

# Building Bridges for Success

## CROSSOVER COLLABORATION

Judge Katherine Lucero  
Supervising Judge Dependency  
Judge Patrick Tondreau  
Supervising Judge Juvenile Justice  
Santa Clara County

# FIVE CROSSOVER PRINCIPLES

1. Dependent and Juvenile Justice at-risk youth share similar backgrounds and profiles: abuse, neglect, poverty, drugs, alcohol, mental health issues, gang attraction, adolescent pregnancy, etc
2. Some youth cross back and forth between Dependency and Juvenile Justice.

3. W&I Code Section 202 incorporates Standard 23(e) of the Standards of Judicial Administration requiring Juvenile Judges to provide leadership in the community to obtain and develop resources; advocate for prevention, intervention and treatment; promote interagency coordination between the court and public agencies and school authorities.

- 4. Dependency and Juvenile Justice Judges have a unique role in preventing at-risk youth from penetrating into dependency and then juvenile justice
- 5. All of these responsibilities require a coordination of efforts between Dependency and Juvenile Justice including the sharing/stealing of best practices whenever possible

# 16 WAYS TO COLLABORATE (other than Dual Status Court)

- There are endless ways to collaborate on issues that impact families and youth in both court systems.
- Don't let the door they come in be a barrier to best practices

#1

## Joint Task Force on Reproductive Health and Safety

### Empowering and Informing our Youth

- \* Chaired jointly by supervising judges
- 30 juvenile court partners
- Addresses issues of adolescent pregnancy, unwanted pregnancy, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, relationships, teen parenting

- Assess resources and programs, their capacity and utilization in dependency, juvenile justice, group homes, schools, and community; identify gaps
- Provide a comprehensive Task Force Report to the Community with proposals for improving access to information and programs
- Create Joint Standing Order to implement access to reproductive health information

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(RHSTF con't)

## #2 Set Up Regular Meetings

- Plan quarterly joint meetings with all dependency and juvenile justice judges to discuss cross-over issues
- Brown Bag or Order-In
- Set and agenda between the two Supervising Judges
- Create a sense of responsibility cross system



# #3 Open Trainings

- Each division has monthly trainings in which both divisions are invited
- Each division plans monthly court systems trainings which often pertain to issues that are in both courts
- Make sure that those are announced, communicated and accessible to both teams of stakeholders

## #4 The Local Blue Ribbon Commission

Local Blue Ribbon Commission on Foster Youth was created in response to recommendations from the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care

- Purpose: identify and resolve local concerns and implement commission recommendations
- Co-chaired by Supervisors of each division
- 20-30 participants including DFCS, Probation, CASA, County Counsel, Minor's and Parents' attorneys, CBO's, Court staff, COE
- crossover issues include DMC, JDR, FYSIS (more later), Legislative updates, Children's Zone Project; Specialty Courts in each division

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(BRC Con't)

# #5 Joint Response on Minors 12 and under

- Purpose: divert young minors away from Juvenile Hall
- Enhance current policies to bring in police, social workers, management and juvenile judges at the front end to determine how to proceed
- Standing Order requires approval of a juvenile judge from Dependency or Juvenile Justice to approve housing in Juvenile Hall

# #6 Local Beyond the Bench Conferences

- Each division sets aside a full day off-site for presentations, programs and speakers; each program has participants from the other division including judges, probation, DFCS, county counsel, CBO's, and attorneys for minor's and parents.

# #7 TILP: Transitional Independent Living Programs

- Services and activities to assist 16-25 year olds transition from foster care to independence
- Four essential ingredients: access to education; access to employment; build lifelong connections to supportive adults; learn critical skills
- Foster Care minors from both Dependency and Juvenile Justice are served by DFCS for these services

# #8 Juvenile Court Education Partnership (JCEP)

## An Education Collaborative

- Chaired by the COE Foster Youth Coordinator
- Oversight of FYSIS/ARYSIS Data sharing implementation (see next slide)
- Review of Systemic Education Issues, Concerns and Programs
- Participants includes dependency and juvenile justice judges, probation officers, SW's, COE, CBO's CASA,

# #9 Judicial Education Task Force (J.E.T.)

- a) A collaboration with the Silicon Valley Children's Fund Foster Youth Education Initiative
- b) Begun in 2007, brought together 32 school districts, the COE, Probation, DFCS, and the Dependency and Juvenile Justice Courts to create a countywide shared database containing all education information, initially about foster youth, including grades, discipline, truancy, and education history



- c) policies, procedures and protocols, a Standing Order authorizing the sharing of information across agencies, interagency agreements, and the planning and development of the web database were undertaken
- d) Phase I was FYSIS: Foster Youth Student Information System: focused on Dependent youth
- e) Phase II is ARYSIS: At-Risk Youth Student Information System: this will bring Juvenile Justice youth into the web database
- Four year project....so far (JET)

# #10 NCJFCJ Model Court Participation

- \* Dependency Court and Juvenile Justice Court are members of the NCJFCJ Model Court's Program
- Both Model Court teams attend annual all-site conference
- Both cross-fertilize (i.e. borrow/steal) good ideas
  1. videoconferencing permanency/review hearings.

2. Joint Dual Status committee participation
3. Joint participation on Juvenile Justice Education Committee at Juvenile Justice
4. Both have monthly Court Systems meetings
5. Juvenile Justice borrowed from Dependency ICWA and Psychotropic Medication implementation ideas

(Model Court Ideas Con't)

# #11 Education Rights Project

Juvenile Justice uses SW's as volunteer education representatives/surrogates when education rights have been removed from parents

# #12 Joint Standing Orders and Joint Local Rules

- A. Ordinary Medical, Mental Health and Dental Treatment for youth in out of home placement
- B. Access to records by Probate Investigators
- C. Release of Juvenile Records for FYSIS
- D. Juvenile Justice Minors Attorney's access to Dependency files
- E. Access to juvenile records per 827
- F. Access to juvenile files by Sixth District Appellate Department
- G. Exchange of Information and Documents between DFCS, JPD, FCS, APD and PCI.

# #13 Franklin McKinley Children's Zone

Modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone to implement comprehensive education, health, social service, housing, neighborhood and economic development for youth from birth to 8<sup>th</sup> grade in a 24 block area

- Both Juvenile Courts, DFCS and Probation participate
- Both Juvenile Courts and the Adult Criminal Courts lead an effort to collaborate with Franklin McKinney and County Public Health to obtain a Children Exposed to Violence grant from OJJDP

- This grant would create a comprehensive community based strategic plan to prevent and reduce the impact of children's exposure to violence in the Children's zone

» (Franklin School Zones con't)

# #14 Promising Practices Outreach Project (PPOP)

- AOC's Center for Families, Children and the Court's (CFCC) juvenile court restraining order project
- Both Dependency and Juvenile Justice will collaborate to identify strengths and weaknesses in our restraining order systems procedures, and will receive a cross-systems training regarding teen dating violence.



- Judges Katherine Lucero (dependency) and Beth McGowen (juvenile justice) will co-chair “Juvenile Court Domestic Violence Restraining Orders: Challenging Issues”, a structured discussion concerning DV in juvenile justice and dependency, hosted by the AOC and made possible by this federally-funded grant.

# #15 The Vision Council

## KIC Vision Council

Over 40 stakeholders from education, medical, courts, non-profits, mental health, private sector and government meet quarterly to develop agenda for children and youth in SCC.

Annual Children's Summit  
Children's Bill of Rights

# #16 Reducing Racial Disparities

Day long training on Institutional Racism and the impact of such on our court involved families and youth in both systems

2 hour Benchcard training for Courts Catalyzing Change Initiative (NCJFCJ)