

## **Juvenile Justice Reform Implementation Report of the Louisiana Supreme Court January 10, 2005**

The Louisiana Supreme Court continues to be engaged in the following Juvenile Justice Reform activities:

- The Court co-sponsored (with DSS and LSBA), the 3rd annual “Together We Can” conference in Lafayette on October 18 and 19, 2004. The conference was attended by over 300 child welfare professionals, including workers, CASA, attorneys, judges, and administrators.
- The court-appointed Task Force to Study the Specialization of Family and Juvenile Courts has reported to the Judicial Council, but does not yet have Task Force recommendations to make to the Commission at this time.
- The legislative Task Force on Legal Representation in Child Protection Proceedings (co-chaired by the Chief Justice) continues to meet. The Task Force is currently developing objectives and strategies to ensure quality representation, including accountability, training, and recruitment components.
- Court Improvement Program staff served on a committee to develop the Louisiana PIP, the Program Improvement Plan required as a result of the federal ASFA audit, which has been approved by the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. The CIP will actively participate in the implementation of the PIP by establishing attorney standards for representation in child in need of care cases. CIP is researching permanent funding to continue and expand the pilot Dependency Mediation programs in Orleans and Jefferson Juvenile Courts, including collaboration with DSS/OCS and universities. In order to update its strategic plan, CIP is conducting a reassessment of its activities and outcomes relative to ASFA compliance. CIP also continues development of the web-based IJJIS-CINC, the part of the Integrated Juvenile Justice Information System that will enhance local court administration, case management, and data sharing and reporting capabilities.
- A joint report on barriers to ASFA compliance, requested in HCR 56, has been completed by CIP, OYD and OCS and submitted to the Chief Justice.
- The Court continues to administer the 04-05 TANF dollars appropriated to DSS for the purpose of continuing CASA services statewide, and plans to include CASA in the Judicial Budget for 2005-2006 funding.
- With funding from LCLE and TIF, the Court is working with the Children’s Cabinet on development of IJJIS software for delinquency and traffic cases. A contractor has been selected through the RFP process, and the contract for design and development is nearing finalization. Work groups and focus groups will continue to meet and inform the development process.
- The local rules of court are nearing completion by the Juvenile and Family Rules Committees.
- The FINS Assistance Program is completing the truancy component of the IJJIS-FINS database and case management system and is in the final phase of the developing the FINS component.
- The Drug Court Program continues to administer 15 juvenile drug courts across Louisiana, which offer court-supervised, community-based rehabilitation and support services to children and their families.

