

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

**Minutes**

January 3, 2020

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee held a meeting at the Indiana Office of Court Services on Friday, January 3, 2020 from 12:00 noon -- 3:00 p.m.

1. Members. Hubert Branstetter Jr., Darrin M. Dolehanty, Kelsey Blake Hanlon, Marilyn A. Moores, via speakerphone, Bruce E. Petit, Charles F. Pratt, Gwenn R. Rinkenberger, Andrea R. Trevino, and Dana J. Kenworthy, Chair. Thomas P. Stefaniak Jr. was out of town and unable to attend.
2. Staff. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Leslie Dunn, Indiana Office of Court Services; and Senior Judge Nancy Gettinger, Jurist in Residence.
3. Guests. Michael Ross, Behavioral Health, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute; Heather Kestian, Jim Luttrull, and Will Young, Indiana Department of Child Services; Julie Whitman, Executive Director, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana; Rachel Massey, Legislative Assistant, and Caitlin Way, Intern, Indiana House of Representatives; and Judge Faith Graham, Tippecanoe Superior Court.
4. Minutes. The minutes for the meeting of the committee on December 6, 2019 were approved.
5. Juveniles in jail and ICJI.
  - a. Michael Ross, Behavioral Health, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) presented a PowerPoint concerning the federal Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018. This act will prohibit the juveniles charged as adults from placement in adult jails and lockups by December 21, 2021, unless additional requirements are met. He stated Didier Moncion is a Program Manager at OJJDP who monitors compliance with the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act in Indiana. Members of the committee discussed juvenile detention bed space may be needed, the inclusion of waived juveniles, whether regulations are different for rural counties, and the forms needed to comply with the new law. The committee recommended the Juvenile Benchbook Committee prepare the appropriate forms.
  - b. Mr. Ross discussed Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) statistics with the committee. He said the statistics are meant to be a flag, not accusatory. Judge Moores stated efforts to address DMC must be addressed in the DMC report at the time the statistics are released. She also asked whether any studies exist of implicit or institutional bias. Judge Moores stated feedback should be given to the feds about the need for more helpful data. Judge Kenworthy thanked the ICJI for getting DMC statistics to the committee and courts in advance of a wide distribution. Mr. Ross appreciated input from the committee on decision points and thoughts generally on the presentation of DMC data.

6. Time limits in CHINS/TPR. Judge Kenworthy and Judge Graham distributed revised statutory time limits for factfindings in CHINS and Termination of Parental Rights cases. Committee members discussed the revisions to the time limits. Judge Pratt moved the revisions be accepted and a legislative amendment be sought based on these revisions. Judge Petit seconded the motion. The motion was passed. The committee also agreed to send this information to the Board of Directors of the Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges for approval.

7. DCS.

a. Heather Kestian, Deputy Director of Strategic Solutions and Agency Transformation presented a PowerPoint on the Families First Prevention Services Act implementation in Indiana. She noted items completed in 2018 and 2019 in preparation for this act, the emphasis on prevention of removals of children from the home, residential treatment and outcomes. She answered questions from the committee about Qualified Residential Treatment Program under this new law. Ms. Kestian agreed to send the Safe System Improvement Tool to committee members and said DCS is using FFPSA as a tool to drive best practices for children.

b. Jim Luttrull gave an update on DCS attorneys. DCS attorneys are using legal judgment more often and have received a salary increase. DCS has hired more clerical help for attorneys, doubled the training staff for attorneys, increased the number of deputy chiefs, and added about 50 new DCS attorneys. Caseloads are 60-75 families per attorney. Attorneys are having better communication with case managers.

c. Judge Graham asked when the foster parent reporting form would be posted on the DCS website. DCS stated it should be posted soon.

8. JJIC and CWIC: Priorities and purposes. Committee members discussed a list of compiled priorities and purposes for the JJIC and CWIC. The committee agreed by consensus to various revisions. Committee members agreed by consensus to tentatively rename the committee the Juvenile Judges Advisory Committee to emphasize the broad range of juvenile topics covered by them. Judge Hanlon agreed to prepare the revisions to the list of priorities and outcomes and distribute it to the committee to review for the next meeting.

9. Update on Criminal Rule 25. Judge Kenworthy stated revisions to Criminal Rule 25 were still under consideration. Jeff Bercovitz reported the Indiana Office of Court Services is conducting a study of compliance with Criminal Rule 25 in Quest counties, in addition to Odyssey counties studied earlier. He noted in order to determine whether counsel was present, the entire case is reviewed, not just an individual hearing.

10. Status delinquency update. Judge Pratt gave an overview of an effort led by Representative Wendy McNamara to conduct a preliminary review of data collection on juveniles and an assessment of the juvenile code. He noted the original idea by the Juvenile Justice and Cross System Task Force of the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana (Commission) was to look at placement of status offenders in the juvenile code. The preliminary review of data collection in Indiana would cost

approximately \$50,000 and be conducted by the Council of State Governments (CSG). Concern was expressed by some Commission members about CSG conducting the assessment. The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee agreed by consensus that if the assessment of the juvenile code occurs, juvenile court judges should participate.

11. Recent Legislation. Committee members reviewed juvenile legislation including Senate Bills 16, 62, 64 and 206.

12. Next meeting. The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee agreed to meet again on Friday, February 7, 2020 at the Indiana Office of Court Services. They agreed to meet again on March 6, May 1, October 2, and December 11, from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Office of Court Services. They agreed to discuss holding the June meeting of the committee on Thursday, June 18, 2019 at the conclusion of the conference that day.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

**Minutes**

February 7, 2020

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee held a meeting at the Indiana Office of Court Services on Friday, February 7, 2020 from 12:00 noon -- 3:00 p.m.

