

Successful Implementation of a Statewide Juvenile Dependency Mediation Program (JDMP)

JDMP assists those involved in child abuse and neglect cases to collaboratively consider a wider range of creative options and formulate the best decisions about appropriate intervention and care of children.

**Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)** 



 Consider enhancement and expansion based on findings



 CQI - Implement recommendations



## Process Evaluation Conducted By Neutral 3rd Party

- Annual advanced mediation panel training
- Monthly meetings for mediators and administrators to provide support, answer questions

7

COI

(8)

**(II)** 

- Stakeholder buy-in / stakeholder training
  - Identify funding sources

72%
Increase
in FATHER
Engagement

## Go Statewide After Several Years of Implementing Pilots

- Develop Toolkit: Protocol, forms, brochures, videos
- Recruit & Train Mediators: 40hr
   Dependency Mediation Training
- Ensure program is adequately supported administratively
- CQI

"Mediation mirrors the very essence of the dependency process - all parties working for the best interests of the child"

- DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

## **Process & Outcome Evaluations Conducted By Neutral 3rd Party**

Stakeholder interventions

4

**3** 

 CQI – implement eval recommendations

## Process Evaluation Conducted By Neutral 3rd Party

**(5)** 

Stakeholder education/buy-in

CQI

#### **Implement Several Pilot Projects**

 Implement one at a time followed by process and outcome evaluations

### Design Pilot Project with Protocols & Evaluation Components to Address Need

- Develop theory of change with logic model
- Identify possible Solution & Funding Sources

#### **ID Possible Causes of Issue**

 Root cause analysis with judges, child welfare, stakeholders

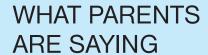


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# DEPENDENCY MEDIATION OBJECTIVES

- Expedite permanency for children
- Improve permanency outcomes for children
- Reduce need for further litigation
- Increase engagement and communication among parties
- Allow and promote meaningful input from children and youth
- Enhance mediation participants' satisfaction
- Reduce costs



"The chance to be heard was very helpful."

"Walking out with more hope now than the whole 2 years for this case. This is a great way for parents to feel safe and able to let everyone know how they feel and where they stand."

"Keep doing this, we are not criminals!"

"A place of peace and hope for discussion without yelling." - FOSTER PARENT

### THE SURVEY SAYS ...



Children, Parents
Foster/Adopted Parents

95%

**FELT THEY** 

CONTRIBUTED

TO SOLUTION

99% SAID THEY HAD A CHANCE TO VOICE OPINIONS



Attorneys, Social Workers, CASA/GAL, etc.

### NUMBER OF CHILDREN HELPED

"A genteel & respectful alternative to the litigious courtroom setting"

CHILD'S ATTORNEY

"Everyone came together to calmly discuss the child.."

- PARENT'S ATTORNEY





### IN AGREEMENT

82%

JDMP Mediations Came to an Agreement 70%

National Average "The Dependency Mediation
Program has been a successful
tool in resolving highly emotional
and difficult cases. By mediation
agreements prior to the settlement
conference, the program has
greatly assisted in reducing
congested court dockets."

- HONORABLE CYNTHIA LU 2ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

### SAVINGS\* **\$420,451**

\$315,338

Saved in 8 months (July 2017 -March 2018) Projected savings for entire year

Reduced court and staff time