

# 2017 Model Courts Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect Evaluations

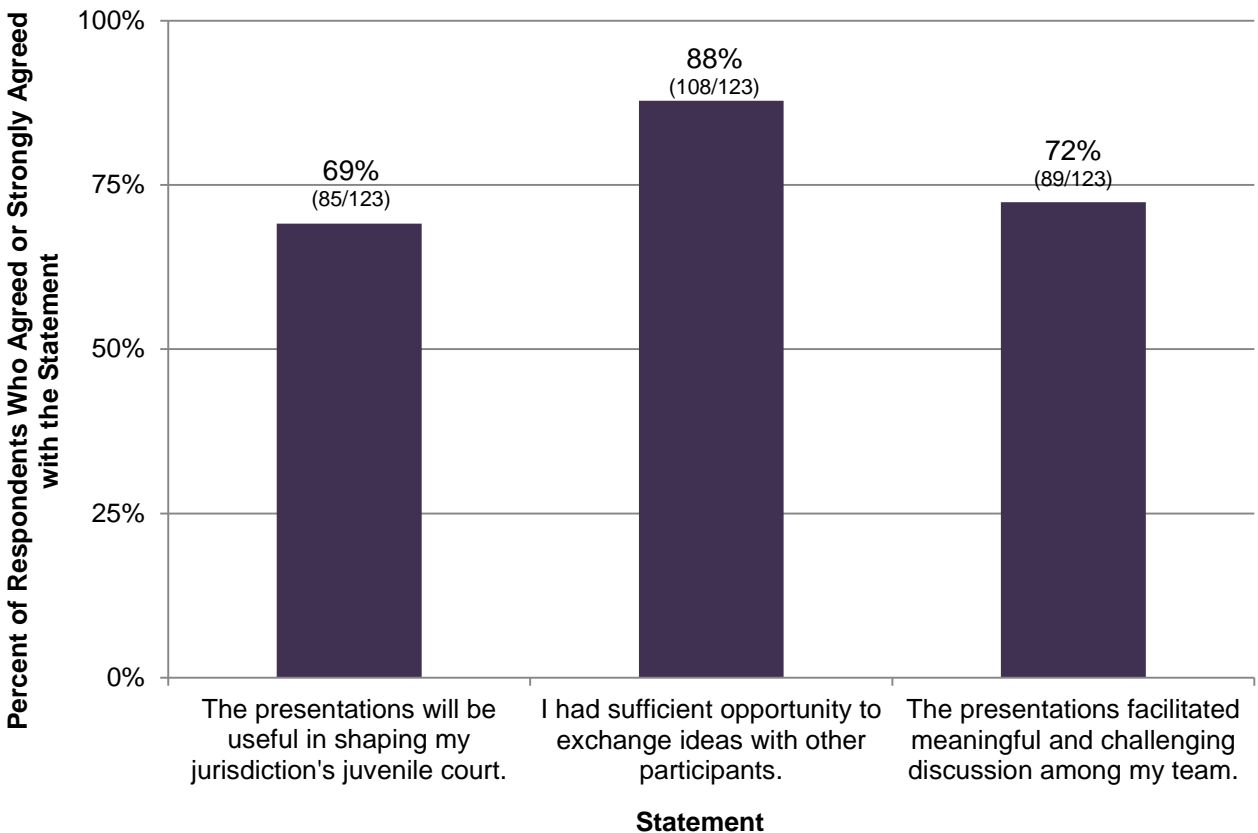
Of the 274 attendees at the 2017 Model Courts Summit on Child Abuse and Neglect, 123 completed an evaluation, for a response rate of 45%.