1. Members. Hubert Branstetter Jr.; Steven H. David, liaison member; Darrin M. Dolehanty (via phone); Matthew L. Headley; Marilyn A. Moores; Charles F. Pratt; Gwenn R. Rinkenberger; Andrea R. Trevino (via phone); and Dana J. Kenworthy, Chair.
2. Staff. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Jim Diller, Leslie Dunn, Angela Reid-Brown, and Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services.
3. Guests. Julie Whitman, Executive Director, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana; and Judge Faith Graham, Tippecanoe Superior Court.
4. Minutes. The minutes for the meeting of the committee on January 3, 2020 were approved.
5. N.F. v State. Committee members reviewed **N.F. v. State**, 18A-JV-2655, transfer denied, a not reported case in which a juvenile did not make a statement at disposition, but whose statement was included in the predisposition report. Committee members discussed the trial court's decision which was affirmed based on the circumstances of this case. They noted it is important to have the child talk at disposition.
6. Status delinquent. Judge Pratt reported because of how long a legislative committee took, he was unable to meet with Rep. McNamara about a study of status delinquents in the juvenile code.
7. Announcements. Justice David discussed JDAI with committee members, continuing to assure that JJIC, CISC and JDAI do not work at cross purposes, and noted a new innovative initiative with technology and family law groups. Judge Headley discussed the need for education about new juvenile initiatives. Members of the committee agreed to ask all committee members to forward ideas for education in advance of the next meeting.
8. FFPSA. Judge Kenworthy gave a report of a workgroup, which is planning the judicial implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). She reported the Juvenile Benchbook Committee will prepare forms needed for placement in a Qualified Residential Treatment Facility (QRTP). DCS has approved programs/facilities which are available for use under this new law.

Angela Reid-Brown reviewed the requirements to be a QRTP and the need for a qualified assessment to use a QRTP. DCS recently distributed a request for information about persons who could conduct an assessment. Committee members discussed the need for notification to the court whenever DCS places a child. Angela Reid-Brown agreed to distribute a summary of this new law. Members of the committee agreed by consensus it would be helpful to have draft guidelines and forms available at the annual meeting of juvenile court judicial officers in June in anticipation of an October 1, 2020 implementation date.

9. JJIC Purposes. Committee members reviewed and revised the purposes, priorities and outcomes for the committee. They agreed by consensus to send the revised document to Chief Justice Rush for her consideration.

10. Criminal Rule 25 Study. Jim Diller and Jeff Bercovitz distributed a study of the use of Criminal Rule 25 by Indiana's juvenile courts. The study included 60 counties, and both Odyssey and Quest counties were represented. The study contained over 1300 Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Status randomly selected cases. Committee members were concerned that 3% of juveniles were unrepresented at initial hearings according to this study. They agreed either a rule change or education was needed to make sure all juveniles were represented at the initial hearing.

11. DOC and DCS. Committee members discussed whether the Indiana Department of Correction was still doing psychological reports at their diagnostic unit in Logansport, whether their juvenile population was growing, average length of stay, programs, and which facilities had beds available. They agreed to send to the Indiana Office of Court Services any questions for DOC and invite a representative to their next meeting. In addition, they stated it would be helpful if DCS could prepare an open bed chart in real time. The bed space availability would be helpful to courts which often have to call a number of facilities to find open beds.

12. Recent legislation.

a. Judge Graham reported the search was still on for a bill to place the committee's 60/120 day time limit language in CHINS and TPR cases.

b. Committee members reviewed Senate Bills 16, 192, 206, 259, 345, 449 and House Bills 1159 and 1418.

13. Focus group. Angela Reid-Brown reported she was contacted recently about judicial participation in a DCS focus group on their new computer system being built to replace the Management Gateway for Indiana's Kids (MaGIK). DCS would like to know what documentation is needed from DCS to go to the courts. It would be a one-time focus group of 60-90 minutes. Judge Moores and Judge Headley agreed to participate, and Judge Graham agreed she or a member of the Juvenile Benchbook Committee would also join in. The invitation will also be sent to the JJIC members not present, and the members of the IJCFCJ Board of Directors.

14. Next meeting. The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee agreed to meet again on Friday, March 6, 2020 from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Office of Court Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

**Minutes**

March 6, 2020

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee held a meeting at the Indiana Office of Court Services on Friday, March 6, 2020 from 12:00 noon -- 3:00 p.m.

1. Members. Hubert Branstetter Jr.; Darrin M. Dolehanty; Kelsey Blake Hanlon; Brett J. Niemeier; Bruce E. Petit; Charles F. Pratt; Gwenn R. Rinkenberger; Thomas P. Stefaniak Jr., Andrea R. Trevino; and Dana J. Kenworthy, Chair.
2. Staff. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Leslie Dunn and Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services.
3. Guests. Angela Sutton, Executive Director and Natalie Walker, Assistant Director, Division of Youth Services, Indiana Department of Correction; and Julie Whitman, Executive Director, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana.
4. Minutes. The minutes for the meeting of the committee on February 7, 2020 were approved.
5. DOC presentation. Angela Sutton and Natalie Walker, Division of Youth Services, Indiana Department of Correction (DOC), gave a presentation about population data, facilities, programs, and recidivism rates for juveniles placed at DOC. The presentation included various DOC youth program parameters at LaPorte, Logansport and Pendleton facilities. Committee members thanked them for their presentation.
6. Education topics. Members of the committee approved various ideas for future education programs for juvenile court judicial officers including:
  - Specialized juvenile probation programming (for drug offenders, violent offenders, gun offenses, sex offenses) which may be replicable and of interest to other counties
  - Alternative responses to non-compliance
  - Specialized probation programming, e.g. life skills
  - Effective ways to handle Status Offenders (especially repeat runaways)
  - Creative ways to use informal adjustments to address issues
  - Additional training on juvenile & immigration issues, e.g. what are the relevant laws, rules, etc.?)
  - Juvenile Drug Courts or other problem-solving courts for juveniles in Indiana (what is the model/where are they operating/are they effective)
  - Refresher on the UCCJEA & UIFSA
  - Ideas for involving absent parents and/or parents who choose not to participate in the delinquency proceedings

