



CJP Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date/Time: Thursday, December 14, 2017, 10:00 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

In attendance were: Honorable William U. Hill, Honorable James E. Burke, Kerri Bumgardner (phone), Elizabeth Forslund, Edwin Heimer (phone), Michelle Heinen, Jill Kucera, Jennifer Neely (phone), Marty Nelson (phone), Honorable Thomas W. Rumpke (phone), Ruth Nistico (phone), Honorable Dawnessa Snyder (phone), Barry Salovitz, Carol Tullio (phone), Stephen Weichman (phone), Dan Wilde, Honorable Steven Cranfill (phone), Anne Reiniger (phone), Eydie Trautwein and Jeri Melinkovich (PK).

The agenda discussions were as follows:

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Call to Order <i>Justice Hill and Eydie Trautwein</i>	<p>Justice Hill called the meeting to order and welcomed new council members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senator Nethercott: Attorney, lives in Cheyenne, 1st term in senate;• Ed Heimer: Administrator at Department of Family Services (DFS), lives in Cody;• Ayana Lopez: Foster care alumni, lives in Cheyenne, student at Laramie County Community College;• Senator Affie Ellis: From Jackson, UW alumni, lives in Cheyenne, elected in 2017; and• Korin Schmidt: Deputy director with Department of Health, interim senior administrator for DFS, University of Wyoming alumni, lives in Cheyenne.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes approved.
	<p>Chief Justice Burke thanked Justice Hill for his work on the CJP Council and for his support of Wyoming children and families.</p> <p>Review and approval of September 21, 2017 minutes. Jill Kucera motioned to approve, Dan Wilde seconded the approval of minutes, all in favor, none opposed.</p>	

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Grant Activity Update <i>Eydie Trautwein</i>	<p>Eydie Trautwein provided an overview of current grant funding and FFY16 grant reversions. CJP received and reconciled budget reports from State Auditor’s Office; reversions are less than originally projected. CJP has almost completely expended the basic grant and the data and training grants have lower reversion amounts than projected (but will still revert funds for FFY16).</p> <p>FFY17 funding update: \$95,000 in Basic, \$94,000 in Training, \$94,000 in Data grants.</p> <p>Eydie Trautwein provided an update on new federal legislation effecting FFY18-FFY22 funding. The “Courts Act,” Bill 4461 is an attempt to fund the three CIP grants at current levels through 2022. A summary of the bill was distributed with the agenda. If the legislation passes, this will put CJP back on track for a multiple year grant cycle, which is how funding was handled prior to FFY15.</p>	
CQI/Data Committee <i>Eydie Trautwein and Elizabeth Forslund</i>	<p>Elizabeth Forslund provided a Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and Program Improvement Plan (PIP) update.</p> <p>Wyoming went through a CFSR review in July of 2016 (results on DFS website). Currently working with federal partners to get a PIP approved. Submitted first draft in March. Lots of work and conversations with DFS staff, GAL, advisory council, etc. to get projects in order. A second draft document is ready and will be submitted by the first of January, 2018. An in-person meeting with federal partners will occur at the end of January (January 23-25). Wyoming will have two years of PIP implementation and one year of measurement.</p> <p>Eydie Trautwein provided an update on the Court Observation Pilot Program. The project is on hold until the PIP has been approved. The project was intended to support PIP activities, but if the project is not included in the PIP, CJP will roll out the project as an independent strategy.</p> <p>Eydie Trautwein provided a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) audit update.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motion passed to accept the 2017 Statewide CJP Data Report, post to CJP website. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Every year CJP conducts a TPR audit that includes a review of all TPR cases filed in Wyoming within the federal fiscal year. In FFY17, there were 56 TPR cases filed and audited. In addition to the TPR data, CJP also analyzes data from DFS related to “time to permanent

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placement.”

Eydie Trautwein provide an overview of the 2017 Statewide Data Report and explained each graph. The report includes statewide “time to permanent placement” information and ends with data related to the timing of court hearing deadlines. If approved, the 2017 Data Report will be posted to the CJP website.

In FFY17, Wyoming made significant progress in decreasing statewide numbers. The statewide median days to “permanent placement” decreased from 297 days to 289. Significantly, the “times to adoption” decreased from 981 days to 816 days (165 days).

Wyoming is doing well compared to national standards. The national standards for times to reunification, guardianship and adoptions are as follows: reunification (12 months/365 days), guardianship (18 months/540 days) and adoption (24 months/720 days). Wyoming’s FFY17 times are as follows: reunification (213 days), guardianship (561 days) and adoption (816 days).

The Council also reviewed the court hearing timeliness data in the 2017 Data Report and unfortunately, most of the “times” have increased, with the exception of “time to dispositional hearings”, which is at 105 days (courts have up to 150 days to hold a dispositional hearing based on statutory timelines). Times to permanency hearings, time to the filing of a TPR petition and time to final TPR order increased in FFY17. CJP also collects and reports “quality” data and the number of continuances is low, with an average of 1.4 continuances per case. Additionally, GALs were appointed within 6 days of the petition and parent attorneys within 18 days.

The Council discussed the “baselines” contained in the report. The baselines in the report are 2013 numbers (the first year CJP started collecting data), the Council may need to adjust the baseline at some point (use an average of several years)). Judge Snyder suggested explaining that the baseline is from 2013 on the report.

Jill Kucera motioned to accept the 2017 Statewide Data Report and post the report to the CJP website, Judge Snyder seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

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-----	<p>Judge Rumpke asked why some of the numbers had increased, specifically times to guardianship. The Council discussed various causes: caseloads have increased, a few districts have seen spikes in numbers (which increases the statewide totals), the number of appeals are increasing, and increase in relinquishments.</p> <p>Eydie Trautwein provided an overview of the 2017 CJP/CQI data results broken down by judicial district. A summary for each judicial district was reviewed, including median days to permanency, point-in-time custodies (on October 1), times to reunification, guardianship and adoption, and re-entry rates. The following districts posted times under the statewide baseline of 288 median days (for time to permanent placement): 2nd, 5th and 7th</p> <p>The 1st and 8th judicial districts had some long term, difficult or out-of-state adoptions which were highlighted in the data. The hypothesis is that the 1st judicial district (450 days to permanency) is pushing through a large number of “older” cases and once these cases reach permanency, the numbers should decrease in the future.</p> <p>The next steps for CJP (based on the data) is to: Identify lessons learned through individual review of cases, identify training needs, staffing needs, etc. CJP has had requests for training in the 8th judicial district (Douglas) (January 5th) and 5th judicial district (Cody) (April 30th). DFS has already reviewed the data with district managers. The GAL Division has reviewed the data with their GAL supervisors. Individual judicial district data is not shared publically, but is used internally to develop next steps.</p> <p>Dan Wilde provided an update on the GAL supervisors’ meeting held on November 2nd and 3rd. Meetings were held to discuss CQI processes, including results from the statewide survey/community survey of GALs. DFS also presented on CFSR results and CJP presented data. The GAL supervisors went over the GAL data system and reports; they discussed goals and priorities that will affect conferences and trainings.</p> <p>Part of the GAL CQI process included an audit of a sample of cases. The results indicated there was an improvement in timely permanency hearings. Timely adjudicatory hearings have also improved significantly. The GAL data did indicate that</p>	

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ICWA Subcommittee <i>Eydie Trautwein and Jen Neely</i>	<p>Jen Neely provided an update related to DFS work on the Wind River Reservation. DFS is in the process of conducting a program review and fiscal review for the Northern Arapaho social services office, will then review the Eastern Shoshone office at the beginning of the year. Jen Neely attended the Select Committee on Tribal Relations meetings on November 30, 2017 and December 1, 2017 and received information at the meeting that the tribes are working together to try to operate one court.</p>	
Parent Legal Representation Committee <i>Anne Reiniger</i>	<p>Anne Reiniger provided a general update. The committee continues to meet bi-monthly. One of the issues the committee is starting to focus on is appeals (there has been an increase statewide). The committee wants to assure there is an adequate number of parent attorneys to represent parents in</p>	

