

**Juvenile Court Improvement Program Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2018**

Juvenile & Family Court Programs Division – Oregon Room
1133 Chemeketa Street NE, Salem, OR 97301
1:30 – 4:00 PM

| COMMITTEE MEMBERS | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| √ | Hon. Stephen Forte, Chair, Deschutes County Circuit Court | √ | Hon. Lindsay Partridge, Vice Chair, Marion County Circuit Court |
| | Hon. Don Costello, Chief Judge, Coquille Indian Tribe | | Hon. Amy Holmes Hehn, Multnomah County Circuit Court |
| √ | Hon. Norm Hill, Polk County Circuit Court | √ | Hon. Karen Ostrye, Hood River County Circuit Court |
| | Lacey Andresen, Permanency Program Manager, DHS | √ | Mandy Augsburger, President, Marion Polk Foster Parent Association, Foster Parent |
| √ | Mark Hardin | √ | Lauren Kemp, Multnomah County DA's Office |
| √ | Darin Mancuso, Foster Care Ombudsman, Governor's Advocacy Office | | Laurie Price, Deputy Director, Child Welfare, DHS |
| √ | Gail Schelle, Adoptions Program Manager, DHS | | Karyn Schimmels, Child Welfare Training Manager, DHS |
| √ | Daniel Schneider, Training Specialist, Child Welfare Partnership, Center for Improvement of Child & Family Services | | Nathan Schwab, Oregon Foster Youth Connection, Former Foster Youth |
| √ | Joanne Southey, Deputy Chief Counsel, Civil Enforcement Division, DOJ | √ | Shaney Starr, Oregon Casa Network & Casa of Marion County |
| √ | Liz Wakefield, Deputy General Counsel, Office of Public Defense Services | | |
| INTERESTED PARTIES | | | |
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| JFCPD STAFF | | | |
| | Leola McKenzie, Director, JFCPD | √ | Megan Hassen, Juvenile Law & Policy Counsel, JFCPD |
| √ | Shary Mason, Model Court & Training Analyst, JFCPD/CRB | √ | Yousef Allouzi, Data Analyst, JFCPD |
| √ | Amy Benedum, Program Analyst, JFCPD | √ | Kim Morgan, Management Assistant, JFCPD |

I. Welcome & Introductions – Hon. Stephen Forte

II. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting – Hon. Stephen Forte

Approved.

III. Reports:

a. Re-Imagining Dependency Courts – Conor

Conor explained that Reimagining Dependency Courts is a differentiated case management (DCM) project that is being piloted in four courts (Clackamas, Deschutes, Lane, and Polk). The Project began in May 2017 and OJD is currently working with the National Center for State Courts and Dr. Alicia Summers on an outcome evaluation of the Project. The evaluation will be using data from court observations of limited review hearings conducted by Yousef and Shary; data from a file review of old cases conducted by the DCM Coordinator in Lane County; information used by the DCM Coordinators to assign new case to DCM tracks; and data from Odyssey on how closely hearings and reviews held on DCM cases have matched the track schedules, and on how quickly cases are closing in the DCM court compared to prior to the start of the project and compared to the state as a whole. JCIP is expecting to have a draft report by the end of January, and will have results to report at the next JCIP Advisory Committee meeting.

b. Juvenile Law Training Academy – Liz Wakefield

Very good evaluations. Attendance – 135.

c. Shoulder to Shoulder – Shary

There were around 800 in attendance at the conference. Judge Grove, Referee Long, and Judge Menchaca presented for the Judge's panel. Judge Grove talked about his dependency drug court, Referee Long talked about being a relatively new member of the juvenile bench and Judge Menchaca shared his reflections of the juvenile bench now that he is no longer doing juvenile. The JCIP grant was used for scholarships and support. Shary will bring a complete report to the next meeting.

d. OJD Business Process for Assigning Case Numbers – Megan

Megan Hassen reported that a workgroup would be convened in December to begin reviewing the current Oregon Judicial Department business process of assigning one case number per petition in juvenile dependency cases. DOJ, OPDS and judges have approached Megan and Leola with concerns about the inefficiencies and difficulties of the current process. The workgroup is comprised of 30 representatives from the bench, court administration, court staff, OSCA, the defense bar, DOJ and DHS.

e. Reducing the Time to Adoption – Shary and Gail Schelle

Reducing the Time to Adoption. Shary and Gail shared the new Adoption Tracking Sheet, the Adoption Process Flowchart, A glossary of terms, and individual court data on the percentage of adoptions finalized within 12 months of Becoming Legally Free. A memorandum went out from the LAS to Field Staff asking the new form be used and recommending they review the report at least a week prior to the date it will be sent to the court and CRB to ensure all information is correct. There will be a webinar for Judges on the Adoption process.

IV. Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI):

a. Quarterly Statistical Reports – Yousef

Nothing in the Q3 data jumps out as an outlier. I'll highlight a few numbers that did change and some of the work we've been doing with the data.

- Dependency petitions dropped from 1110 in quarter 2 to 1033 in quarter 3 for a 7% change.
- TPR petitions increase 12% going from 377 to 422

- Delinquency petitions decreased 20.5% from 1140 to 906
- Time to Jurisdiction on Both Parents decreased 5 percentage points from 47% to 42%.
- Time to the termination of parental rights increased from 43% in the second quarter to 51% in the third quarter for a change of 8 percentage points.

The time to TPR number probably averages somewhere in the high 40s, so while 43% in Q2 was a lower number it wasn't out of the range we typically see and this move back towards the average was something we might have expected.

- Dependency petition to termination or relinquishment of parental rights decreased by 16 days, going from a median number of 700 days to a median of 684 days.

NOTES: The year-end number of median days to termination or relinquishment of parent rights for 2017 was 609, it was 588 in Q1, so with this jump to 700 in Q2, it seems to still be moving within a range we are satisfied with.

- We've spent some time working with courts to address data entry error and while we believe that this won't largely affect our current stats, it does help us refine our business processes and work to keep data entry errors from accumulating over time. We noticed that some hearings were being recorded as trials where maybe the case was scheduled as a trial, but for whatever reason, let's say the parents give admissions beforehand, the trial was actually a jurisdiction hearing. Additionally, we found that some courts were using a catch all category that we have called "Other dependency hearings" for hearings that would otherwise fit into one of our more specifically defined categories, such as the shelter, detention, or initial appearance categories within their respective reports.

Finally, adoptions

Our statewide target is to have 59.5% of adoptions finalized within 12 months of becoming legally free and 10 courts met that goal for the 3rd quarter. Statewide we are at 44%, which is an improvement over the 43% statewide number in the 2nd quarter, despite both numbers still being below the statewide target.

V. Discussion Topics:

a. Juvenile Dependency System Efficiencies Budget Note – Shary
 Juvenile Dependency System Efficiencies Budget Note. All courts have submitted their strategy and steps they are taking to address it. Format and amount of information given varied from Court to Court.

VI. Upcoming Events

- Appellate Dependency CLE – February 7, 2019
- JELI Spring Convening – April 5, 2019
- Through the Eyes of a Child – August 11, 12, 2019
- Model Court Summit – August 13, 2019

Next Meeting: Monday, March 11, 2019, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.