

Extended Jurisdiction Work Group Meeting
August 26th from 1-3pm in Dover
John Collett Education Center
Room C

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- I. Attendance: Felicia Kellum, Islanda Finamore, Julie Miller, Gwen Stubbolo, Barbara Crowell, Lauren Brueckner, Christina Jones-Bey
- II. Minutes approved with some minor name changes, first by Felicia and seconded by Julie
- III. Best Practices: the packet is all set and **Lauren will go ahead and redistribute to OCA and CASA volunteers and attorneys.**
  - a. Felicia brought up an issue about serving DFS and trying to save that action. Judge Crowell explained that after a little bit of research, it turned out that it was more costly to sort through petitions to flag which ones wouldn't need to be served. **Lauren will email Judge Crowell a copy of the EJ packet and she'll bring it to the Judge's meeting which is in 2 weeks. Islanda will distribute again to DAGs.**
- IV. Legislation: Judge Crowell was hopeful that the new legislation would pass this legislation session but it didn't happen due to the change in Chief Judge. It's going to be introduced by CPAC. The legislation will also be presented to the Judges at their upcoming meeting. Julie brought up that since the CPAC will present the legislation, our group should approve it and submit it to the CPAC meeting in October. **Lauren will email it to distribute for final approval, give everyone 10 days to respond, then without any objection, Lauren will submit to CPAC Permanency Meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup>.** At the meeting, Felicia, Julie, Judge Crowell, Lauren, and Gwen approved.
- V. Data Analysis: the group looked at the EJ data and spoke about why youth are terminating their EJ. Lauren shared that she has a case getting ready to terminate because the youth doesn't want to come to court any longer. She wants to live on her own without help. She does know where she can go (She's a client of People's Place) to get assistance. Julie asked what "other" means in graph 5.14. Felicia suggested that it's due to incarceration, run away, etc. Julie suggested making the wording consistent. Judge Crowell suggested that the numbers are improving because our actions in court in appropriately filing the EJ petitions are improving. We're clearer about our process and it's clearer in court about what EJ means and how it will affect the youth. Felicia suggested separating "no longer consents" to "not active" or "doing well, doesn't need assistance" because these two outcomes are very different.

- a. Felicia shared that we have 38 youth on EJ to date. The breakout by county is consistent from OCA's database (half in NCC with two quarters in Kent and Sussex).

VI. Judge & Secretary Training: this is no longer an issue and it appears that all counties are able to properly process the EJ petitions. Islanda has noticed that the petition has not been sent to the CC lines. This hasn't happened in a while so it's unclear if this is an ongoing issue, but Islanda would just like to mention that to keep an eye on that.

- a. Felicia mentioned a box to check for IL services to be initiated. There are a few instances when the petitions don't include a checked box for IL services, even when Felicia knows that IL services have been initiated. This is the whole point of EJ hearings and without checking that box, it looks bad on IL Services even when they are being provided.

VII. Additional Trainings

- a. No training scheduled at the moment. CASA has done it statewide through in-service trainings. The documents will also be included in the new CASA training manual as well. Judge Crowell will distribute the EJ packet and suggest doing a training to Chief Judge and Rachael at CIP. The recorded EJ presentation by Lauren and Julie is up on OCA's website. **Lauren will pass on this information in an email with the EJ packet information.**

VIII. Road Blocks

- a. Youth Observation in Court: Julie updated the group on her efforts to provide surveys to youth who attend court. She's observing how all the other professionals interact with the youth. CIP will bring in someone from the national level to do the observations, so now Julie is doing an initial observation. Judge Crowell suggested that the OCA or CASA takes a few moments to explain why the youth isn't there. This could be in the same frame as if the youth is present, to introduce the judge to the youth. This would also be a good way to find out if OCA or CASAs are involved with their youth. This best practice will come out of CIP as a recommendation.
- b. Christina brought up an issue with Sussex CASA attorneys asking for CASA's appointment to extend on some EJ cases. The first was an EJ case that moved out of state and another was a case when the youth turned 21. Judge granted the CASA's appointment extension in both cases. The group asked how this is possible, and it was discussed that it shouldn't be. CASA will do additional training to clear up this issue. Gwen will send a blanket email to all CASA attorneys to remind them of the things discussed in this meeting:
  - i. Attorneys to introduce youth if he/she is in court. If the youth is not present, explain to the court why not.

- ii. Check the IL box when filing out the EJ petition and don't feel compelled to include information in this section
  - iii. Reminder: no CASAs after the age of 21
  - iv. Reminder: no CASAs on a case if the youth moves out of state and IL services are closed.
  - v. If a youth has a conflict and cannot attend the court hearing for good reason (school, work, etc.), then think about filing for a continuance.
- c. Judge Crowell mentioned an issue with the youth not being able to attend the EJ hearing if there is a good reason, such as first day on a new job. If that's the case, Judge Crowell would support rescheduling.
- d. Felicia brought up another issue of a recent hearing for scheduling the upcoming hearing. The proposal for the next date would fall on a date when the DAG would not be present. The question was raised as to whether or not the DAG was needed to participate. The question about their involvement was questioned. It was determined that the DAG was important and shouldn't be excused.
- IX. Next Meeting: Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1-3pm in Dover. **Lauren will confirm the room.** Felicia made a motion to adjourn. Julie second. Meeting closed.