- Ivy Tech job readiness skills
- Next steps for Disproportionate Minority Contact
- Implicit Bias/Institutional Racism
- Older youth engagement in CHINS, Collaborative Care Programs
- ICWA
- Novel court programs
- Dependency mediation/family engagement practices
- Screening for adverse childhood experiences
- School safety information/programs; “GRIT” research, which school administrators are using
- Competency issues
- Adolescent brain development, including how high potency marijuana effects the brain

7. DMC. A copy of the ICJI Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC), reporting from 10-1-2017 through 9-30–2018, was distributed to the committee. The committee discussed suggestions for improving the report and giving these suggestions to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute. The chair and staff agreed to draft a summary of suggestions for distribution to the committee for review and agreed to get the suggested changes to the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) within the next 30 days. They also agreed by consensus to assist ICJI to distribute DMC statistics from 10-1-18 through 9-30-19 to juvenile courts for the courts’ review in advance of a wider distribution.

8. Case law. Committee members discussed **Matter of M.S., A.C. v. DCS** 19S-JC-505 (Ind. February 20, 2020) a recent CHINS case and **Matter of L.H., E.H. v. DCS** 19A-JT-1969 (Ind. Feb. 24, 2020) a recent Termination of Parental Rights case.

9. Recent legislation. Committee members thanked Judge Graham for her hard work on SEA 206, concerning depositions of child victims less than 16 years old. Committee members reviewed SEA 206, SB 289, SB 335, SB, 345, and HEA 1091 and HB 1132.

10. Foster parent reporting form. Judge Faith Graham, Chair, Juvenile Benchbook Committee reported via email that Benchbook Committee had received various questions about the use of the new foster parent reporting form. No guidance was provided by many entities serving children about the new form. She reported the Benchbook Committee is revising the CHINS Benchbook, but would like to note the completion of the new chapter on Parties and post it for public access. She also recommended providing additional guidance on the new form to Clerks and juvenile judicial officers at upcoming educational programs, and encouraging DCS, GAL/CASA, IARCA and LCPA’s to provide additional guidance on the use of this new form. Committee members agreed by consensus with these recommendations.

11. Juvenile system review. Judge Pratt reported the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana approved a proposal by Representative Wendy

McNamara to seek approximately \$50,000 to study Indiana's juvenile justice system, including the creation of a task force. The task force would first study data and would look at what is working well and what challenges exist.

12. Other.

- A DCS focus group will be held on April 17, 2020 starting at 9:00 a.m. for approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours to discuss the new computer system being built to replace the Management Gateway for Indiana's Kids (MaGIK).
- Two recent Indiana Lawyer articles were distributed. The first concerned federal lawsuits permitting same sex couples to be listed on a baby's birth certificate. The second reported a federal court dismissed a lawsuit, which would require attorneys to be appointed in all CHINS cases for the child. Committee members noted the federal court indicated the case should be filed in state court when dismissing the federal case. Committee members agreed to form a work group to assist juvenile courts concerning the appointment of counsel for children in CHINS cases. Leslie Dunn agreed to distribute research in this area to committee members.

13. Next meeting. The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee agreed to meet again on Friday, May 1, 2020 from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Office of Court Services; Thursday, June 18, 2020 from 4:30 – 5:50 p.m. in conjunction with the Juvenile Court Judicial Officers Annual Meeting; Friday, October 2, 2020; December 11, 2020; January 8, 2021; February 5, 2021; and March 5, 2021 all from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Board of Directors, Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges

Conference Call  
**Minutes**  
April 7, 2020

A joint meeting of the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee and the Board of Directors, Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, was held via conference call on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

1. Members.
  - a. Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee: Hubert Branstetter Jr., Matthew Headley, and Gwenn R. Rinkenberger
  - b. Board of Directors, Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges: Vicki L. Carmichael, Deborah A. Domine, Kimberly S. Dowling, Faith A. Graham, Kelsey Hanlon, James D. Humphrey, Kenton W. Kiracofe and Harry A. Siamas.
  - c. Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee and Board of Directors, Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges: Darrin M. Dolehanty, Dana J. Kenworthy, Marilyn A. Moores, and Charles F. Pratt.
2. Staff. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Leslie Dunn, Angela Reid-Brown, Indiana Office of Court Services; and Nancy Gettinger, Jurist in Residence.
3. Guests. Julie Whitman, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting of the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee on March 6, 2020 were approved.
5. Distribution of Dr. Milner Covid-19 memo. Judge Kenworthy reported a memorandum from Dr. Jerry Milner, Administration for Children and Families about Title IV-E requirements and courts making decisions on an individual basis. It is scheduled to go out in the April 8, 2020 Wednesday message.
6. Discussion of Covid-19 issues and DCS. Leslie Dunn reported talking about forming a small group to discuss Covid-19 issues. Julie Whitman reported the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana could play a coordinating role for this small group. Committee and Board members agreed by consensus the Commission should take the lead in coordinating these efforts. Judge Moores and Judge Pratt agreed by consensus to serve as liaisons from the committee to this small group.
7. DCS face to face visits. A draft response to an email from Kristi-Cundiff founder of the Indiana Foster and Adoptive Parents Resources and Advocacy Group (IFAAP) about temporarily suspending face to face parenting time visits with children in foster

care placements during the Covid-19 pandemic was distributed to the committee. They reviewed the draft response and recommended adding out-of-state travel to the list of factors the court could consider. Judge Kenworthy agreed to review Executive Order 20-18 to see if affects the draft response. The committee agreed to distribute the draft response DCS, Public Defender's Council and CASA for any comments by the close of business tomorrow. The response will be submitted for inclusion in a Wednesday message.

