

WHAT ARE THE STRATEGIES, IF ANY, THAT STATES ACROSS THE NATION EMPLOY WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE FAMILY COURTS TO WORK COLLABORATIVELY ON BEHALF OF CHILDREN IN CARE?

STATE SUMMARY: FLORIDA

State CFSR

Judges and attorneys were interviewed during the on-site visit in Fall, 2001. ACF returned their report to the state in May 2002, and the PIP was approved in April, 2003.

PIP planning included several statewide meetings, which involved agency and court representatives, designed to garner input from dependency stakeholders. Court representatives included the Dependency Court Improvement Project (DCIP) coordinator, the Program Director for the state Supreme Court, and 12 other members from various circuits and jurisdictions around the state.

Collaboration Following the Release of the PIP

The review findings from the CFSR that took place in 2002 were presented at the annual Dependency Court Improvement Summit in 2002. There, local circuits began the process of formulating strategies to address many of the areas needing improvement.

Ongoing Collaboration

The agency and courts have collaborated in several areas involving the PIP. Please see Appendix A for more detail.

Dependency Court Improvement Summit). The agency and courts work together closely throughout the year in planning the annual DCIP. This summit is the primary venue for disseminating important information to dependency court and agency stakeholders. This summit includes over 60 presentations every year. The focus of local circuit planning sessions incorporates many of the issues raised in the PIP. For example, during the Dependency Court Improvement Summit in 2002, members of the judiciary were trained on the merits of concurrent case planning and case plan conferencing.

The courts are also undertaking a new evaluation of how dependency cases are judicially processed in Florida. This effort is part of federal DCIP grant requirements. Study questions derived from the PIP will be included in the research design. The courts will seek input from the agency as the project proceeds.

Practice Improvement Team. The Child Protection Practice Improvement Team (CPPIT) was established in May 2003 to facilitate, track and guide child welfare practice improvement initiatives within Florida's Child Welfare Industry. Initially an idea from the judiciary, this team

is currently comprised of 25 people, and forms a core group focused on Quality Improvement/Best Practices. The first meeting of all of its members took place in September.

The group is responsible for continuous quality improvement assessment activity and product as they relate to Florida's PIP. One of the resulting, on-going, working subcommittees proposed is for Court Practice issues, process improvements, and product realignment pursuant to the issues delineated in the PIP. The group will focus on practice, protocol and interaction between all participants related to court related functions. The new subcommittee was formed at the September meeting.

Committees. The Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court includes both court and agency representatives. This Committee of the Florida Supreme Court is charged with providing input and guidance regarding DCIP efforts. A subcommittee of this group focuses specifically on dependency issues and is comprised of representatives from all stakeholder categories, including the agency. Elements of the PIP will be discussed with the subcommittee in detail at a future meeting.

Trainings. In 2002, a workshop was conducted for caseworkers, supervisors, GALs, attorneys, and judges on permanency issues for teenagers.

Publications. Florida developed a publication entitled *A Workbook on Improving Our Dependency Court Communities*. The workbook is a compilation of information received from DCIP liaisons in each court, statistical reports from the agency, and data from the State Courts System. There is information about overall efforts, divided into five categories: 1) general masters; 2) case management; 3) technology; 4) court docketing/orders; and 5) innovations in progress. Each circuit section contains information about major accomplishments, as well as statistics addressing dependency petition filings, delinquent/dependent crossover children, and reunification. The workbook also contains a summary of the CFSR report.

Conclusion

The agency and courts collaborate on a variety of issues related to the PIP, primarily through the DCIP, and soon the CPPIT. As the CPPIT gets underway, more PIP goals will be realized.

APPENDIX A: FLORIDA'S PIP EXTRACT

Outcome Permanency 1 Item 7. Permanency Goal For Child

Area Needing Improvement

This plan addresses permanency goals for children. It addresses the length of time to achieve reunification as well as the other permanency goals. Florida did not meet the national standard of 76.2% of children achieving reunification within 12 months. Areas needing improvement include: The case plan identified several goals for the child without documenting the primary goal; the goals were not established in a timely fashion and in some situations not appropriate; and/or all the parties were not aware of the goals. A lack of mental health services was identified by stakeholders as a barrier to reunification.

Florida law requires that permanency be addressed for each child who has remained in out-of-home care for twelve consecutive months, beginning from the time of removal of the child from the home. Federal and state standards require that all children removed from their home and entering the child welfare system have a case plan developed, which includes permanency goal(s), within 60 days of removal. Permanency staffings are to be held prior to each Judicial Review until permanency is achieved. The Permanency Hearing, a special Judicial Review hearing, is held no later than 12 months after a child is placed in care. Twelve months is an outside time limit for permanency unless there are extraordinary circumstances. Florida's high caseloads coupled with staff turnover of field, supervisory and legal staff pose challenges in achieving this goal.

Outcome or Systemic Factor Needing Improvement	Goal/Negotiated Measure /Percent of Improvement	Method of Measuring Goal Improvement	Lead and Action Steps	Benchmarks Toward Achieving Goal	Benchmark Date Of Achievement	Goal Date of Achievement	Status and Comments
Outcome P1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situation.							
<u>Item 7 Permanency goal for child</u>			<p><u>2.b. Improve the length of stay in foster care, timeliness of permanency resolution and placement stability.</u></p> <p>LEAD: Family Safety Program Office / Districts / Region / CBC Lead Agencies</p> <p><u>LEAD: Dependency Court Improvement Project</u></p> <p><u>LEAD: Dependency Court Improvement Project</u></p>	<p>2.b. Provide technical assistance for child welfare specialists in engaging families in services, maintaining family / sibling connections during out-of-home placements and in the case planning process. This will be accomplished either through the video conferencing or the "Meet Me Calls" and then ongoing as needed. The child safety assessment, the case plan, and the comprehensive behavioral assessment include both the maternal and paternal sides of the family. Child welfare legal staff are also trained specifically on Family Services Workers engaging fathers and paternal relatives early in the process. <u>These attorneys review all court documents for legal sufficiency. An operating procedure guides staff on the diligent search process that includes the paternal relatives. Unit Supervisors are critical to review of casework to ensure engagement of fathers and paternal relatives in the process. The above named instruments are used by the caseworker and the supervisor to ensure consistency in practice.</u></p> <p>2.c. <i>Hire one policy specialist for Headquarters to assist and provide technical assistance to district/region / community based care staff in effective permanency resolution.</i></p> <p>2.d. <i>Educate and train the judiciary on the merits of concurrent case planning and case plan conferencing.</i></p>	<p>06/30/03</p> <p>10/31/02</p> <p>10/31/02</p> <p>8/31/02</p> <p>8/28 – 8/30/02</p>		<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed during the DCIP Summit in August 2002</p>

<p><u>Item 7 Permanency goal for child</u></p>			<p>8. <u>Develop and implement revised administrative rule on permanency staffing policy to require permanency staffing be held prior to each six-month judicial hearing.</u> <u>LEAD: Family Safety Program Office</u></p>	<p>8. <u>Review and revise, if needed, permanency staffing policy to require permanency staffing be held prior to each six-month judicial hearing in Florida Administrative Code 65C-12, Out of Home Care.</u> ➤ <i>Convene a workgroup to review the administrative rule</i> ➤ <i>Revise administrative rule</i> ➤ <i>Distribute draft rule changes to districts / region / community based care for comment</i> ➤ <i>Schedule and hold rule workshop</i> ➤ <i>Review comments and revise draft administrative rule based on comments</i> ➤ <i>Promulgate administrative rule</i> Implement</p>	<p>07/31/04</p> <p>Completed.</p> <p>02/28/04 03/31/04</p> <p>04/30/04 05/15/03</p> <p>06/30/04 07/31/04</p>				<p>Workgroup established in 02/02</p>
<p><u>Item 7 Permanency goal for child</u></p>			<p>10. <u>Continue to work in partnership with the judiciary and other relevant stakeholders to address challenges to timely achievement of reunification and permanency through annual Dependency Court Improvement Summits.</u> <u>LEAD: Family Safety Program Office / CBC Lead Agencies and Court Improvement staff</u></p>	<p><u>10.a. Conduct annual Dependency Court Improvement Summit. (Refer to Appendix J)</u></p>	<p>8/31/02 and annually</p>	<p>8/28/02 – 8/30/02</p>			<p>Completed</p>