The respondents included:

- 24 Judges
- 17 Court Staff
- 28 DHS Staff
- 26 Attorneys
- 15 CASAs
- 4 Juvenile Department Employees
- 2 Drug and Alcohol Treatment Workers
- 1 CRB Volunteer
- 6 CRB/JCIP Staff

## General Conference Satisfaction

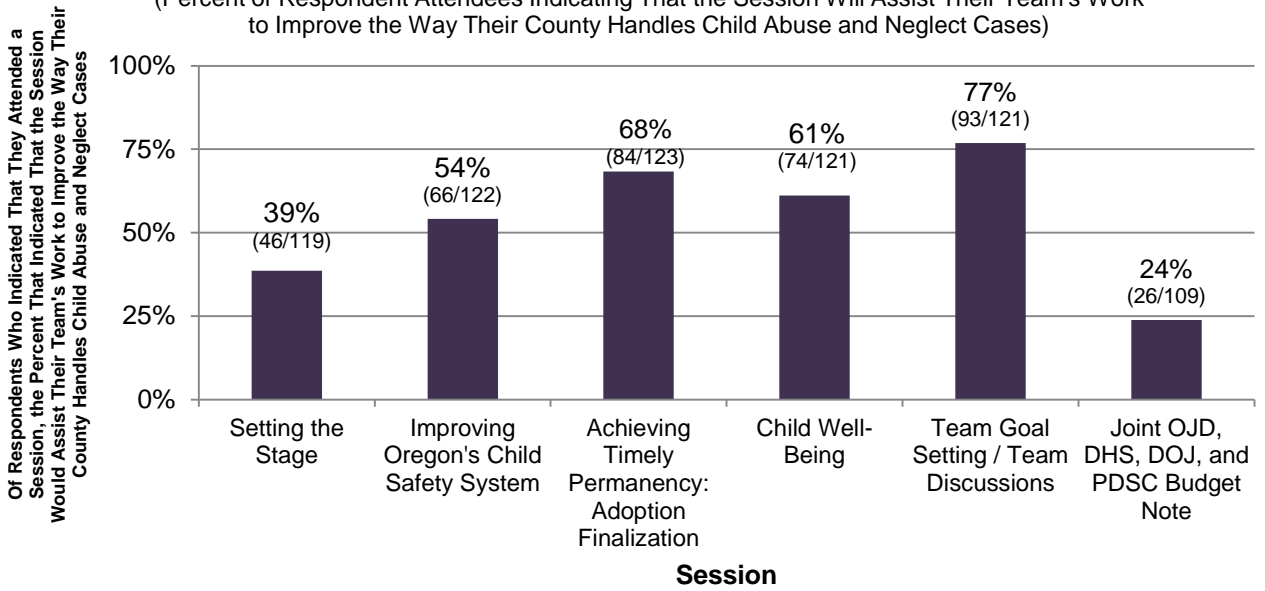
(Percent of Respondents Who Agreed or Strongly Agreed with Each Statement)



*Respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreement with three statements reflecting the overall goals of the Summit. Eighty-eight Respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they had sufficient opportunities to exchange ideas with other participants.*

## Usefulness of Sessions

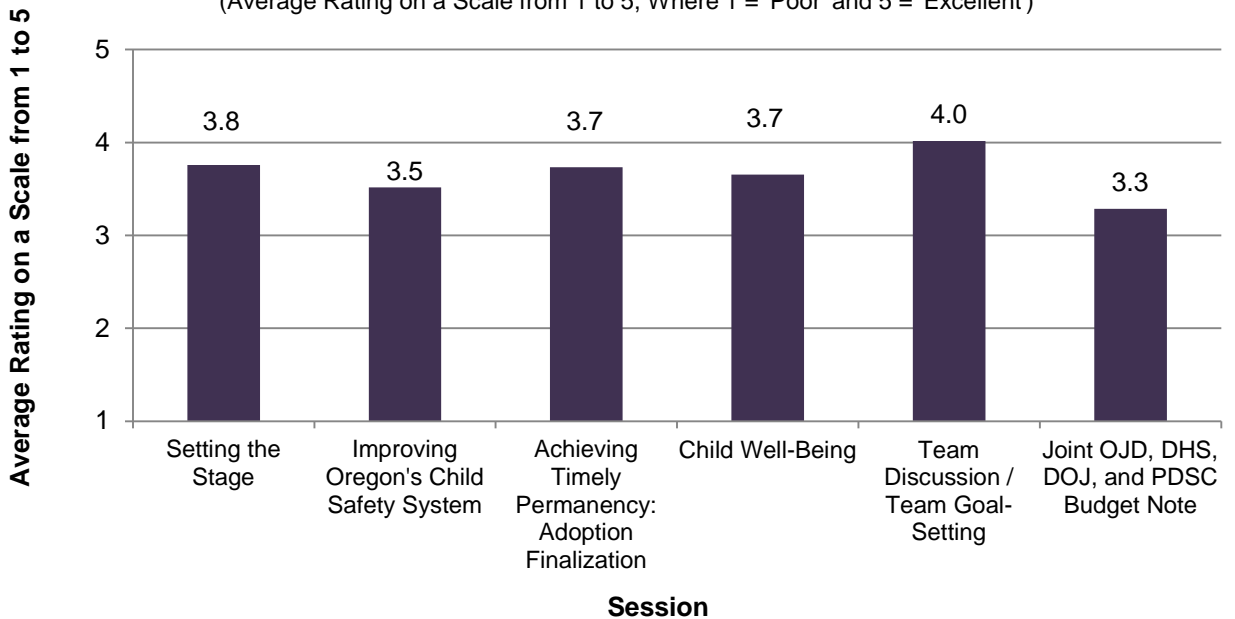
(Percent of Respondent Attendees Indicating That the Session Will Assist Their Team's Work to Improve the Way Their County Handles Child Abuse and Neglect Cases)



