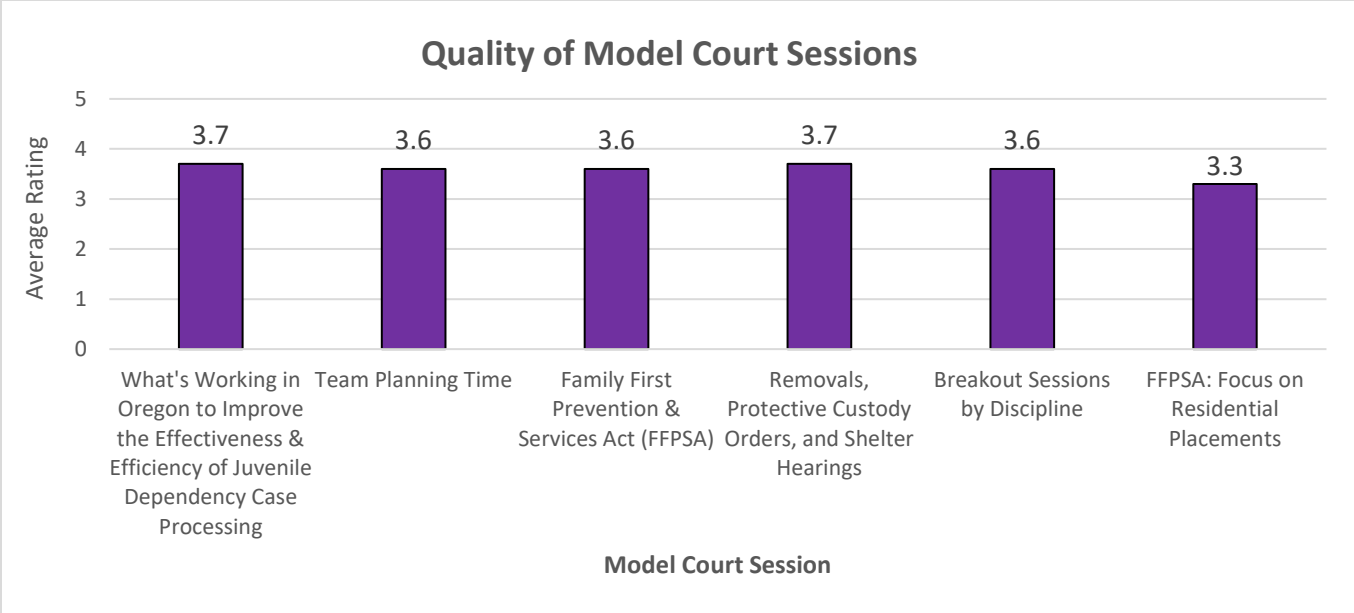
Of the 284 attendees at the 2019 Model Court Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect, 101 completed a post-summit evaluation, for a response rate of 36%.

The respondents included:

23 DHS Staff	6 CRB/JCIP Staff
21 Court Staff	3 Juvenile Department Staff
19 Attorneys/Staff	2 Parent/Foster Parent/Parent Mentor
15 CASAs	1 County Juvenile Court Improvement Coordinator
11 Judges	