			<p>10.b.</p> <p><u>LEAD: Family Safety Program Office / CBC Lead Agencies and Court Improvement staff</u></p>	<p><u>10.b. Conduct a workshop for caseworkers, supervisors, guardian ad litem, attorneys, and judges on permanency issues for teens.</u></p> <p><u>Members of the State Youth Advisory Board teamed with child welfare policy staff to present a workshop on permanency issues for teens in foster care at the Dependency Court Improvement Summit in August 2002. The audience was able to interact with the teens and hear their perspectives first hand. Some of the issues presented included: the importance of birth family connections, the importance of including teens in the decision making process regarding permanency, the importance of planning for a child's transition to adulthood regardless of the permanency goal and most importantly, the need for a family or "permanency" setting that would be part of the young adult's life after he/she exited the foster care system.</u></p>	8/31/02	8/28/02 – 8/30/02			Completed.
--	--	--	---	--	---------	-------------------	--	--	------------

Outcome Permanency 1 Item 10. Permanency Goal of Other Planned Permanent Living Arrangements

Area Needing Improvement

This plan addresses goal selection other than reunification, adoption, guardianship, or return to family. Alternative goals are not considered appropriate without documentation of thorough consideration of more legally binding permanency goals as well as justification of the selected goal.

Florida law provides for goals that align with the permanency options outlined in ASFA. However, the terms are different. The goals in Florida law that map to “other planned permanent living arrangement” include long term licensed custody and independent living. These goals may only be considered after the goals of reunification, adoption, guardianship, or custody to a relative / non-relative have been ruled out. Therefore, careful ongoing assessment of the child is required to ensure that one of these “less” permanent permanency options is appropriate. The ongoing review of children with these identified goals ensures that the most appropriate permanency option is available to them. Until permanency is established by the court, permanency staffings and six month judicial reviews are required to ensure assessment is on-going and appropriate.

The State Youth Advisory Board advocates for youth and particularly for youth empowerment. This Board has dedicated considerable energy to educating community partners and other stakeholders in the child protection system about the need for youth to have a significant voice in their case plans as well as their placement preferences. This is demonstrated in training, conferences, youth-made videos for younger youth, youth participation in court hearings, etc.

Outcome or Systemic Factor Needing Improvement	Goal/Negotiated Measure /Percent of Improvement	Method of Measuring Goal Improvement	Lead and Action Steps	Benchmarks Toward Achieving Goal	Benchmark Date Of Achievement	Goal Date of Achievement		Status and Comments
<u>Item 10 Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement</u>			6. <u>Develop and implement revised administrative rule on permanency staffing to require permanency staffing be held prior to each six-month judicial hearing.</u> LEAD: Family Safety Program Office	6. Benchmarks and dates are found in P1, Item 7: Action Step 7.				

<u>Item 10 Permanency goal of other planned permanent living arrangement</u>			<p>9. Ensure the suitability of "long term licensed custody" for each child with that permanency goal and document the justification for the goal. LEAD: Districts / Region / CBC Lead Agencies</p>	<p><i>9. Communicate the need for each district/region/CBC Agency to identify all children in foster care with a permanency goal of "long-term licensed custody" and to assess the appropriateness of the permanency goal for that child, documenting the justification for the goal.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Identify individual in each area responsible for oversight of the data analysis process</i> ➤ <i>Develop a feedback mechanism for local reporting of findings from the analysis and actions taken</i> ➤ <i>Share report findings locally and with Headquarters</i> <p><i><u>Initiate permanency goal change if needed at the time of the next judicial review.</u></i></p>	<p>06/30/03</p> <p>7/15/03</p> <p>9/15/03</p> <p>10/15/03</p> <p>12/31/03</p>				<p>Case reviews will evaluate the effectiveness on change in practice.</p>
--	--	--	---	---	---	--	--	--	--

Well-Being 1 Item 18. Child and Family Involved in Case Planning

Area Needing Improvement

This plan addresses involvement and participation of parents of children in foster care in the development of the case plan. In Sarasota County the records reviewed were rated as strengths. The areas needing improvement include: involvement of teenagers in the case planning process and engagement of biological fathers, including absent fathers, in some of the case planning conferences. Case plan conferencing and use of interpreters were also areas identified as needing improvement.

The case planning process must concentrate on developing solution-focused relationships that build on family strengths and include outcome-based interventions. In order to promote collaborative case planning and integrated service delivery the process will begin as much as is feasible, with input from all parents, age appropriate children, caregivers and other support individuals. Florida's high caseloads and staff turnover pose challenges to this goal.

Outcome or Systemic Factor Needing Improvement	Goal/Negotiated Measure /Percent of Improvement	Method of Measuring Goal Improvement	Lead and Action Steps	Benchmarks Toward Achieving Goal	Benchmark Date Of Achievement		Goal Date of Achievement		Status and Comments
Item 18 <u>Child and Family Involved in Case Planning</u>			<p>1. Educate the attorneys on the importance of child and family involvement in case planning.</p> <p>LEAD: Family Safety Program Office DCF Trg & Ed</p>	<p>1. <u>Work in partnership with Dependency Court Improvement Project to develop and offer in-service training / workshop during the Dependency Court Improvement Summit in 08/03 for attorneys of parents and/or children involved in dependency court on purpose, requirements, and process of case planning.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Meet initially with local court liaisons in each judicial circuit to discuss the need, strategies for implementation and development of training.</u> ➤ <u>Develop curriculum tailored for attorneys representing families and children on the importance of early involvement of the family, caregivers and child in case planning.</u> ➤ <u>Conduct follow-up meetings with court liaisons in each judicial circuit to discuss ongoing attorney participation in training, barriers to participation in training and strategies to promote better attorney attendance in training, if needed.</u> ➤ <u>Revise training curriculum based on input received from participants.</u> 	<p>08/31/03</p> <p>04/30/03</p> <p>07/31/03</p> <p>12/31/03</p> <p>04/30/03</p>				

			<p>4. Ensure enhanced availability and accessibility of interpreters.</p> <p>LEAD: District/Region and Community Based Care Directors</p>	<p>4. District / Region and CBC Agencies will identify primary languages of persons receiving services and analyze data to address the need for bilingual staff, providers, and interpreters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ District / Region and CBC Agencies to identify, on an ongoing basis, the availability of bilingual employees, the specific languages spoken and disseminate that information to all staff. ➤ District / Region and CBC Agencies will obtain strategies from other agencies (i.e. service providers, local schools, universities, other state agencies, courts) to address language and culture 	<p>4/30/03</p> <p>5/31/03</p> <p>7/31/03</p>				
--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	--	--

Outcome Well-Being 1 Item 19. Worker Visits with Child

Area Needing Improvement

Large caseload size due to staff turnover has had a negative affect on the ability of the case manager to maintain appropriate contact with children. There is a need to make the contacts with children more meaningful and in the least restrictive environment.

Florida law and agency policy require that all children under supervision are seen monthly in their residence unless the court directs otherwise. High caseloads and staff turnover are challenges to meeting this requirement. Caseloads consistent with Child Welfare League of America standards (children per caseworker) will help to ensure that counselors make and document, in HomeSafenet (HSn), meaningful contact with children in their home/placement setting. The size of caseloads is a significant factor in counselors resigning their positions with the Department.