Respondents were asked to identify which sessions they thought would assist their Model Court Team's work to improve the way their county handles child abuse and neglect cases. Respondents were most likely to identify the Team Goal Setting / Team Discussions sessions as being likely to assist their team, and least likely to find the Setting the Stage and Joint OJD, DHS, DOJ, and PDSC Budget note sessions useful.

## Quality of Sessions

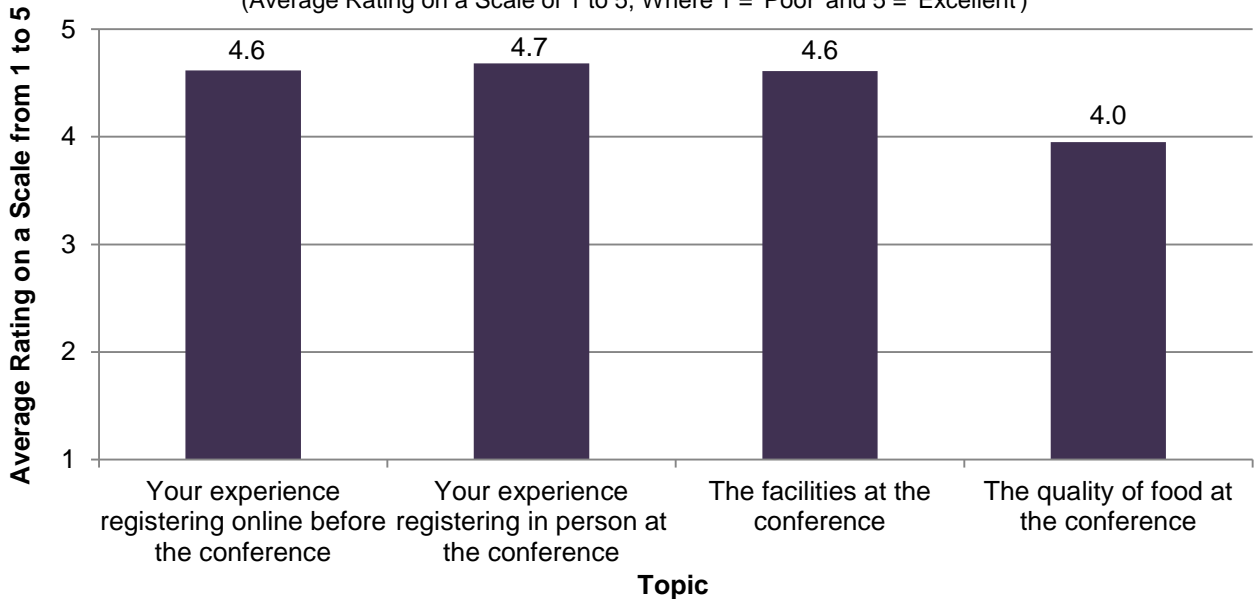
(Average Rating on a Scale from 1 to 5, Where 1 = 'Poor' and 5 = 'Excellent')



Respondents were also asked to rate each session on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicated 'Poor' and 5 indicated 'Excellent.' The highest rated session was the Team Discussion / Team Goal-Setting session.

