

Fostering Court Improvement Semi-Annual Report

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

Submitted by: Circuit 31 Contact Person Lisa Altis Phone 417-829-6112

Reporting Period:

- October to March 2012 (Due April 30)
- April to September 2011 (Due October 31)

PERFORMANCE MEASURE SUCCESSES

Activities

- ✧ **MJJA Fall Conference attendance by 2 FCI members**
- ✧ **State-wide FCI meeting attendance by 6 FCI members**
- ✧ **Visitation Sub-Committee completing process of developing Visitation Training Powerpoint, visitation tools, Greene County Visitation Rules and a parent Information Packet.**
- ✧ **Continuing steps taken toward bringing Framework for Safety training to the circuit: Children's Division hosted a 2-day Framework for Safety meeting**
- ✧ **Court Summary Committee remodeled content and format of each court hearing report and treatment plans utilized in Child Abuse & Neglect cases in Greene County with an emphasis of incorporating Framework for Safety concepts.**
- ✧ **Brought community presenters to FCI Committee meetings to learn more on possible services/training available: Connections Program- Paul Romine and Missouri Alliance Family Finding Coordinator- Karie Scott- Roark**

Accomplishments

- ✧ **Developed Greene County Visitation Rules through Visitation Sub-Committee**
- ✧ **TPR Cross-training presented to foster parents and case workers (new workers and refresher for current workers)**
- ✧ **Court Summary Committee completed a roll out of the remodeled court hearing reports and treatment plans utilized in Child Abuse & Neglect cases in Greene County**

Improved Data Outcomes (JIS 2011/2012 data)

- ✧ **Over the last 5 months there has been a dramatic decline in the number of referrals from Children's Division Investigators to the Juvenile Office which subsequently resulted in a significant decline in the number of abuse/neglect petitions filed. In 2011, the averages for referrals/filings a month were 46/39. Thus far in 2012, the averages for referrals/filings a month are 24/17. These numbers reflect that on average in 2011 petitions were filed 85% of the time**

from the referrals received. Thus far in 2012, on average petitions have been filed 71% of the time from the referrals received. During the same timeframe case closing continued to remain high and 45% of cases closed in 2011 were closed through Reunification. The combined effect from these factors has resulted in a current decline in the number of children in care. The number of children in care went from an unfortunate high of 1034 children in July of 2011 to a low of 915 children by March of 2012.

Committees Formed

✧

Planned Activities for Next Period

- ✧ Utilize Training Grant to provide at least one training opportunity. Anticipated topic is Framework for Safety and Older Youth refresher
- ✧ Team members to attend MJJA conference if funds available
- ✧ Team members to attend State-wide FCI meeting
- ✧ Provide Visitation Training to case workers.
- ✧ Continue seeking community presenters to FCI Committee meetings to lean more on possible services/training available. Anticipated topics are the REALL project developed by Ozarks Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC) and CHAFFEE programs.

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| FCI MEMBERSHIP |
|-----------------------|

| | PARTICIPANT (write in names for each) | Attends on a Regular Basis? |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| √ | Juvenile Court Judge David Jones | No |
| √ | Circuit Clerk Karen Peirce | Yes |
| √ | Juvenile Officer Lisa Altis & Jeremy Trapp | Yes |
| √ | Other Juv. Court Personnel Julie Rumley (Judge Secretary), Susie Schenck (Court Recorder) and DJO's: Amanda West, Brooke Clarkson, 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 | 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 Lori Summers | As Available |
| √ | Children's Division Circuit Manager Heather Ford | Yes |
| √ | Children's Division Program Manager Lisa Crawford, Elizabeth Mendenhall, Deb Strait | Yes |
| √ | Children's Division Supervisor Ginny Law, Jason Kearbey | Yes |
| √ | Children's Division Worker Jenorey Wood & Kim Fortner | As available |
| √ | Other CD Personnel Julie Lester, Brian Garrity, Dan Johnston & Kristiann Summerhill | Yes |
| √ | Contracted/Service Providers Mary Turner, Mary Casada, Michele Brown, Kristy Ogden, Jeremy Elliott, Becca Allee & Kari Brichacek | Yes |
| √ | Other Team Members Allison Pate (Missouri Alliance) | Yes |

What Strategies do you use to improve attendance?

- ☒ Greene County continues to have on average 20 attendees at the monthly meetings. A 2012 front line staff FCI training meeting will be considered so as to maintain their knowledge of FCI and continue to increase involvement with FCI sub-committees.

USE OF FUNDING

FCI Sub-Grant Funds Received During this Period: \$3,000.00

How Funds Were Spent

- ✧ Meals for monthly FCI meetings.
- ✧ Ink and photo paper for court exhibit pictures; Disposable cameras for parents attending Road to Reunification (R2R) class.

Multi-disciplinary Training Grant Funds Received During this Period: \$1,500.00

How Funds Were Spent

- ✧ Organized and held Legal Aspects of Termination of Parental Rights and Special Issues When Working with Incarcerated Parents. The training was available for all professionals of the child welfare community. It covered the issues on termination of parental rights cases and working with parents who are incarcerated. The training was facilitated by Jeanne Gordon, J.D., Children's Division Legal Issues Training Coordinator and Christy Collins, M.S., Children's Division Program Development Specialist. The training was approved for CLE training hours. There were 66 attendees for the training

NEEDS

Concerns

- ✧ Continued high length of stay in care, especially for reunification cases.

Plans for Improvement

- ✧ Completion of visitation committee project and implementation of visitation training.

Training Needs

- ✧ Framework for Safety
- ✧ Older Youth Refresher Training

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION