

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 13, 2022

TO: JCIP Advisory Committee

FROM: Heidi Olsen Strauch, Juvenile Court Programs Manager  
Juvenile and Family Court Programs Division

RE: National Judicial Leadership Summit IV on Child Welfare--Continuing Upward from the Summit

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In late 2019 Oregon sent a team of child welfare stakeholders (the Oregon team included members of the JCIP Advisory Committee and legislators) to Minneapolis, Minnesota, to the National Judicial Leadership Summit IV on Child Welfare, hosted by the National Center for State Courts.

The Summit focused on five themes and the Oregon team came up with an action item for each theme. Those themes are: *(1) Courts incorporating the voice of families; (2) Delivering high quality legal representation to families in child welfare; (3) Safely preventing the unnecessary entry of children into foster care; (4) Ensuring procedural fairness, equity and access to justice for all families; and (5) Leading child welfare reform from the Supreme Court and AOC.* (Oregon team's 2019 plan is attached.) With the pandemic arriving less than four months after the Summit and staffing changes shortly thereafter, the Oregon team took no further action on the plan.

On June 6 and 7 of this year a refresh of the Oregon team attended a virtual summit to follow up from the work of the original 2019 event. The Oregon team included Hon. Rebecca Duncan, Hon. Lindsay Partridge, Rebecca Jones Gaston, Aprille Flint-Gerner, Joanne Southey, Kim Keller, Mark Hardin, Shannon Flowers, Jayne Cooper, and me (note: a couple of team members were unable to attend the summit).

Those who were able to attend the summit and debrief, came to the consensus that, rather than create a new initiative to follow the themes of the National Judicial Leadership Summit, the Oregon team incorporate the Summit themes into the work of the JCIP Advisory Committee and the areas of priority that the AC is working on through its strategic planning subcommittees: *(1) Hearing quality; (2) Quality legal representation; (3) A joint project between JCIP and ODHS; and (4) JCIP and tribal collaboration.*

Some of the priorities identified by the JCIP strategic planning subcommittees include: a focus on shelter hearings, bringing in greater input from people with lived experience, improving the quality of legal representation through education and training, shortening the time to permanency for children who have been brought into care (with a focus on reunification), and others that are still being developed.

JCIP staff recommend that we identify resources from the Summit that coincide with JCIP's current priorities and bring those to the subcommittees and to the Advisory Committee, as appropriate, to supplement and enhance our current strategic planning work.