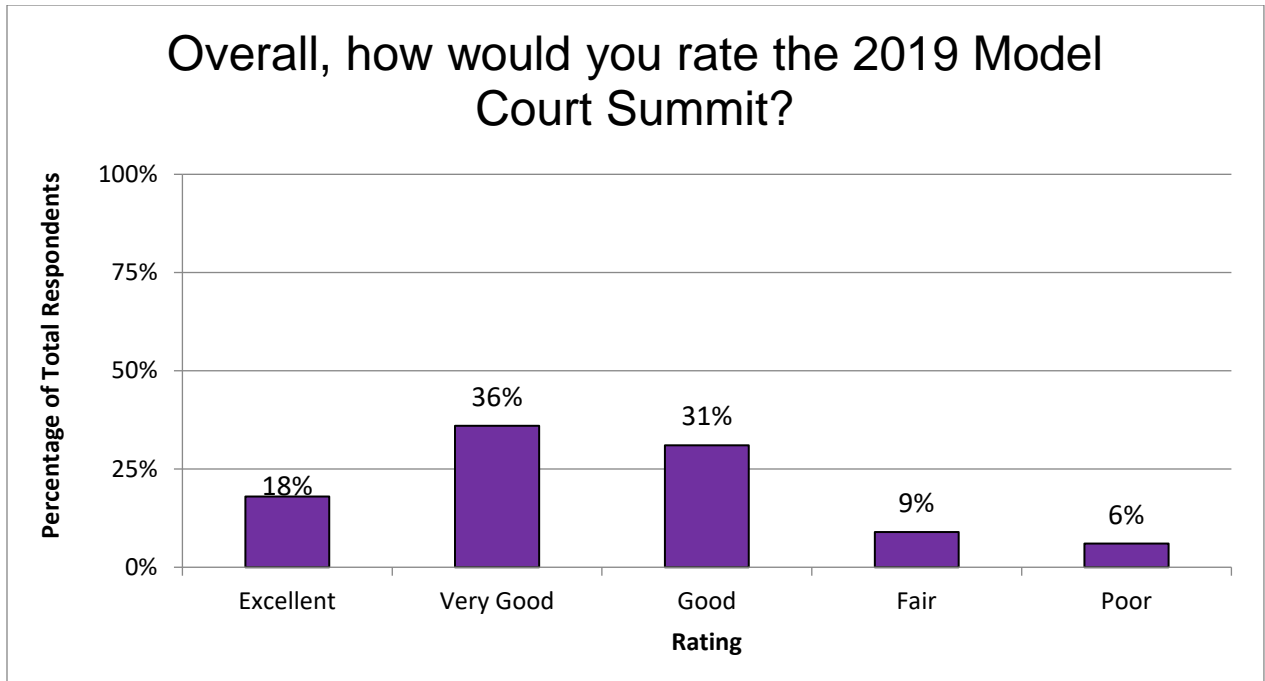
Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with three statements regarding the Model Court Summit in general. The chart above indicates the percentage of respondents that agree or strongly agree with the corresponding statement. Seventy-two percent of respondents thought the presentations facilitated meaningful and challenging discussion.



Respondents were asked to rate each model court session on a scale from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent). The above graph is an average of those responses. The highest rated model court session had an overall average rating of 4.3.



Respondents were asked to rate their experience registering for the summit online and in person, the facilities at the summit, and the food at the summit on a scale from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent). The above graph represents the percentage of respondents who rated each corresponding topic as 4 (Good) or 5 (Excellent). All four measures received an average of seventy percent or higher.



Respondents were asked to give an overall rating of the 2019 Model Court Summit on a scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent). A combined eighty-five percent of respondents identified the summit as 3 (Good), 4 (Very Good), or 5 (Excellent).

What Topics Would You Like to See Covered in Future Summits?

County Juvenile Court Improvement Coordinator

- Crossover Youth

Court Staff

- I think that if we could understand and review the recitivism of families who have a case dismissed and then come back into care. What is the percentage? What happened (was it the same issues as prior)? What can the agency, court and stakeholders do to avoid the case coming back into court ? I would also like to cover how many children are back at home prior to jurisdiction, disposition etc. If the agency is really working towards reunification what reasonable efforts are taking place and what is the court looking for?
- Dependency processes, expected readiness of agencies and parties coming together, the courts responsibility, the AAG's responsibility to prepare judgments according to details adopted in reports, concurrent plans in more detail with accountability.

- Crossover cases - When a dependency child has a delinquency matter.
- More discussion about the intersections between the disciplines.
- Legislative changes are very important and I was happy to discuss these at the conference. Encourage all courts to form a model court team and hold meetings with their local partners to discuss process and what is working well and what needs to change.
- Addressing the needs of diverse children: special considerations for children of color, immigrant children and LGBTQ+ kids. Also, I think some more human stories and anecdotes woven in through the day are helpful to remind everyone of why they are there.

Judges

- The role of Permanent Guardianships and when they are most beneficial. There seems to be incredible resistance to these by the agency.
- Best practices for services that should be offered based on varying basis for jurisdiction. Then whether they are locally available and what might be done locally to make such services available if otherwise not being provided or how to deal with issue.
- The latest from DHS on reorganization and leadership changes, hiring of new caseworkers, efforts to recruit foster parents, impacts of new legislation post-implementation of recent legislation related to child welfare, centralized screening, AG's Office full representation.
- Ideas for achieving timely jurisdiction.
- How to better engage parents and children in the court process. How to better speak to children on their own level, in and out of court, about the case.

Parent/Foster Parent/Parent Mentor

- Parent Panel of lived experience navigating the dependency system.

