

**Juvenile Justice Reform Implementation  
Report of the Louisiana Supreme Court  
March 19, 2004**

Ongoing efforts are underway to implement the Juvenile Justice Reform recommendations enumerated in Act 1225 and HCR 56 relative to the judicial branch.

- The Judicial Council requested and the Court approved the creation of a Task Force to Study the Specialization of Family and Juvenile Courts (HCR 56 at p. 10) and the Expansion of the Role of Hearing Officers and of Diversionary Processes (HCR 56 at p. 12). Task Force members have been appointed, research on both policy and legal issues has been completed by staff, and a presentation to the Task Force is anticipated to be made during the 2004 Annual Spring Judges Conference in April.
- Initiatives relative to judicial training (HCR 56 at p. 11), pro bono attorney recruitment (HCR 56 at p. 12), youth representation (HCR 56 at p. 7) and tandem pay supplements and certification training (HCR 56 at p. 10) are being managed as interrelated efforts. Multidisciplinary training curricula are currently being developed for upcoming planned local and regional programs concentrating primarily on mental health and competency issues. Staff is actively coordinating efforts with the American Bar Association, the Louisiana Bar Association, the Louisiana Indigent Defender Assistance Board, the Task Force on Legal Representation in Child Protection Cases, and local courts and bar associations.
- The recommendations relative to ASFA compliance (HCR 56 at p. 10) and support for CASA (HCR 56 at p. 10) continue to be implemented by administrative staff. The Court Improvement Program (CIP) staff have been working with staff from DSS/OCS and DPSC/OYD to produce a report identifying a comprehensive list of barriers to full compliance with ASFA. This report will be provided to the Children's Cabinet, the Juvenile Justice Commission, and the Louisiana Supreme Court. In addition, CIP staff have collaborated with DSS/OCS in the development of the state's program improvement plan (PIP) mandated by ASFA in response to the Child and Family Services Review conducted in September of 2003 by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. The CASA Assistance Program of the Supreme Court continues to administer the CASA TANF funding, which funding will no longer be available to CASA after August of 2004.
- Efforts responsive to the recommendation for an Integrated Juvenile Justice Information System (HCR 56 at p. 9) are underway through a partnership led by the Children's Cabinet and the Court, together with other state and local entities. A grant award was made by the Technology Innovation Fund to continue development of the IJJIS. In addition, a grant application has been made to the

Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement for additional funding. The Court has completed development of web-based software for drug court and Truancy Assessment and Services Center data collection and case management; development of a program for Families in Need of Services programs is in process, and plans to develop software for child protection cases are underway.

- Family-friendly Information Services (HCR 56 at p. 11) efforts by administrative staff continue to include production of user-friendly informational materials. Technological capabilities are being explored for further dissemination of juvenile justice information.
- Coordination between Juvenile Justice Reform and the Juvenile and Family Rules Committees (HCR 56 at p. 10) has been facilitated; development and revision of rules for consistency with juvenile justice reform is currently underway.
- The recommendations relative to best practices guidelines for delay reduction (HCR 56 at p. 11) and case management in juvenile cases (HCR 56 at p. 12) are being implemented by efforts of the Court Improvement Program, FINS Assistance Program, Judicial Council delay reduction, and juvenile court uniform rules committees.