8. Reduction in abuse reports. Leslie Dunn reported New Hampshire experienced a 50% decrease in reporting abuse and neglect. Mag. Domine suggested providing education to staff on reporting abuse and neglect at satellite lunch sites around the state.

9. Next meeting. The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee agreed to meet again on Friday, May 1, 2020 from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. via WebEx or Microsoft Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Remote meeting via Teams

**Minutes**

May 1, 2020

A meeting of the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee was held via Teams on Friday, May 1, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

1. Members. Darrin M. Dolehanty, Kelsey Hanlon, Brett J. Niemeier, Bruce Petit, Charles F. Pratt, Gwenn R. Rinkenberger, Thomas P. Stefaniak, Jr. and Dana Kenworthy, Chair
2. Staff. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Pamela Christenberry, Leslie Dunn, Angela Reid-Brown, Indiana Office of Court Services; Katie Wilson, Court Technology; and Nancy Gettinger, Jurist in Residence.
3. Guests. Judge Faith Graham, Rachel Massey, Legislative Assistant, and Julie Whitman, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting of the committee on April 7, 2020 were approved.
5. Transition of juvenile courts to reopen.
  - a. Committee members discussed how they were transitioning to reopening. This included use of telephone and remote video hearings, exhibits on a flash drive with hard copy on plastic envelopes, attendance of parents increasing in some cases by use of telephone testimony, concerns about court staff and social distancing in older court houses, checking temperatures before entering the court house, use of Zoom and other video platforms, tents in parking lots or use of larger space when many persons appear for hearings for a morning or afternoon docket call.
  - b. Questions included the length of time the Office of Judicial Administration will have the Zoom account for county court use, the definition of essential and nonessential hearings, whether or not hearings which are open to the public, e.g. certain delinquency hearings must be livestreamed, and which hearing deadlines if any under Title IV-E can be tolled.
6. Draft report on foster parent rights. A draft report on foster parent rights to be heard, required by S.E.A.1 in 2019 was distributed to the committee. Judge Kenworthy discussed revisions. The committee agreed to review the revised report at their next meeting before it is sent to DCS for their portion of this report.
7. Release of juveniles from DOC. Judge Kenworthy reported DOC has Level 3 or 4 juveniles which DOC believes may have a potential to be released. Committee members discussed whether DOC could inform each county about these juveniles,

whether the counties could send emails to DOC to see if DOC has juveniles from their county for potential release, and checking with local probation once they receive names of potential juveniles to be assured the juvenile has housing and services available locally. Judge Kenworthy agreed to discuss this with Angela Sutton, DOC and get information back to the committee.

8. Other. Nancy Wever announced probation departments can use the Zoom licenses offered by the Office of Judicial Administration and there may Title IV-B monies available to purchase technology for families.

9. Next meeting. The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee agreed to meet again in about two weeks from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. via Teams. The Indiana Office of Court Services will survey members for a date for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Remote meeting via Teams

**Minutes**

May 19, 2020

A meeting of the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee was held via Teams on Tuesday, May 19, 2020 from 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

1. Members. Kelsey Hanlon, Matthew Headley, Marilyn A. Moores, Charles F. Pratt, Andrea Trevino and Dana Kenworthy, Chair.
2. Staff. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Pamela Christenberry, Leslie Dunn, Angela Reid-Brown, Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services; and Nancy Gettinger, Jurist in Residence.
3. Guests. Judge Faith Graham, Chair, Juvenile Benchbook Committee and Julie Whitman, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting of the committee on May 1, 2020 were approved.
5. Draft report on foster parent rights. A draft report on a foster parent's right to be heard was distributed to the committee. It was required to be prepared by S.E.A.1 in 2019. The committee approved the draft report by consensus. It will be forwarded to DCS to prepare their information for this report.
6. Release of juveniles from DOC. Judge Kenworthy reported she corresponded with Angela Sutton, DOC about Level 3 or 4 juveniles which DOC believes have a potential to be released. Angela Sutton reported DOC is unable to provide the names of youth without a written request from either the judge, magistrate or Chief Probation Officer. Angela offered to send an email to all juvenile court judges indicating they will need to request the names of Level 3 or 4 juveniles from their county. Committee members agreed by consensus to request to DOC to send an email for this purpose.
7. Best practices for juvenile hearings.
  - a. Judge Kenworthy distributed a draft memorandum about conducting juvenile CHINS and Delinquency hearings remotely or in person in the coronavirus era. Judge Graham distributed a draft dialogue for courts including advisements, confidentiality, decorum, and other areas for remote hearings. Committee members discussed litigants appearing via telephone, the continued expectation of reasonable efforts, conducting timely juvenile hearings, use of waivers, conducting hearings based on the procedures of AR 17 vs. AR 14, hearings where some appear in person and others remotely, notification of foster parents, relative and kinship placements, and public access to the delinquency hearings which are open. Judge Kenworthy agreed to revise the memo

and Judge Graham agreed to revise the dialogue. The committee agreed by consensus to distribute the revised draft to various stakeholders including DCS, Public Defender's Council, CASA, probation, and others for any comments. The revised memo will be submitted for inclusion in a Wednesday message and the dialogue distributed when available.

b. The committee agreed by consensus to distribute a memorandum on Title IV-E hearing requirements prepared by Angela Reid-Brown and Jeff Bercovitz with the remote hearing memorandum.

8. Next meeting. The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee agreed to meet again on Wed., June 3, 2020 from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. via Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Remote meeting via Teams

**Minutes**

June 3, 2020

A meeting of the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee was held via Teams on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 from 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

1. Members. Darrin M. Dolehanty, Matthew Headley, Marilyn A. Moores, Brett Niemeier, Charles F. Pratt, Thomas P. Stefaniak, Jr., Andrea Trevino and Dana Kenworthy, Chair.
2. Staff. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Pamela Christenberry, Leslie Dunn, Angela Reid-Brown, Indiana Office of Court Services; and Nancy Gettinger, Jurist in Residence.
3. Guests. Judge Faith Graham, Chair, Juvenile Benchbook Committee and Julie Whitman, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting of the committee on May 19, 2020 were approved.
5. Best practices for juvenile hearings.
  - a. Judge Kenworthy distributed a revised memorandum about conducting juvenile CHINS and Delinquency hearings remotely, with a dialogue for courts for remote hearings and a memo on Title IV-E hearing requirements. She explained these items, if approved by IOCS, will be placed in INCite with Benchbooks. She also will forward them to Judge Carmichael to place them on the IJA list serve. Committee members approved these materials by consensus.
  - b. Members of the committee discussed a draft memorandum about conducting Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) hearings remotely. She noted issues included determining whether these hearings are essential, getting exhibits to the court in advance, and the ability of attorneys to talk with their clients privately. Delays in TPR cases and balancing the rights of parents and the rights of children was also discussed. Committee members agreed the CHINS and Delinquency dialogue could be referenced in the TPR memo. The committee approved the TPR memo and use of the dialogue by consensus.
6. Due process in TPR cases. Committee members discussed **In Re Tre.S., A.S. v. DCS**, \_\_\_ N.E.3d \_\_\_ (Ind. Ct. App. May 27, 2020). Due process was violated and TPR was reversed when mother and her attorney were not present for the TPR hearing. Judge Kenworthy distributed previous guidance from last year on due process in TPR cases. She reported this case would be discussed by Judge Hanlon during the juvenile court judges annual meeting.

7. Other.
  - a. Judge Kenworthy reported the draft report on foster parent rights under S.E.A. 1 – 2019 was forwarded to DCS. We expect it back with the DCS portion of the report at the next committee meeting.
  - b. Judge Kenworthy reported Angela Sutton, DOC sent an email to all juvenile court judges about Level 3 or 4 juveniles which DOC believes have a potential to be released. Committee members indicated some had already received their email.
  - c. Judge Moores reported Marion Superior Court juvenile division would become part of the new Family Division as part of the court's reorganization when moving into a new building housing all the courts in Marion County. In addition, the juvenile court will use Odyssey instead of Quest. She stated the rich data in Quest will be converted to Odyssey.
  - d. The juvenile judges annual meeting will be held remotely. There will be a live session on Thurs., June 18 and Fri., June 19, which will be recorded. In addition, there will be sessions on recent legislation and case law, recorded in advance. Jeff Bercovitz agreed to forward the recent Wednesday message information to the committee,
  - e. Judge Graham stated a recent request for an informal adjustment included approval of a referral to Family Preservation Services for an assessment, with no specific services indicated in the request. Mr. David Reed, DCS discussed this new program with the committee in December. Committee members discussed questions including whether this new program was an improper delegation of judicial authority, whether it was in place statewide, and when it would apply to JD/JS cases. Members of the committee agreed to invite Mr. Reed to the next meeting of the committee to discuss the program further. They also agreed to send additional questions to staff to be forwarded to Mr. Reed.
  - f. Committee members discussed conducting juvenile hearings in person. Judge Pratt stated he prepared a tour on social distancing for court hearings in a YouTube video.
8. Next meeting. The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee agreed to meet again on Thursday, June 18, 2020 from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. via Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Remote meeting via Teams

**Minutes**

June 18, 2020

A meeting of the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee was held via Teams on Thursday, June 18, 2020 from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

1. Members. Steven David, Liaison member, Darrin M. Dolehanty, Kelsey Hanlon, Brett J. Niemeier, Bruce Petit, Charles F. Pratt, and Dana Kenworthy, Chair.
2. Staff. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Pamela Christenberry, Leslie Dunn, Angela Reid-Brown, Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services.
3. Guests. David Reed and Will Young, Department of Child Services; Judge Faith Graham, Chair, Juvenile Benchbook Committee and Julie Whitman, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting of the committee on June 3, 2020 were approved.
5. Presentation by Will Young. Mr. Will Young, DCS reviewed the draft report on foster parent rights to be heard, required by S.E.A.1 in 2019 with members of the committee. The draft included the DCS portion of this report. He noted the report was approved by his supervisors and the governor's office. Committee members recommended changes and agreed by consensus to include information about state CASA training of foster parents and CASA's about recent foster parent legislation. The final report will be forwarded by Will Young to the Indiana General Assembly before July 1, 2020.
6. Presentation by David Reed. Mr. David Reed, DCS responded to questions from committee members about the new DCS program Family Preservation Services. Committee members expressed concern about the specificity of referrals to "Family Preservation Services" and whether there were enough specific items for completion for a court order. Mr. Reed explained:
  - All referrals to family preservation services would be treated the same
  - Services not provided by family preservation services (e.g. psychological assessments) can be referred to contract providers
  - Family preservation services can do safety plans and participate in dependency mediation in addition to conducting assessments.
  - Treatment plans will have items for completion by families which can be measured at review hearings.
  - Team planning with the family present or case planning without the family present will still occur.

