Reimagining Dependency Courts: Pennsylvania’s Children’s Roundtable and Other State Strategies

NACM Conference
July 14, 2016—Pittsburgh
Reimagining Dependency Courts: Background and Approach

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The Four Domains

- Family Friendly Courts
- Case Administration
- Leadership and Governance
- Resources
The First Four States: 2016

- Alabama
- Florida
- Illinois
- Oregon
Deschutes County Circuit Court
Bend, Oregon

Jeff Hall, Trial Court Administrator
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Pennsylvania Judicial Branch: Roundtables for Children Initiative

Hon. Kim Berkeley Clark
Court of Common Pleas, 5th Judicial District of PA, Pittsburgh, PA
Pennsylvania’s Action Plan
October 2005 - to July 2016
THE FIRST FOUR YEARS
Minnesota 2005
The Pennsylvania Team

- Justice Max Baer
- Judge Kevin Dougherty
- Judge Kim Clark
- Zygmont Pines
- Terry Clark
- Joe Mittleman
- Marc Cherna (ex officio)
Visible Leadership at All Levels

- Supreme Court
- President Judges
- Administrative Judges
- Juvenile & Family Court Judges
Recommendation # 1

Establish a statewide commission on dependent children (like JCJC) & hire appropriate staff

DONE!!

OCFC
Recommendation # 2

Institute Communication Through Regular, Mandated Team Meetings

Done!!

Local, Leadership, & Statewide Roundtables
Recommendation # 3

Amend Rules of Appellate Procedure to Achieve More Timely Permanency

DONE!!

Children’s Fast Track
Recommendation # 4
Expand & Utilize FGDM
Done !!
Priority of Roundtables
Permanency Practice Initiatives
Statewide Training
Phase 1 & 2 Counties
Recommendation # 5

Increase Frequency of Reviews
Done!!

Priority of Roundtables
Permanency Practice Initiatives
Phase 1 & 2 Counties
Recommendation # 6
Establish a Web-site
Done !!
Recommendation # 7

Establish & Require Performance Outcome Measures & Develop Software to Capture Data Uniformly & Accurately

Done!!

CPCMS
Recommendation # 8

Secure Funding for Training & Attendance at Conferences, Seminars, & Symposia

Done!!

FGDM, Family Finding, Children’s Roundtable Summit, etc.
Recommendation # 9

Expand Services for Adolescents to Transition to Adulthood
In Progress
Recommendation # 10

Hold a Statewide Summit on Child Welfare so Each County Can Develop Its Own Action Plan

Done!!

1st Annual Children’s Roundtable Summit
Recommendation #11
Establish & Promote Best Practices
Done!!
Guiding Principals
In Progress
Dependency Benchbook
(Now done—we are on the 2\textsuperscript{nd} edition with resource companion)
The State Roundtable—Celebrating 10 Years!!
PA Children’s Roundtable
PA Supreme Court
PA DPW
PA OCYF

Leadership Roundtables (8)

Local Roundtables (67)
Mission & Guiding Principles

- Protect Children
- Promote Strong Families
- Promote Child Well-being
- Provide Timely Permanency
WORKGROUPS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT</th>
<th>FORMER</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➢ Caseworker Retention</td>
<td>➢ CPCMS Users</td>
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<tr>
<td>➢ Dependent Children Of Incarcerated Parents</td>
<td>➢ Fatherhood Engagement</td>
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<td>➢ Drug &amp; Alcohol</td>
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<td>➢ Educational Success &amp; Truancy Prevention</td>
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<td>➢ PA Children’s Roundtable Summit</td>
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2006—21,400 children in care
20.6 % in kinship care

2015—15,400 children in care
31.5 % in kinship care
Thank you!
For more information:
Office of Children & Families in the Courts (OCFC) www.ocfcpacourts.us
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