



National Child Welfare
Resource Center for
Organizational Improvement
A service of the Children's Bureau, a member of the T/TA Network



Collaborating with Courts to Reduce and Eliminate Disparities

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Defining the Problem

Disproportionality

a particular racial or ethnic group is represented at a rate or percentage higher than their representation in the general population



Disproportionality in Child Welfare

- African Americans: up to 3.5 times the proportion of general population
- Native Americans: can constitute between 15% to 65% of the children in foster care depending on location
- Hispanic/Latino children may be significantly over-represented based on locality



Defining the Problem

Disparity

unfair or unequal treatment of one racial or ethnic group as compared to another racial or ethnic group



Disparities in Child Welfare

- African Americans: investigated twice as often as Caucasians
- African Americans: 36% more likely to be placed in foster care
- Caucasian children: permanency outcomes at a higher rate than children of color



Courts Catalyzing Change: Achieving Equity and Fairness in Foster Care

- Casey Family Programs and OJJDP

Mission

- To create a national agenda to reduce racial/ethnic disproportionality and disparities for children and families in the foster care system.



Courts Catalyzing Change

Project History/Timeline

- Casey Breakthrough Series Collaborative
- Partnership with NCJFCJ
 - Recognized Need for Judicial Leadership
 - NCJFCJ Model Courts National Goal (OJJDP)
 - Advisory Group Meeting
 - Steering Committee Meeting
 - National Call to Action Work Group Meeting



CCC National Agenda

- Engage stakeholders
- Transform judicial practice
- Policy and law advocacy
- Research and data
- Service array and delivery



Benchmark Development

TRANSFORM JUDICIAL PRACTICE

- CCC Steering Committee, Call to Action Workgroup, PPCD Advisory Committee
- Enhancing the *Resource Guidelines*
- Preliminary Protective Hearing



Benchmark Basics

Internal Reflection Questions & Questions to the Parties

Key Focus Areas

- Reasonable efforts to prevent placement
- Safety threat: What prevents the child from going home today?
- Cultural considerations: Unique to each family
- Minimally adequate standard: Children are better off with their families when they can be

safe



Getting Started: CCC Implementation Steps

- Convene multi-disciplinary stakeholder group
- Participate in training on implicit bias, structural and institutional racism
- Get data
- Develop Strategic Plan – CCC National Agenda



Examples from Model Courts

- Co-led steering committees
- New York City- WATCCH
- CCC Research- Los Angeles, Portland & Omaha



Collaboration with Court Improvement Projects

- North Carolina- Chief Justice's Initiative
- Oregon's Three Branch Commitment
- Bronx, New York: Local to statewide



Courts Catalyzing Change

For More Information:

Visit our website

<http://www.ncjfcj.org> Click on Child Abuse
and Neglect → Courts Catalyzing Change

Contact

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