

Fostering Court Improvement Semi-Annual Report

This report needs to be completed by the FCI team as a team.

Submitted by:

Circuit **31st** Contact Person **Lisa Altis** Phone **417-829-6116**

Reporting Period:

October to March 20__ (Due April 30)

April to September 2012 (Due October 31)

PERFORMANCE MEASURE SUCCESSES

Activities

- ✧ **Spring State-wide FCI meeting attendance by 3 FCI team members.**
- ✧ **Permanency Summit attendance by 9 FCI team members.**
- ✧ **Brought community presenters to FCI Committee meetings to learn more on possible services/training available: Ozarks Area Community Action REALL program- Melanie Frater and Missouri Alliance Family Finding Coordinator- Karie Scott- Roark.**
- ✧ **Continuing Collaboration committee working on developing a grid regarding expectations on background check efforts for varying situations in an effort to establish awareness and consistency among teams and agencies.**

Accomplishments

- ✧ **Visitation Sub-Committee completed development of Visitation Training Powerpoint, visitation tools, Greene County Visitation Protocol, Greene County Visitation Rules and a parent Information Packet. Training presented to Attorney's, CASA, Case Workers, Foster Parents, and Juvenile Officers that had 129 in attendance.**
- ✧ **Children's Division hosted a 2-day Framework for Safety meeting in continued effort to bring training to Greene County team members.**
- ✧ **Casey Foundation report shared with committee members.**

Improved Data Outcomes (JIS 2012 data)

- ✧ **Greene County has continued to see a decline in the number of children in care. Referrals from Children's Division Investigators to the Juvenile Office continue to be lower than seen in the past 2 years which has resulted in an overall decline in the number of abuse/neglect petitions filed. Additionally, during the same timeframe case closings continue to remain high. The combined effect from these factors has resulted in an ongoing reduction in the number of children in care. The number of children in care went from 1034 children in July of 2011 to 833 children by September 30, 2012.**

Committees Formed

- ✧ **Permanency Goal Committee: Permissive Placements Exceeding 180 days.** The goal of the committee is to identify circumstances and issues leading to excessive length of permissive placement and determine how to work through those issues and hopefully avoid in future cases.
- ✧ **Permanency Goal Committee: Protective Custody assessment.** The goal of the committee is to safely prevent children from entering care or remaining in care unnecessarily by improving family assessment and engagement practices between emergency protective custody to the protective custody hearing and protective custody hearing to jurisdiction hearing.

Planned Activities for Next Period

- ✧ **Utilize Training Grant to provide at least one training opportunity.** Anticipated topic is Safety Decision Making training currently being developed by Children's Division and OSCA.
- ✧ **Team members to attend Fall MJJA conference.**
- ✧ **Team members to attend fall State-wide FCI meeting**
- ✧ **Continue seeking opportunities to enhance monthly FCI meeting experience.** Possible options include more system related barrier discussion and community presenters invitation to FCI Committee meetings to learn more on possible services/training available.

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| <u>USE OF FUNDING</u> |
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FCI Sub-Grant Funds Received During this Period: \$3,000.00

How Funds Were Spent

- ✧ **Meals for monthly FCI meetings.**
- ✧ **Purchase of 2012 Juvenile Code Books and Juvenile & Family Court Directories.**
- ✧ **Ink and photo paper for color court exhibit pictures; Disposable cameras for parents attending Road to Reunification (R2R) class.**

Multi-disciplinary Training Grant Funds Received During this Period: \$2,250.00

How Funds Were Spent

- ✧ **Organized and held Visitation In's and out's for Greene County Foster Care Cases.** It is known that visitation play's a key role in the likelihood of reunification for children in foster care. The overall objective of the training was to have the professionals involved with foster care cases better understand the issues and apply that understanding to child welfare practice in the 31st Circuit and create an environment for more timely advancement on parent-child visitation and ultimately quicker permanency by reunification. The training was facilitated by the FCI Visitation sub-

committee members. The training was approved for CLE training hours. There were 129 attendees for the training. Funds were utilized to provide a meal to attendee's at each training session and provide a copy of the presentation information and tools.

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| NEEDS |
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Concerns

- ✧ Continued high length of stay in care, especially for reunification cases.
- ✧ High numbers of cases with permissive placement in excess of 180 days.

Plans for Improvement

- ✧ Continue efforts in regards to Circuit Improvement Plan developed from the permanency Summit.

Training Needs

- ✧ Safety Decision Making training
- ✧ Framework for Safety training
- ✧ Older Youth training refresher

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| FCI MEMBERSHIP |
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| √ | PARTICIPANT (write in names for each) | Attends on a Regular Basis? |
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| √ | Juvenile Court Judge David Jones | No |
| √ | Circuit Clerk Karen Peirce | Yes |
| √ | Juvenile Officer Lisa Altis & Jeremy Trapp | Yes |
| √ | Other Juv. Court Personnel DJO's: Amanda West, Brooke Risley, Cassandra Marsh, Chris Deck, Kyle Collins, Laina Webster, Shayla Lowe & Whitley Spencer. | Yes |

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| √ | Juvenile Court Attorney Bill Prince, Brittany O'Brien & Angela Myers | As available |
| √ | Parent's Attorney Linda Thomas, Karenanne Miller & Arthur Olson | Yes |
| √ | Guardian Ad Litem Linda Thomas, Karenanne Miller & Arthur Olson | Yes |
| √ | Court Appointed Special Advocate Amanda Byrd | Yes |
| √ | Children's Division Circuit Manager Heather Ford | Yes |
| √ | Children's Division Program Manager Lisa Crawford, Kristiann Summerhill, Debra Strait | Yes |
| √ | Children's Division Supervisor Garrett Norell, Jason Kearbey & Tammy Bates | Yes |
| √ | Children's Division Worker Genie Cortez | As available |
| √ | Other CD Personnel Julie Lester, Brian Garrity, Dan Johnston & Stacey Baker | Yes |
| √ | Contracted/Service Providers Mary Turner, Mary Casada, Michele Brown, Kristy Ogden, Jeremy Elliott, Kelly Turk, Alisa Griffiths, Kendi Satterfield, Becca Allee & Kari Brichacek | Yes |
| √ | Other Team Members Teresa Kennison & Allison Pate (Missouri Alliance) | Yes |

What Strategies do you use to improve attendance?

- ✧ Greene County continues to have 20 or more attendees at each meeting. Efforts continue to include line staff, especially through sub-committee involvement.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION