

**Court Improvement Training Academy**

**Dependency Court Practice for Judicial Officers**

March 2-4, 2020

Spokane, Washington

**Agenda**

**Day 1 – Monday, March 2, 2020**

**8:00 – 8:30am Breakfast and Registration.**

**8:30 – 9:00am Land Acknowledgement and Welcome.**

*Chairwoman Carol Evans, Spokane Tribal Council*

*Justice Barbara Madsen, Washington State Supreme Court*

*Rob Wyman, Court Improvement Training Academy, Washington State Admin. Office of the Courts*

*Kelly Warner-King, Court Improvement Training Academy, Washington State Admin. Office of the Courts*

**9:00 – 10:30am Paired Walk and Introductions.**

Participants will pair up and go for a walk (or not) while getting to know each other. Pairs will introduce each other to the room.

**10:30 -10:45am Break.**

**10:45 – 12:15pm Child Safety Framework.**

*Rob Wyman, Court Improvement Training Academy, Washington State Admin. Office of the Courts*

Based on the ABA’s Child Safety Guide, this session will present a common language and framework that serves as a bridge from social work practice to courtroom-based legal standards. Use of the safety framework helps all dependency court participants engage in safety assessment, safety planning, and case planning - all toward serving the needs of the child and family with predictability and clarity. Judicial officers who have adopted the safety framework will discuss the impact it has made on their practice and decision-making. Featuring contribution from Judge Amber Finlay (Mason County Superior Court) and Judge Mary Cardoza(Muckleshoot Tribal Court)

**12:15 – 1:15 pm Lunch.**

**1:15 – 3:00pm Child Safety Framework (cont.).** *Rob Wyman (CITA)*

Child safety framework training will continue and include a conversation with Parent Allies (parents who have successfully navigated the dependency system) about their experiences in court and the benefits of judicial officers clearly articulating safety threats, conditions for return and case plans. Featuring contribution from Heather Cantamessa, Parent ally and owner Re-Unify Family Solutions LLC.

**3:00 – 3:15pm Break.**

**3:15 – 4:00 pm Making Reasonable Efforts Findings.**

*Judge Monty Cobb, Mason County Superior Court, and Commissioner Matt Clucas, Kitsap County Superior Court*

Review federal and state law of Reasonable Efforts and discuss questions that judicial officers should ask in order to make informed decisions about the sufficiency of DCYF’s efforts to prevent removal and to achieve the permanent plan in each case.

**4:00 – 4:30pm Combatting Decision Fatigue on the Bench.**

*Kelly Warner-King, Court Improvement Training Academy, Washington State Admin. Office of the Courts*

*Judge Amber Finlay, Mason County Superior Court*

*Commissioner Michelle Ressa, Spokane County Superior Court*

An overview of the science of decision making and discussion about practical actions that judicial officers can take to reduce the negative impacts of decision fatigue.

**Day 2 – Tuesday, March 3, 2020**

**6:45 – 7:30 am Yoga with Commissioner Pelc (optional).**

**8:00 – 8:30 am Breakfast.**

**8:30 – 8:45am Overnight Mail.**

Consider any new thoughts, reflections, or questions since we adjourned yesterday.

**8:45 – 10:00 am Basic Dependency Law for Court Hearings.** *Rob Wyman*

An overview of dependency law for Initial Shelter Care, Disposition and Review hearings, and key provisions of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

**10:00 – 10:15 am Break.**

**10:15 – 11:15 am Family First Act and Washington State Implementation.**

*Kelly Warner-King*

*Rachel Mercer, Family First Prevention Services Administrator, DCYF*

An overview of the new federal Family First Prevention and

Services Act (FFPSA) and Washington’s conforming law, including judicial review requirements for Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) placements. Followed by information on DCYF’s implementation plan and schedule, with time for questions with Rachel Mercer, DCYF’s Family First Prevention Services Administrator.

**11:15 – 12:15 pm Helping Families Build Hope and Resilience.** *Kelly Warner-King and Heather Cantamessa*

Key research findings will be shared about how people overcome trauma and adversity to build their capacity for hope and resilience. Concrete ideas and suggestions for how judicial officers and courts can be more resilience oriented.

**12:15 – 1:00 pm Lunch.**

**1:00 – 2:00 pm Mock Hearing: 72 Hour Shelter Care Hearing.**

While observing a mock Shelter Care Hearing, participants will utilize a check list to identify how the judicial officer incorporated the law, safety framework, reasonable efforts, ICWA and family engagement skills. Small group conversations will reflect on what worked well and what could be changed.

**2:00 – 3:15 pm Meeting the Needs of LGBTQ+ Youth and Families.**

*Dae Shogren,* LGBTQ+, Disproportionality, Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Statewide Program Manager for Child Welfare Programs at DCYF

*Nicholas Oakley,* Director of Programs & Policy Counsel at the Center for children and Youth Justice

*Judge Elizabeth Berns, King County Superior Court*

Presenters will engage participants in learning and exercises to help them understand the prevalence and needs of LGBTQ+ youth and families appearing in dependency cases. Components of safe and affirming care will be shared, along with ideas for making dependency courts safe and supportive for LGBTQ+ litigants and professionals.

**3:15 – 3:30 pm Break.**

**3:30 – 4:45 pm Mock Dispositional Hearing.**

While observing a mock Dispositional Hearing, participants will utilize a check list to identify how the judicial officer incorporated the law, safety framework, reasonable efforts, ICWA and family engagement skills. Small group conversations will reflect on what worked well and what could be changed.

**Day 3 – Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

**8:00 – 8:30 am Breakfast.**

**8:30 – 9:00 am Overnight Mail.** Consider any new thoughts or reflections since we adjourned yesterday.

**9:00 – 10:45 am Lessons from ICWA Courts and Ideas for State and Tribal Court Collaboration.** *Rob Wyman*

*Sheldon Spotted Elk, Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Director at Casey Family Programs*

*Bobbie Jo Norton, Tribal Court Director, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe*

*Stacey Lara, Co-Director of the Tribal Defense Clinic at University of Washington School of Law*

*Dorry Peterson, Supervising Prosecutor Muckleshoot Indian Tribe*

Sheldon Spotted Elk will discuss Casey Family Programs’ support of ICWA Courts throughout the country, describing ICWA courts and answering questions about how to establish ICWA courts. Next will be presentation from Muckleshoot Tribal Court about their plans to improve the process of transferring child welfare cases from State to Tribal Court. Lastly, participants will have time to discuss ideas for building connections between each other and their courts.

**10:45 – 11:00 am Break.**

**11:00 – 12:15 pm Mock Review Hearing.**

While observing a mock Review Hearing, participants will utilize a check list to identify how the judicial officer incorporated the law, safety framework, reasonable efforts, ICWA and family engagement skills. Small group conversations will reflect on what worked well and what could be changed.

**12:15 – 1:00 pm Lunch.**

**1:00 – 2:30 pm Creating a Judicial Community of Practice.** *Kelly Warner-King, Judge Monty Cobb and Judge Amber Finlay*

The concept and benefits of communities of practice will be introduced and discussed. Participants will work in groups to identify ways they can engage with other judicial officers to support effective practice on the bench.

**2:30 – 3:00 pm Reflections and Evaluations.**