- The providers of family preservation services have incentives to bill Medicaid for services which may occur during and after a CHINS case.

The Committee suggested that it would be helpful if DCS files the 7-day assessment and recommendations for treatment along with petitions for informal adjustment. Mr. Reed agreed to discuss this with his team. Judge Kenworthy agreed to invite Mr. Reed back to another committee meeting if additional questions arise.

7. Child Abuse Prevention Training Toolkit. Judge Kenworthy reported Mag. Domine distributed a Child Abuse Prevention Training Toolkit. It prepares a new “front line” to recognize child abuse. Judge Kenworthy discussed distribution of the toolkit to Leslie Dunn for distribution to CASA agencies. Another option would be to distribute the kit to Prevent Child Abuse Councils. Julie Whitman indicated the Children’s Commission would be interested in this material.

8. Other.

- Julie Whitman reported the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana formed a new task force to review the juvenile laws. Representative Wendy McNamara and Senator Michael Crider co-chair this task force. They will first review Indiana’s juvenile data systems with assistance of the Council of State Governments and with grant monies anticipated to be awarded very soon.
- Committee members agreed future meetings would be scheduled to be held remotely in two (2) hour time blocks.

9. Next meeting. The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee agreed to meet on Friday, August 7, 2020 from 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. via Teams.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Remote meeting via Teams

**Minutes**

August 7, 2020

A meeting of the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee was held via Teams on Friday, August 7, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

1. Members. Steven David, Liaison member, Faith Graham, Kelsey Hanlon, Holly Harvey, Matthew Headley, Mark Jones, Brett J. Niemeier, Bruce Petit, Thomas P. Stefaniak, Jr., Andrea Trevino and Dana Kenworthy, Chair.
  2. Staff. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Pamela Christenberry, Leslie Dunn, Nancy Gettinger, Melinda Pickett, Angela Reid-Brown, Colleen Saylor, Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services.
  3. Guests. Manpreet Kaur, Michael Ross, Christine Reynolds, Renee White, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute; Judge James Humphrey: Connor McCarthy, Legislative Services Agency and Julie Whitman, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana.
  4. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting of the committee on June 18, 2020 were approved.
  5. New members. Judge Kenworthy, Chair, welcomed new members Judge Faith Graham, Judge Holly Harvey, and Judge Mark Jones to the committee. She thanked Judge Dolehanty, Judge Hanson and Judge Moores for their service.
  6. Presentation by Angela Reid-Brown.
    - a. Angela Reid-Brown introduced Colleen Saylor as new staff working on the FFY 2019 CIP Performance Measures report.
    - b. Angela Reid-Brown distributed the draft report to members of the committee. She asked the committee to include five (5) new measures in the FFY 2020 report:
      - 2A: Achievement of Child Permanency
      - 2B: Children not Reaching Permanency
      - 4F: Timeliness of 1st Case Review Hearing
      - 4L: Timeliness of Adoption Petition
      - 4M: Timeliness of Adoption Proceedings
- Judge Kenworthy stated the report gives a good summary of how courts are doing with CHINS and Termination of Parental Rights cases. Judge Jones moved to approve the 5 new measures. Judge Petit seconded the motion. The motion was passed.
7. DCS focus group with Change Innovation Agency.
    - a. Judge Kenworthy distributed a report of a focus group of judicial officers concerning DCS forms and procedures.
    - b. Judge Kenworthy stated there was a good number of judicial officers participating in the focus group, run by the Change Innovation Agency for DCS. The Agency wanted to look at repetitive processes or items which cause problems later. Committee members

discussed focusing on what families need now, not what happened three (3) years earlier, removing boilerplate forms, and the need for a brief summary of the case for Senior or Special Judges.

8. Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

a. Manpreet Kaur gave a presentation on how the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act was amended in 2018 concerning the requirement of collection of disproportionate minority contact statistics. The requirement was renamed Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) with a few differences in meaning which Ms. Kaur explained. She noted the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention only asks for five (5) data points, fewer than before, which includes arrest data. Christine Reynolds reported Indiana had applied for a grant from the Bureau of Justice Statistics to assist in getting arrest data, and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute expects to receive the grant. Renee White noted a Log of Juveniles Held was in use by jails and juvenile detention centers but did not include arrests.

Manpreet Kaur asked the committee to revise Administrative Rule 1 (G) to use the name Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) rather than Disproportionate Minority Contact. Judge Jones moved to amend Administrative Rule 1 to change the name used in the rule from Disproportionate Minority Contact to Racial and Ethnic Disparities. Judge Trevino seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

b. Michael Ross reported new federal juvenile jail requirements are effective December 21, 2021. These requirements would no longer permit placement of juveniles waived to adult court, or juveniles automatically excluded from juvenile court jurisdiction in adult jails. Michael Ross explained Indiana may lose 20% of the \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 the state receives each year if this new exclusion is violated. Renee White indicated there is a rural exception which many Indiana counties would qualify for. The new jail removal language also provides a juvenile may be kept in a jail if certain court findings are made. Committee members discussed this new requirement in connection with counties closing or threatening to close juvenile detention centers, the need to protect adult jails from the effect of certain juveniles in the jail and whether and how waived or excluded juveniles might effect juvenile detention centers. Safekeeper status for juveniles at juvenile DOC facilities was also discussed.

9. Other

- Jeffrey Bercovitz reported the foster parent report required by statute was completed and posted on the Indiana General Assembly's website.
- Angela Reid-Brown reported Court Improvement Program applications are due August 28, 2020 for grants from 10/1/20 – 9/30/21.