## Registration, Facilities, and Food

(Average Rating on a Scale of 1 to 5, Where 1 = 'Poor' and 5 = 'Excellent')



*Respondents were asked to rate their experience registering online and in-person for the conference, the facilities at the conference, and quality of food at the conference, on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicated 'Poor' and 5 indicated 'Excellent.' The registration experiences and facilities each received average ratings above 4.5.*

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

Judges:

- Cooperative agreements between court and CRB to use judicial department resources better

Court Staff:

- How other courts handle their juvenile cases such as procedures and how they set up their timelines.
- More on statewide foster care program and how we can all improve it, from providers to DHS to courts
- Information about L.I.F.E.

DHS Staff:

- Alignment of the Oregon Safety Model and the Court process to include attorneys and CASAs.
- The role of CRBs in terms of partnering with DHS
- We need to talk about how the Oregon Safety Model is not in alignment with appellate court rulings. We have to get together and get in alignment between the Court and DHS.
- Managing the crossover between agency rules, definitions, responsibilities, and expectations, with the court's (e.g. referring to conditions for return, expected outcomes, etc. when measuring progress and making required findings).
- CPS - the front line investigations. Specifically are requirements around safe environments and presenting it to judges especially those that try to force in home plans DHS does not feel are safe
- Oregon Safety Model overview
- it would be nice for the judges to talk about what they do for adoption finalization ceremony's in their courtrooms, you could end on a happy note.
- The importance of court orders being correct the first time, timing of filing guardianship orders
- -ways to speed up time between a dependency petition filing and jurisdiction

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

## DHS Staff (Continued):

- -examine differences in federal/state law vs various agency policy and procedure (ex: system timelines that make federal expectations nearly impossible to meet)
- I would like to learn more about the appellate court and what is considered when cases are being heard at that level and what we in DHS need to do more of...or just to give us pointers as to how cases are overturned at that level.
- What does a trauma-informed courtroom look like. What does trauma-informed really mean. How to engage parents through a strengths-based approach.

## Attorneys:

- ICPC, Dealing with foreign countries
- How 'rarer' hearings operate under the juvenile code. i.e. Intervention hearings, UCCJEA issues, Delinquency v. Dependency jx/disposition, concurrent dom/rel and dependency cases with consolidation.
- More data on areas that we can improve our practice.
- Discussion regarding uniformity in judicial practice across the state- use of model forms, appointment of attorneys, requirements for personal appearance, use of settlement conferences, establishment of paternity early in cases, consolidation of cases, etc.
- more break out groups on topics that we deal with everyday - e.g. addiction, dv, mental health, trauma informed care. More small group interaction instead of all lectures.
- PRACTICAL topics. What is working. Who is being creative and why it is working. Or at least education on things our clients face. Not just droning on about stats or what is wrong with DHS. Not helpful!
- I'd like to see adult foster children speak on what they found helpful as they went through the experience and what they think would help even more.
- Strategies for improving case team collaboration (parent, foster parent, service providers, school, etc.), and developing supportive parent/foster parent relationships.
- Foster home certification processes, timelines, and confidentiality.
- New things being implemented in other courts and what's worked, what hasn't, what hasn't been tried yet - it'd be great to have an idea of how things differed county to county
- better national speakers, more inspirational, less local panels that are boring and not really helpful. I don't need a speaker to just read their powerpoint to me either. Segments on appellate updates, how to work within the system to improve outcomes for families and children, more segments on children's rights, kids in foster care, transitions for older children.
- Impact of OSM and PAPs on removal and filing of petitions; advocacy for children by all parties'
- Please do not spend time on out of state speakers. they are not helpful
- Court of Appeals decisions on juvenile cases and the impact those have on DHS decisions and case plans.