Juvenile Department

- I can read statute independently and don't need it read to me. I didn't find that approach to be a particularly valuable use of my time. It would be nice to have topics that facilitated

collaborative conversation about the interconnectivity of players in the system. I would also like to see more information presented about providing trauma informed services and dealing with the realities of a family reunification system, which are very different from those of a child centered (best interest of the child) approach (Juvenile Department's mandate). The disconnect is one of the reasons many Juvenile Departments no longer see a role for them to play in the dependency system, despite statute outlining that they are parties on all cases. The dependency statute (419B.007) also outlines the use of protective social services to enhance the welfare of abuse children, not just to preserve the family life, and that the Juvenile Court has jurisdiction (419B.100) in any case where a person under 18 years of age whose parents have failed to provide them with the care, guidance, and protection necessary for the physical, mental or emotional well-being of the person. I rarely see the treatment needs of children prioritized in the plans for families. I think there are a number of meaningful ways players who interact and participate in the juvenile court system can create effective and collaborative ways to address the needs of children and to support the family unit. It would be nice for this to be part of the discussion. Focus on process is great in many ways, but it seems that the reason for the juvenile court system really isn't an important part of the dialogue. One of the Goals of JCIP is to increase quality and having discussions about meaning and purpose are important parts of any dialogue about system efficiency and improvement.

- Older youth in the system.
- I would have liked a break out with just my district to talk about things we heard about in the morning sessions. In my opinion this would have been a far better use of our time then the break-out session in the afternoon.

CRB/JCIP Staff

- ICPC
- Developing resources.
- Systemic issues and how to use negative findings for DHS's benefit when issues are presented to legislature.
- status of termination of parental rights case law and how that affects ASFA timelines. Staffing process with AG/DHS and what factors they review in deciding whether to change plan, as well as what efforts other players in the system could make to help ensure that all information is present for them to make the decision Review of congregate care facilities in Oregon, and if children still being placed out of state, what resources we need to develop.
- Effectiveness of SB 171 and HB 2849 and the effect they have on children and families. What further efforts need to be made.

CASAs

- Preventing reabuse while children are in foster care.
- CASA
- I feel the breakout sessions should happen after each subject matter covered. It seemed that we listened for hours, had lunch, then breakout sessions. Maybe more polling in-between or during sessions.
- Sibling info: considerations for placing sibs together, maintaining them together, adopting them together; assessments re: sibling interactions.
- More on innovative solutions, less on structure and processes that are familiar with most in attendance.

DHS Staff

- I would like more time to do break outs with our county partners and have better discussions. That room is too loud and the tables are too spread apart.
- More detail re: Family First
- I don't have specific suggestions- and appreciate how difficult it must be to plan a conference like this across disciplines and hit the mark with everyone!
- I would like to see better presenters, more participation and inclusion of DHS staff, more attorneys actually attend. Why do we need so many court hearings? Let's discuss that. It isn't a lean or efficient system in the four districts I've worked in over the last 23 years.
- What is our coordinated response to teens with challenging behaviors, who may not be safe, and who may be multiple system involved?
- Best practice around engaging parents during Pre-jurisdiction times. Many attorneys do not allow parents to communicate with DHS. This slows permanency outcomes dramatically. How to address cases where the parents are not engaged at all and a trigger for early permanency hearings. Many parents wait until the last moment to engage.
- Drug courts.

Attorneys

- Continued discussions regarding improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the juvenile dependency system, with discussions regarding TPRs specifically and effective settlement conference opportunities and trial status check hearings for TPRs.
- Preparing our APPLA kids for being successful after high school and after aging out.
- Services and plans to keep the child in home in lieu of removal at shelter hearings.
- Communicating with children.
- Visitation, hands on services.
- How case managers enhance attorney efficiency and expedite reunifications.
- Appellate update from state & defense perspective would be helpful.
- This meeting was very skewed towards DHS's perspective. As a parent and child attorney, I would appreciate a more well-rounded perspective from the presenters and organizers. The adoption discussion was a great example of a very one-sided planning process. It was obvious the planning did not value the perspective of the Tribes, or the perspective of parent and children's attorneys, who may not want the adoption to take place at all, and who may have no interest in speeding the process along. The assumption seemed to be that any delay is a negative, which is simply not true. Additionally, one perspective is that DHS should use prima facie processes at any opportunity, is just incorrect. Defaulting a parent for nonappearance very often leads to an appeal, many of which are successful. Defaulting parents is in my opinion one of the best ways to slow an adoption down, rather than speed it up.
- Foster parent recruitment/retention with the goal of better matching kids with placements from the beginning.
- Reducing time of parent achieving return home conditions and dismissal of wardship.

How Might JCIP Provide Additional Help to Your Local Model Court Team Over the Next Year?