10. Next meeting. The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee agreed to meet on Friday, October 2, 2020 from 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. via Teams. The committee approved a new meeting date of Fri., May 7, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Remote meeting via Teams

**Minutes**

October 2, 2020

A meeting of the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee was held via Teams on Friday, October 2, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

1. Members. Hubert Branstetter, Jr., Faith Graham, Kelsey Hanlon, Holly Harvey, Matthew Headley, Mark Jones, Bruce Petit, Thomas P. Stefaniak, Jr., Andrea Trevino and Dana Kenworthy, Chair.
2. Staff. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Pamela Christenberry, Leslie Dunn, Nancy Gettinger, Heather Mollo, Melinda Pickett, Angela Reid-Brown, Colleen Saylor, Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services.
3. Guests. Rachel Massey, Legislative Services Agency and Julie Whitman, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana.
4. Minutes approved. The minutes for the committee meeting on August 7, 2020 were approved.
5. Emergency meeting to explore permanency outcomes.
  - a. Judge Kenworthy reported Chief Justice Rush called an emergency meeting on September 2, 2020 to address the increase in Indiana's time to adoption. The Child Welfare Improvement Committee (CWIC), Indiana's jurists in residence, and the JJIC were asked to address this problem.
  - b. Coleen Saylor showed a chart, which illustrated the increasing times to permanent placement in Indiana. It was derived from the recent CIP Court Performance Measures Report.
  - c. Angela Reid-Brown stated the committee should look at all permanency outcomes, not just adoption. She reported some measures were already taken to shorten the times to permanency noted in the report, including DCS hiring additional adoption consultants, and a live adoption webinar to be held on October 29<sup>th</sup> where Chief Justice Rush will give the closing remarks. A session was held in June for judicial officers about achieving permanency through adoption. She said there are more challenges including: DCS not using child specific recruitment, adoption subsidy negotiations, time for TPR appeals, and some judicial officers not finalizing termination of parental rights until adoption parents are identified. Committee members discussed:
    - preparation of local timelines for adoption
    - use of a standard format for adoption reports to be assured necessary elements (e.g. background checks) are included
    - the need for experienced adoption attorneys to represent preadoptive parents

- training for attorneys with little experience in adoption cases in order to handle these cases
- Time considerations for holding TPR hearings for absent, unknown fathers before DCS permits an adoption to go forward
- Attorney appointments for relatives who do not know what to do for paternity and/or guardianship cases
- More publicity for guardianship forms at the self-help legal center:  
<https://indianalegalhelp.org/court-forms/>
- Encouraging looking at permanency multiple times during a CHINS case, not just at the end of a case.
- An open and sharing discussion at child and family teams' meetings of permanency options
- Asking local adoption attorneys for a different perspective on how to move these cases faster

Sr. Judge and Jurist in Residence Nancy Gettinger requested the committee forward to her helpful examples of ways to quickly move adoptions and other permanency options.

6. Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force. Judge Kenworthy reported the Juvenile Justice Reform Task Force of the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana held their first meeting on September 30, 2020. The multidisciplinary Task force is chaired by Representative Wendy McNamara and Senator Michael Crider. The Council of State Governments (CSG) is providing staff support for the Task Force and provided background of their work in this area. They reported Phase I would be a preliminary assessment of data available on juveniles. It would include interviews and focus groups and analysis of documents and reports about Indiana's juveniles. Phase II would be analyzing data and Phase III would be proposing solutions. Julie Whitman stated anyone who wished to be interviewed about the juvenile justice system could contact her.

7. Competency of juveniles. Jeffrey Bercovitz reported JauNae Hanger convened an ad hoc group who met last year to discuss the competency evaluation process in juvenile cases. The group met in September 2019, again on September 2, 2020 and planned meetings for October 14 and November 4, 2020. The participants discussed procedures, agencies involved in competency evaluations, competency evaluations themselves, and training for the psychologists and psychiatrist evaluators. Jeffrey Bercovitz agreed to distribute the report of the 2019 meeting to the committee and draft legislation after the October meeting.

8. DMC statistics. Jeffrey Bercovitz reported:

- DMC statistics would be renamed Racial and Ethnic Disparities (R/ED) under Administrative Rule 1 (G). This would put Indiana in line with the federal Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention use of the term.
- A video presentation is being prepared for probation officers reporting R/ED) statistics with Manpreet Kaur, Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and Lisa Thompson, Court Technology.

9. Juv. Justice State Advisory Group. Jeffrey Bercovitz reported the Juvenile Justice State Advisory Group was being reorganized and would hold their first meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020. The Indiana Criminal Justice Institute will provide staff support.

10. Revised DCS policies. Judge Kenworthy discussed recent DCS policy revisions effective September 1 and October 1, 2020.

- September 1, 2020: 4.22 Making an Assessment Finding; 6.01 Detention Hearing; 6.02 Filing a CHINS Petition; 6.04 Providing Notice; 6.07 Dispositional Hearing; 8.12 Developing the Visitation Plan; 8.C Tool: Supervision of Visits; 8.49 Funeral and Burial Services for a Child in Out-of-Home Care; 16.2 Assistance for Unlicensed Relative Placements
- October 1, 2020: 2.26 Diligent Search; 5.08 Developing the Case Plan; 6.10 Permanency Plan; 6.11 Permanency Hearing; 10.07 Adoptive Family Recruitment Services

11. Other

Judge Kenworthy reported Governor Holcomb announced Indiana's statewide infant mortality rate fell to an historic low of 6.5 in 1000 live births in 2019 and for Black infants to 11.0 in 1000 live births.