## CASAs:

- DHS investigations
- Can't think of any at this time.
- Educational surrogacy
- What are we doing to address the root causes of kids coming into state custody...mental health and d&a issues with a lack of good services to address these in many counties.
- How to make DHS investigations more transparent to the legal parties and more in line with standard judicial practices. These investigations can ruin lives and they are not open to the parties having any knowledge of them or any input. They are like sinister Star Chamber proceedings. They are traumatic for everyone involved and give DHS the kind of power that is easily abused.
- Visitation resources to have varied opportunities.
- treatment facility options and where we are in having more options.
- Safety and security of teams in CRB and court: with limited and shifting budgets in many courthouses and CRB meeting spaces, and a steep increase in cases, we need to ensure all parties are safe while conducting and communicating our role.
- Minimizing the number of placement changes.
- Increasing options for youth aging out who don't otherwise qualify for ILP or DD services but who have mental health issues and no other resources.

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

## CASAs (Continued):

- OYA/BRS and how children are served in our state treatment facilities and how we can work together to improve outcomes for older youth
- Contested hearings
- Conversations about meaningful engagement of CASA and healthy partnerships with DHS

## Juvenile Department:

- A case from beginning to end

## Dug/Alcohol Treatment:

- Something more relevant besides DHS paperwork and more SUD related material. More SUD presenters.

## CRB/JCIP Staff:

- Court/CRB Relationships
- It would be good to hear directly from caseworkers and foster parents about the difference they have seen during the previous year with the additional supports/budget increase Child Welfare is putting in place -- Any positive improvements they have noticed, any challenges, recommendations to help improve child safety and well-being.
- Parental Engagement
- Facilitating Bonds with parents for children 0-3
- Further discussions on ICPC issues

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

### Judges:

- We will discuss and let you know.
- We are talking about having JCIP do a local (2 county) review and facilitated discussion with our team.

### Court Staff:

- CLA has a model court team (ish) but can't seem to get buy in to attend Eyes
- Keep updated on whether adoptions are timely
- Guidance on foster care recruitment

### DHS Staff:

- Check in with local Model Court teams on a quarterly basis.
- probable a training on the above for our team
- Assistance in developing timeliness in permanency
- Give the teams the goals that all of the teams set and follow up with updates from teams on what is working.

### Attorneys:

- Provide statewide stats to all model court teams, visit more regional teams to check in with them, see what they are doing, offer advice, assistance etc
- Assistance with our goal of increasing frequent, quality visitation
- I hope the local court requests JCIP do a review of statistics
- Forms
- Quarterly check-ins
- Pulling data routinely and sharing it with our team.
- Trust building between the courts and DHS

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

## CASAs:

- Guidance and support re: statewide forms and expectations.
- Continue building in time/s for the local team to respond and interact with the presented material in a group.
- Assist the DOJ in streamlining practices around the state. Make this full representation mean consistency, by working with individual courts on their issues.

## Juvenile Department:

- Back up the policies to improve more expeditious adoptions
- Providing up-to-date and current stats on a regular basis so that we can assess our progress towards permanency timelines.

## CRB/JCIP Staff:

- Data
- Are there grants available to help us implement our ideas?
- Provide examples of what other teams have already put in place to improve their systems.

## Any Other Comments on the Model Court Summit?

### Judges:

- Insufficient time to really work on team goal setting as we spent a good deal of time sifting through the content of the presentations and determining what was most critical for us to focus on.
- It is a good opportunity to set goals and develop action plans.
- I feel like the quality of the "general/educational" sessions has not been as high the last few years. While I still attend MCD to spend time with my MCT, I am almost to the point where I find the rest of the time there not time well-spent.
- It would be better if there were larger tables so the whole team could sit together for the team discussion part.

### Court Staff:

- Round tables are not conducive to good team participation when all parties cannot fit around one table.
- Please have more of a team emphasis instead of just seeing DHS at the table. I did not see where the "Model Court" came into it. Only saw it from one perspective.
- You need to go back to having smaller break out presentations in other rooms that people can select according to their interest. It is hard to sit for hours in one spot and listen to didactic lecture or panels you may have no interest in. This one of the worst Model Courts I've been to. =(
- I like the workshop style of working in our county groups to determine action steps to take. That was very helpful. The panels were not nearly as helpful as far as information giving or actual steps to use.
- I'm not sure how to cure this so I hesitate to comment, but it was difficult to have round table discussions because of the number of people in the room. The volume of the room prevented the ability to hear the person across the table.

