

MINUTES

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN THE COURTS COMMITTEE

May 12, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. MST
Boise, Idaho

Call to Order: Honorable Russell Comstock (chairperson) Called to Order a committee meeting of the Children and Families in the Courts Committee (CFCC) held in Boise, Idaho, May 12th of the year 2015 at 9:00 a.m. MST.

CFCC Members in Attendance: Judge Russell Comstock (Chair) 4th Judicial District; Judge Rick Bollar 5th Judicial District; Judge Jerold Lee, 3rd Judicial District; Judge Steven Thomsen, 6th Judicial District; Judge Michael Dennard, Senior Judge ISC; John Sahlin, 1st Judicial District; Judge Scott Hansen, 7th Judicial District; Tom Dial, 6th Judicial District; Dr. Virginia Allen 6th Judicial District; Seth Platts, 5th Judicial District; Linda Wright, TCA 5th Judicial District; Ann Just, FCS, 7th Judicial District; Judge Anna Eckhart, 1st Judicial District.

Court Staff Attending: Cori Erickson, Family Court Services; Amber Moe, Domestic Violence Court; Deena Layne, Deputy Attorney; Kerry Hong, Community and Family Justice Service Director; and Janice Beller, Administrative Assistant/Reporter; Janet Meserve, 3rd District FCS Manager; Michelle Fitting, 2nd District FCS Manager.

Presenters in Attendance: Janica Bisharat, Director of Court Management also joined for specific presentations.

CFCC Voting Members Not Present: Judge Gary DeMeyer, 3rd Judicial District

Opening Comments:

Judge Comstock opened the meeting with announcements and introductions; including new member Judge Anna Eckhart from the 1st Judicial District and guests Janet Meserve and Michelle Fitting.

A. Mission Statement, Values and Strategic Goals and Objectives of the Idaho Courts and the CFCC:

Judge Comstock reviewed the mission statement from the Idaho Supreme Court.

B. Approve the Minutes

The Minutes from the September 25th and 26th 2014 CFCC meeting were reviewed.

Motion: Made my Judge Thomsen to approve the minutes. A second to this motion came from Judge Bollar. The Minutes were unanimously approved.

C. CFCC Membership Roles and Responsibilities

Judge Comstock reviewed the purpose of the document and emphasized the need for members to maintain a statewide focus.

Motion: Judge Thomsen made a motion to approve and accept the CFCC roles and responsibilities as written. The motion was seconded by Judge Bollar. The Roles and Responsibilities for the CFCC members are unanimously approved.

G. Idaho Rules of Family Law Procedure: Update

Report from Judge Comstock and Judge Bollar on the rule status. Discussion among committee members followed.

IRFLP 803 and 804 Judgments

D. Budget Children and Families in the Court

Kerry Hong presented information to the CFCC about future priorities in FY16 and maintenance of current funding levels. The budgets for Court Assistance Office, DV Court and Family Court Services had been previously approved and reviewed by the committee with an email vote. 14 members of the committee voted to confirm the budget as presented.

E. Future Funding for Family Court Services

Judge Comstock and Kerry Hong

The presentation was followed by a discussion with opportunity for questions, answers and brainstorming ideas for enhancing funding. Kerry Hong was asked to return in the fall for the CFCC meeting to present on ideas for additional revenue streams.

F. Subcommittee Reports

1. Domestic Violence Subcommittee Report

Amber Moe and Judge Lee provided an update on Domestic Violence Courts. The proposed changes to the DV Court Policies and Guidelines and the DV Court Coordinator Job Description was presented. A discussion took place for comments and questions.

The 7th Judicial District has reclassified the DV Court to a High Intensity Drug Court.

Amber Moe discussed the Statewide Evaluation Model, its process and content.

Motion: Judge Dennard made a motion to approve and accept the changes to both the DV Court Coordinator Job Description/Responsibilities and the DV Court Policies and Guidelines. The motion was seconded by John Sahlin. Changes to the DV Court Coordinator Job Description/Responsibilities and the DV Court Policies and Guidelines are unanimously approved.

BREAK

2. Family Court Services Subcommittee Report

Ann Just reported on the request from the FCS Development Subcommittee for continuing education funding for FCS District Managers. Discussion occurred with no motion.

Judge Comstock requested that the subcommittee focus on the long term vision for Family Court Services. A discussion with the members took place and it was determined that the subcommittee will have an in person meeting, with a facilitator, over the summer of 2015 in Boise.

Action Item: Ann Just will coordinate an in-person, facilitated, strategic planning meeting for the subcommittee in Boise. Ann will also compile past documents that have been disseminated on FCS development and strategy that will help shape the meeting. The subcommittee will return to the Fall 2015 CFCC meeting with a report addressing the original charge of the subcommittee.

H. Brief Focused Assessments

Judge Comstock presented information to the committee on the appropriate use of Brief Focused Assessments and the need for a Rule. A discussion takes place among the committee members and a motion is made by Judge Thomsen.

Motion: Judge Thomsen moves to charge the Rules Subcommittee with developing a rule for Brief Focused Assessments. The motion is seconded by John Sahlin. The motion carries unanimously.

Action Item: Judge Bollar will draft a Rule for Brief Focused Assessments with the Rules Subcommittee and present the proposed rule to the CFCC for recommendation to present the Rule at the July Administrative Conference.

I. Advancing Justice and Odyssey

Janica Bisharat updated the committee members on revised go live date for Odyssey, training, reporting, and the case flow business plan. The updated rollout will be June 22, 2015 in Twin Falls. CFCC actions may impact the evolution of the process.

J. Other Matters

Meeting Attendance

Deena Layne, Judge Merica and Judge Comstock

Deena Layne shared information about the open meeting laws and confirmed that attendance for any other guests is at the discretion of the court/committee chair. Discussion took place on this subject with Judge Comstock's statement that committee attendance should be limited and at the chairperson's discretion.

Developmental Information

Judge Merica and Cori Erickson

Discussion took place about AFCC developmental information to assist families and courts in creating child focused parenting time plans that are in a child's best interest. The FCS District Managers support the information on the Arizona Supreme Court website for developmental parenting plans as well as Oregon's. The motion was tabled and members were encouraged to come back in the fall with a document for discussion.

Action Item: CFCC members will review the document distributed at the May meeting containing developmental information that may be applied to access planning in custody cases. Cori will answer any questions members may have on the documents.

Training

Judge Comstock stated that he will send out information on training needs for Idaho family courts.

Judge Comstock adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Next meeting date/time to be announced.