12. Next meeting. The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee agreed to meet jointly with the Child Welfare Improvement Committee (CWIC) on Friday, December 11, 2020 from 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. via Teams. The committee approved a new meeting date of Thursday, June 24, 2021 at the conclusion of the juvenile judicial conference if the conference is held that day.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law

Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee  
Child Welfare Improvement Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Joint meeting remote meeting via Teams  
December 11, 2020

A Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee and Child Welfare Improvement Committee was held jointly via Teams on Friday, December 11, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

1. JJIC members. Steven David, Faith Graham, Kelsey Hanlon, Holly Harvey, Brett J. Niemeier, Bruce Petit, Charles F. Pratt, Thomas P. Stefaniak, Jr., Andrea Trevino and Dana Kenworthy, Chair.
2. CWIC members. Mag. Sally Berish, Mag. John Boyce, George Dremonas, Judge Christine Haseman, Mag. Jennifer Hubartt, Mag. Melinda Jackman-Hanlin, Heather Kestian, Teresa Lyles, Derrick Mason, Michael Moore, LaTrece Thompson, and Andrew Roesener, Chair
3. Staff. Jeffrey Bercovitz, Pamela Christenberry, Nancy Gettinger, Heather Mollo, Melinda Pickett, Colleen Saylor, Nancy Wever, Indiana Office of Court Services.
4. Guests. Marilyn Moores, Marion Superior Court, Juvenile Division; Rachel Massey, Legislative Services Agency, Michelle Savieo, Department of Child Services, Julie Whitman, Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana.
5. Minutes approved. The minutes for the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee meeting on October 2, 2020 were approved.
6. Exploration of permanency outcomes.
  - *Charge* - Judge Kenworthy reported Chief Justice Rush called an emergency meeting on September 4, 2020 to address the increase in Indiana's time to adoption. Chief Justice Rush charged both committees to look for solutions to this problem.
  - *Data* - Colleen Saylor displayed a chart, entitled, CIP 2015-2020 Court Performance Measures, which illustrated times to permanency in Indiana. She also showed a national historical comparison chart for each permanency measure. She agreed to distribute this chart to the committees. Committee members discussed how increasingly complicated CHINS cases have become in recent years.
  - *Rapid permanency reviews* - Michell Savieo, DCS, showed a PowerPoint about Indiana's current Adoption Program and explained the Rapid Permanency Review (RPR) program to the committees. She agreed to distribute this PowerPoint to the committees.
  - *Adoption recruitment process* – Michelle Savieo explained the DCS adoption recruitment program. She agreed to distribute this PowerPoint to the committees.

- *Vanderburgh County* - Judge Niemeier explained his local Alternative Permanency Resolution (APR) program. A local attorney hired from the court's budget for 10 hours a week performs a facilitation function with the parents and helps the parents understand what is best for the child and stresses the long term. The program was successful in reducing time to permanency. He agreed to get protocols about this program to the committees.
- *Marion County* - Judge Moores reported reducing the time to permanency by setting deadlines in court for the parties to use at each step of the adoption process. She agreed to send a sample order with the timeline and her short form adoption reports to the committees. She indicated before placements, DCS is supposed to do record checks for family members and seek waivers if needed.
- *Jurists in Residence* - Sr. Judge Gettinger, Jurist in Residence reported they are contacting counties with the lengthiest time to permanency issue first. She asked for any ideas or assistance from other counties.
- *Discussion of permanency concerns*
  - Use of mediation to reduce time to permanency.
  - Public Defenders in Allen County are not accepting an appointment in an adoption case, a proposed solution reported in the minutes previous meeting of the Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee. Because of this, a case number is created by the Title IV-D prosecutor's office for court orders regarding permanency.
  - Use of Coalition for Court Access website, <https://indianalegalhelp.org/>
  - Cases where the child was on a clear road to adoption by grandmother, which was stopped by an old conviction of grandmother. The case was delayed while grandmother got an expungement.
  - Children who have been in and out of placements and foster care, which entails, more time to permanency.
  - Court procedures which cause delays, including notice by publication. Provisions could be used, e.g., Ind. Code § 29-3-6-1 where notice is given to "persons whose whereabouts can be determined upon reasonable inquiry." This might be used in guardianships based on evidence and court findings.
  - Whether DCS could have a representative to agree to a subsidy or assistance while a facilitation was occurring. Maybe changing the statute to require an agreement in a thirty (30) day period.
  - Looking into expanding guardianships and use of guardianships under age 13.
  - Whether adoption subsidies can be used for children under two (2) years old rather than delaying the case for the child to turn two (2) to get the subsidy.
  - Whether adoptions should occur under CHINS court jurisdiction in order to move the case faster.
  - Asking the parents to make sure they are not married and living with the other parent. DCS does not always know if the parents are married and living together. This could save notice by publication.
  - DCS indicated they are studying expansion of the use of guardianships and subsidies. The age of the subsidy is not a federal restriction. However, there are other federal restrictions on the use of the subsidy.

- It would be helpful if DCS could provide a one page summary of funding options.
  - Use of special procedures for “long-stayers” or children awaiting permanency more than five years. This includes Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services (BDDS) children.
  - Use of senior judges for not only one day(s) for factfinding a TPR case, but a separate day to write the order from the factfinding.
  - Use of new fingerprinting offices by DCS will reduce delays in adoptions.
  - DCS showed a PowerPoint of common themes in counties with the shortest time to permanency and the longest times to permanency.
7. Next meeting. Committee members agreed to:
- Circulate PowerPoint slides to all members of the committees.
  - Distribute a transcript of chat to today’s discussion for all members of the committees.
  - Seek and refine these and other ideas on barriers/resources to faster adoptions and permanency.
  - Hold another joint committee meeting on February 5, 2021 and work on next steps.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law