### DHS:

- I was offended for all CWS staff by the comment made by Kathy Prouty that caseworkers may not give a truthful answer about the status of adoption cases.
- Four panels was too many for a one day summit. They lose their effectiveness and people lose interest. Even judges were playing candy crush by the end of the day.
- I really enjoyed the training this year. So much from Child Welfare and very helpful for others to understand the challenges that DHS is going through.

# Any Other Comments on the Model Court Summit?

## DHS Staff (Continued):

- I really appreciated the time given to teams to talk with each other and collaborate on actionable items. The design of giving a jumping off place through the presenters and then allowing teams time to plan was super helpful. It was a very worthwhile day. I would also encourage JCIP to invite more permanency folks to talk about safety.
- Unfortunately, this year was really disappointing. The information and topics were way too basic. It felt like it was JCIP 101, which is not taking our state to the next level.
- The panel discussions with prewritten questions were not particularly engaging. There was good information, however, it was difficult to listen to because it was hard to see the person talking as well as follow. It may have been more helpful if the information was presented more in a presentation format instead of a "panel" discussion. Most of the time when I see panel's used and it is beneficial is after something is presented and the audience is able to ask questions.
- Good team discussion really requires participants representing each role.
- It would be nice to have some free time at lunch (e.g., 15 - 30 minutes).
- Thank you.

## Attorneys:

- It would be helpful to encourage discussion and collaboration between counties. Each county practices differently, and it would be beneficial - while we're all there in one place - to encourage substantive discussions regarding processes and practices between county teams.
- Food was terrible. Rotten avocado in salad, overcooked chicken hunks, not enough bread for the table, really horrible.
- It seemed like DHS spin doctoring without any speaker presenting a different view.
- The presentation on child safety was lacking in depth
- I hate to say this, but the conference was not good this year. I didn't hear any new ideas that sparked any discussion in my group. I didn't get anything from the Judge from Texas. It was a hard day to sit through.
- Thank you!!

## CASAs:

- The panels where the facilitator read prepared questions for the guest speakers were excruciatingly difficult to sit and listen. The format lacked engagement and energy and was difficult to pay attention to.
- It would have been helpful to have a judge from our jurisdiction present for the group discussions. It is hard to work toward meaningful change when a key player is missing from the table.
- Stand up tables with room for laptops at the sides or back of room for those who like or need to stand would be helpful.
- The presentations this year seemed very 'light' on the practical aspects of how to operate and improve a model court. The only two things that stick in my mind are the 'child check-in' forms that the one court uses for their youth, and the screen shots of the DHS adoption tracking system. Both of those things seemed ancillary to the rest of their sections and could have been covered in a few minutes. The rest of the presentations either seemed kind of irrelevant (Q&A response about how DOJ's billing process with DHS may change?!) or simply theoretical. Like a passionate, but disconnected from OR, opening about how Texas dependency courts operate (TPR jury trials, 'shelter' hearings at 14 days in, etc). There was even a chance to talk more specifically about how a model shelter hearing should operate, but the discussions were more theoretical and limited, where it could have been expanded upon.
- I think this was the least helpful summit in many years. The first presenter from Texas knew very little about our system and didn't tell us anything that we aren't already doing in Oregon. It was a waste of an hour that could have been used to discuss local issues in our groups. Unfortunately, this set the tone for most of the information presented throughout the day. Comments from Judge Brownhill and Stanton were helpful.
- I have found these presentations useful in the past and have attended many. This one didn't have much that was helpful to our county.
- This one was the most boring, least helpful, content wise, that I have attended.
- The Family and Youth Engagement and Involvement in Case Planning suffered because of the presentation style.

# Any Other Comments on the Model Court Summit?

## Juvenile Department:

- I always enjoy them and learn a lot. They are a good opportunity for the parties to discuss issues outside of court and build solidarity.
- G-R-E-A-T!!!!
- Turn down the air conditioner

## CRB Volunteer

- Great Job!

## CRB/JCIP Staff

- The PowerPoint slides could not be read by most folks in the room. They need to be full screen and large font to be useful.
- This year did not offer anything new, inspiring or innovative.