Court Staff

- I'm new to my model court team so my plan is to reach out for direction when needed but at this time I'm unsure what I could offer for this question. My hope is that next year I will be able to answer more fully.
- Provide model court forms for a declaration and order to use for the emergency protective custody issues that occur outside of court hours. These can be transferred through email.
- I think perhaps if a representative from JCIP came and sat in on a model court meeting to watch how it went, and perhaps pin point breakdowns remind teams of the strong points, and perhaps lead a discussion in regards to what their county is doing correctly.

Juvenile Department

- Work with DHS/CPS at the local level to improve their response to reports of abuse and services to children in care. Many foster families are in need of additional supports. Additionally, in our community DHS is reluctant (at best) to engage with youth in their teens and the result is many homeless (living in camps or couch surfing) youth who are then at elevated risk of abuse. Even when shelter services are available, a count away, the local DHS office has been unwilling to become involved and help shelter youth. There needs to be some way to fill the gap between the delinquency and dependency systems that many children fall through. On average, 65% of youth on probation have had official contact with a child protective system. If you factor the percentage of abuse that goes unreported it is highly likely that many in the remaining 35% have also suffered abuse (or neglect). It would be ideal if the focus on improvements was more dynamic and trauma informed. There are ways to build and connect systems in meaningful ways that benefit children, families, and the communities where we all live.

Judges

- Provide additional days of training for the team. The travel time for our team to attend only one day of training does not make sense. The JCIP team should attend training at the same time as judges and should have separate training tracks by discipline.
- More data to identify issue within the process. Thought is this could be collected through submitted orders and judgment at the various hearings.
- Y'all are already super available and helpful!

- Shary Mason already provides excellent help to our team.

CRB/JCIP Staff

- Reach out to Teams throughout the year and a JCIP staff attend at least one Team meeting to review data with the Team in person to ensure it is being used in the development of the Team's goals and understood by all.
- Maybe a check-in sometime during the year to remind us of actions to be done and to check in on the status of the plan.
- Continued county specific data.

CASAs

- Updates on the Bills, etc. soon after the info appears.

DHS Staff

- We haven't had a JCIP meeting in two-three years and when we do have them there is minimal agenda items and topics are sometimes shot down or the judge doesn't want to change things.
- It would have been more impactful to have a local half day or full day retreat with local model court teams to discuss the agenda and topics. The presentations were very poor at communicating information especially around the new bill regarding emergency removals; our team left more confused and were unsure of what the changes actually were (including our own judge).
- I felt when I spoke I was quickly dismissed and didn't get to even get my statement out before I was told it wouldn't work. I was mostly with Attorneys and a Judge of course I'm only a DHS Supervisor.
- More feedback for courts about best practices. Honest evaluation. Consider a QA tool for best practices.

Attorneys

- Support our new dependency court judge. She is very thoughtful and engaged.
- Work with OJD to train court staff and standardize procedures across counties.

- Our court will not grant settlement conferences. There are a number of cases that settlement conferences would be incredibly helpful. The opportunity to have a settlement conference for jurisdiction and TPR would be helpful.

Parent/Foster Parent/Parent Mentor

- Have more folks from stakeholder.

Any Other Comments on the Model Court Summit?

Judges

- Especially liked breaking down into individualized disciplines to discuss ways to improve.
- Thanks for pulling together a great summit.
- First one attended. Very valuable.
- The bathrooms at the facility were awful. And the meal was skimpy with not enough food for those who didn't want the main meal. Definitely not enough structured time for our team to talk about what was presented.

Court Staff

- Would prefer to have more break out time with our local district.
- This summit included a lot of recitation of statute, which we can read on our own. It also seemed to focus more specifically on the internal funding for DHS, rather than highlighting the key things that are relevant for all partners. Additionally, there was not much time to discuss as teams.
- I liked the focus this year on upcoming changes and the time to start discussing implementation. It made the conference very useful. The afternoon snacks were great!
- The team planning time and idea sharing between the courts is very valuable. Thank you!
- The content was GREAT and there are so many things that our court brought back to work on, thank you! As to the presentations I do have some feedback. Pretty much everyone in the room is a subject matter expert in most topic areas...what we really need is more interactive and workshop time, much like when various groups were separated and met together for that one session to tackle the adoption timeline, then reported back to the whole group. A lot of time was spent covering materials (very well prepared) that we had in front of us. Perhaps outlining key changes in areas that we are already familiar

with and taking time to get an idea of impacts on courts and agencies, and strategizing how those changes would be implemented ahead of the effective dates could be more productive. It would also encourage more Q&A and discussion with the presenter and the panel. We benefit from hearing ideas from other counties that work, and finding where our issues may be similar. And hearing how courts of different sizes handle the same issues and utilize their resources. Overall it was a great summit and our model court is ready to get to work!

