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
Benchcard Development

TRANSFORM JUDICIAL PRACTICE

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