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<p>and Eydie Trautwein</p>	<p>appeals. The next committee meeting will be focused on brainstorming different issues that need to be addressed this next year.</p> <p>The shelter care tip sheet has been added into the Parent Handbook. Anne presented information to the DFS district managers and DFS will be handing out the updated Parent Handbook.</p> <p>The committee is waiting to hear from district court judges about the survey results related to shelter care hearings.</p> <p>Eydie Trautwein reviewed the tentative parent attorney/prosecutor training schedule. Lisa Finkey is under contract with CJP and will be available to conduct the trainings. In the past, CJP has focused on hosting a statewide conference only to meet prosecutor and parent attorney training needs and it has been difficult to ensure all areas receive trainings. Based on data and feedback, CJP is adjusting this training strategy and in addition to a statewide conference, will provide targeted trainings in Cheyenne (May 18), Torrington (June 1), Cheyenne (June 26), Douglas (July 13), Riverton (July 27), Sheridan (August 10) and Gillette (August 24).</p> <p>The Council brainstormed ways to gather feedback from prosecutors on how they handle juvenile cases and discussed the lack of uniformity around the state. Judge Rumpke provided an example about the lack of uniformity related to pleadings.</p>	
<p>Training Committee <i>Eydie Trautwein</i></p>	<p>Eydie Trautwein provided an update on the Wyoming Joint Symposium. CJP is continuing to partner with the Attorney General’s Office, Division of Victim’s Services. The dates of the Symposium have changed to June 26-28 in Cheyenne; the change will help save money, as Cheyenne is offering free staffing and marketing services for conferences held in Cheyenne. Dan Wilde, Wendy Ross and Eydie Trautwein (as part of a subcommittee) are working to identify speakers for two juvenile court specific tracks.</p> <p>BlogTalk Radio Update: Monthly BlogTalks are going well. CJP has been contacted by Department of Health, KidCare CHIP who will present a special episode (outside of the set schedule) on December 20th. As a reminder, all BlogTalks are archived and can be accessed anytime after the live broadcast.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to review Legal Resource Manual and email comments to Eydie Trautwein by January 8th.

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-----	<p>Community Trainings Update: January 5th (Douglas) and April 30th (Cody).</p> <p>Child Abuse and Neglect Institute Training for judges will be held in Reno the week of June 11th - 4 Wyoming judges will be attending the training.</p> <p>The National Association for Counsel for Children (NACC) is looking for states who are interested in being part of a pilot program to offer online webinars (14 week online course on core competencies for child welfare attorneys). Eydie Trautwein and Dan Wilde are looking into the opportunity and it may be a good idea considering budget cuts and travel restrictions. The training could be offered to GALs, prosecutors, AGs and parent attorneys.</p> <p>CJP Publications Update:</p> <p>Legal Resource Manual: Version 2 of the Legal Resource Manual was emailed out to the Council; Version 2 includes case law (through September, 2017). CJP has received some comments/changes. Discussion about whether Council members would like additional time to review and comment. All final comments due to Eydie Trautwein by January 8 (will give an additional three weeks). Please email comments to Eydie Trautwein.</p> <p>Prosecutor Manual: Hard copies were distributed to prosecutors (at WACO) in September. No substantive feedback has been received. An electronic draft was sent to a few council members for feedback in November (Judge Snyder, Dan Wilde and Jill Kucera) to have comments back by January 15th. Eydie Trautwein will then send out the manual to the full Council in February. Steve Weichman and Judge Rumpke requested an electronic copy of the manual.</p>	
Sex/Human Trafficking Taskforce Update <i>Debra Hibbard, Dan Wilde and Eydie Trautwein</i>	The taskforce continues to meet quarterly. The focus lately has been on law enforcement training. Nothing new to report.	
I-VE Taskforce	On hold.	

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Update <i>Eydie Trautwein, Debra Hibbard, Jill Kucera</i>		
Juvenile Court Rules Update <i>Eydie Trautwein</i>	<p>The Permanent Rules Advisory Committee, Juvenile Division is working to update the Juvenile Court Rules and has finalized proposed rule changes. The committee has circulated the rules for comment. Once those comments have been received and considered, the committee will submit the proposed change to the Wyoming Supreme Court. A brief summary of the changes is as follows: (1) added a section that clarifies that a petition needs to be filed before shelter care; (2) added stronger language about children attending permanency hearings; (3) clarification on notice and who provides it to whom; (4) adds language to reinforce duties of all parties to request timeline hearings; (5) clarifies discovery request guidance; and (6) clarifies language around prohibiting stipulations to shelter care.</p>	
Upcoming Meetings	<p>The Council reviewed the proposed 2 year schedule. General consensus, Fridays are good. Eydie Trautwein will finalize the schedule, post to the website and send out calendar appointments. As a reminder, we will use a different call-in number and be using the Surface Hubs.</p> <p>Next meeting: March 16th at 10:00 a.m.</p>	
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting adjournment at 11:25 am.	