

2014 Spring Leadership Meetings

Questions for CJI Judges, Agency Directors and Managers, and County Attorneys

The state of CJI in your county

- Is your CJI Team meeting?
- Does your team include representation from judges, court administration, county attorneys, social services, GALs, attorneys for parents, attorneys for children, tribes, and foster parents?
- What is your current focus or what has been your most challenging issue as a collaborative in the past year?

Key strategies and hot topics

Please review the data for your jurisdiction posted on the CJI website. Use the data and your experience with cases in your jurisdiction to discuss the strategies or “hot topics” below with your leadership partners (CJI judge, agency director or management, and county attorney). The leadership invited to your meeting will discuss these topics and any other topics you want to raise with the chief justice and commissioner of human services.

- **Trauma**
 - Are you using a trauma lens when you handle CHIPS cases? What difference has it made?
 - Are you accessing therapists who have trauma training?
 - What else is important to know?
- **Older youth**
 - How many of your older youth are staying in foster care past age 18? Why are they staying?
 - What does permanency for older youth look like? Are you achieving legal permanency?
 - What else is important to know?
- **Youth victims of trafficking**
 - Are you seeing victims of trafficking? What are the service needs of these youth?
 - Are there appropriate and adequate services in your community?
 - What else is important to know?
- **Finding families for all children**
 - Are noncustodial parents found and involved in court cases? Does your child protection agency have a process in place to help fathers and mothers establish parentage and child support?
 - How is your county doing on relative placement? Are you using Lexis/Nexis? What do your court reviews of the agency’s efforts on relative placement look like?
 - Do relatives come to court? Do foster parents come to court?

- What are the barriers to:
 - Reunification?
 - Adoption?
 - Transfer of permanent legal and physical custody to a relative?
- What else is important to know about the barriers to finding families for children in foster care?

- **Collaboration with Minnesota tribes**
 - What tribes do you work with? How do you work together?
 - When does working with tribes go well? In what circumstances are both the county and the tribe challenged to work together?
 - What else is important to know?

- **Prenatally-exposed infants**
 - Are you seeing infants who have been exposed to drugs or alcohol prenatally? What are the service needs of the parent and the child? Are adequate services available in your area?
 - What else is important to know?

- **Child well-being**
 - **Education:**
 - Are school-aged children able to remain in the same school? Judges, do you ask about this in court?
 - Who is responsible for educational planning for children in foster care in your jurisdiction?
 - **Physical health**
 - Are children in foster care getting timely physical examinations? Are they seeing the dentist? Are they getting appropriate follow-up care?
 - Who is in responsible for health planning for the child?
 - **Mental health**
 - Are children receiving mental health screening?
 - **Other**
 - What else is important to know about child well-being?

- **Re-entry into foster care**
 - What strategies have you tried to decrease foster care re-entry?