- Presenters should be public speakers, people who can work a room and have a strong knowledge base regarding their work. Having an ability to hold the attention of the participants that could have been helpful. Also an engagement model of Q & A would also be worth while as well.

Juvenile Department Staff

- I appreciate the amount of work and time that went into the planning of Summit. I also understand the focus on improving numerical measures and the benefits that come when benchmarks are met. I would just like to see some additional focus on the purpose of this work and how the collaborations between players can be strengthened and improved. Thank you.

CRB/JCIP Staff

- Pretty dry - presentations were mostly reading law and quoting statutes.
- Some of the presenters were very quiet. They were easier to hear when standing at the podium rather than staying in their seat at the panel table.
- Last session's main speaker was very hard to hear/understand (Barry). Also maybe because it was the last of the day, it was hard to get engaged in the presentation. The judge's presentation was too general and was not helpful. Our team enjoyed the clicker activity, but it was hard to do that late in the day, when people were talking/getting ready to leave.
- Definitely one of the better summits.

CASAs

- I've attended many of these summits. This one had excellent information but just needed more dynamic speakers!
- You really need to change the format. Having a bunch of panels or dry PowerPoints are really hard to sit through. I would prefer to have different offerings and break out sessions rather than be forced to sit on one room all day.

- Thank you for all working so hard on pulling together another successful Summit.
- The breakout sessions by discipline (mine anyway) seemed a bit disorganized. We were done in about 20 minutes and then had a great deal of time before coming back together. It did not warrant so much time spent in 2's, 4's, whole group.
- It's really difficult for large teams to have discussion when the table setting spreads everyone out so much you can't hear or communicate effectively.
- This was my first year attending. Very impressed and learned a lot. Will love to be back next year.
- Speakers should always offer solutions to issues rather than state the problems alone.

DHS Staff

- Thank you!
- While it is nice to hear what's working in other counties around the state, nothing that was discussed was anything new or outside of what is already expected per DHS policy (i.e. timeliness to adoptions etc.) The presenters appeared to not have much preparedness/experience in presenting as they read directly from their powerpoints and did not capture the attention of a large room.
- Some of the presentations were really short, then others there were not enough time for and seemed to be rushed or cut off.
- I feel like the facilities are not as well maintained as last year; for instance, the women's bathroom was out of soap in several dispensers and had some non-functioning sinks, and wasn't cleaned. I thought the agenda was a little scattered; I think I'd prefer our break out time to be by county rather than program area.
- In the years past there was a lot more opportunity for model court teams to work together in table discussions. There was very little time built in for this and no time for developing goals for the next year. There also needs to be more attention to meal planning for those with restrictive diets. If you don't eat meat or dairy, lunch consisted of a dry plate of lettuce with a tomato and cucumber. There are simple protein substitutes that could have been added to replace chicken and eggs such as peas and garbonzo beans. There were no salad dressing options that were dairy free, and oil/vinegar could have been easily provided.
- Valuable time together.

- The presentations were not engaging and there was not enough time allocated to work within the local teams.

Attorneys

- This year's summit was much better than last year. The speakers were much more engaging.
- When presenting power points, please discuss and not read. We can all read and those were included in the written material.
- Much better than last year. engaging speakers & timely information. Needed more time to work with team & discuss. Also, seriously, the food sucks. Every year with those salads. The chicken wasn't even edible this year. Please improve the quality of the lunch you serve, or people will ditch team building to go get lunch elsewhere.
- A summit with a focus on improving communications between DHS, CASA, defense and children's attorneys, and tribe reps would be helpful.
- There was no soap in the women's room and it would be nice to end earlier for those who had to travel from farther away, or to at least give people that option.
- I rated the break out session so poorly because it occurred in the lobby and it was impossible to hear people. This made any opportunity for dialogue outside of the inner circle impossible.
- Much more useful than the last two years, for sure. The breakout session was not helpful, it just gave the defense bar a chance to bitch about DHS to the judge without us being present. My team admitted that was what they did. I would prefer to keep the teams together.

Parent/Foster Parent/Parent Mentor

- Parent Panel

County Juvenile Court Improvement Coordinator

- A little more time for individual teams to meet and talk besides over lunch and if it would be possible to break out into other, quieter spaces for some teams that would be helpful.