Outcome Well-Being 2 Children Receive Appropriate Services To Meet Their Educational Needs

Florida performance at CFSR	78.9%
Goal for PIP	85%

Item 21. Education Needs of the Child

Area Needing Improvement

This plan addresses the educational needs for children in foster care placements. The areas needing improvement include: educational needs of children being addressed or identified in case plan; and follow up to the recommended psychosocial–educational assessment.

Children under the agency’s supervision must have their specific educational needs included in the case planning process. Counselors are responsible for gathering information on each child’s developmental and educational functioning, capacity and status.

Outcome or Systemic Factor Needing Improvement	Goal/Negotiated Measure /Percent of Improvement	Method of Measuring Goal Improvement	Lead and Action Steps	Benchmarks Toward Achieving Goal	Benchmark Date Of Achievement	Goal Date of Achievement		Status and Comments
<p><u>Item 21</u> <u>Education Needs of The Child</u></p>			<p>2. Obtain information about the education needs and issues of adolescents in foster care.</p> <p>LEAD: Family Safety Policy Unit</p> <p>LEAD: Districts / Region / CBC Lead Agencies</p>	<p>4.a. Seek direct input about adolescent foster children's educational needs and issues by surveying the local and state Youth Advisory Board members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop survey and send to the local and state Youth Advisory Board members ➤ Review and analyze information from survey <p>4.b. Use information to determine what steps can be taken, locally, to ensure adolescents' educational needs and issues are addressed.</p>	<p>09/30/03</p> <p>6/30/03</p> <p>8/31/03</p> <p>09/30/03</p>			

			<p><u>3. Ensure detailed information about the child's educational performance, physical health, dental health and mental health needs are included in the Judicial Review reporting format.</u></p> <p>LEAD: Family Safety Policy Unit/ District/ Region / CBC Lead Agencies</p>	<p><u>5.a. Revise Judicial Review reporting format, to include detailed information about the child's performance in school, if appropriate for age and/or developmental stage, physical health, dental health, and mental health.</u></p> <p>5.b. Disseminate revised format</p> <p>5.c. Implement</p>	<p>06/30/03</p> <p>7/15/03</p> <p>8/15/03</p>				<p>This will be evaluated during case reviews and through stakeholder interviews with judges and attorneys.</p> <p>Current information about a child's performance in school is critical for ongoing assessment of risk, safety and adequacy of case plan. Teachers fill a major role as an information source about how the child is perceived to be progressing, how effective the case management services appear to be in assisting the family and whether or not the child appears to be safe and stable.</p>
--	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	--	--

			<p>4. <u>Ensure detailed information about the child's educational performance, physical health, dental health and mental health needs are included in the Judicial Review reporting format.</u></p> <p>LEAD: Family Safety Policy Unit/ District/ Region / CBC Lead Agencies</p>	<p>5.a. <u>Revise Judicial Review reporting format, to include detailed information about the child's performance in school, if appropriate for age and/or developmental stage, physical health, dental health, and mental health.</u></p> <p>5.b. Disseminate revised format</p> <p>5.c. Implement</p>	<p>06/30/03</p> <p>7/15/03</p> <p>8/15/03</p>				<p>This will be evaluated during case reviews and through stakeholder interviews with judges and attorneys.</p> <p>Current information about a child's performance in school is critical for ongoing assessment of risk, safety and adequacy of case plan. Teachers fill a major role as an information source about how the child is perceived to be progressing, how effective the case management services appear to be in assisting the family and whether or not the child appears to be safe and stable.</p>
--	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	--	--

			<p>5. <u>Ensure detailed information about the child's educational performance, physical health, dental health and mental health needs are included in the Judicial Review reporting format.</u></p> <p>LEAD: Family Safety Policy Unit/ District/ Region / CBC Lead Agencies</p>	<p>5.a. <u>Revise Judicial Review reporting format, to include detailed information about the child's performance in school, if appropriate for age and/or developmental stage, physical health, dental health, and mental health.</u></p> <p>5.b. Disseminate revised format</p> <p>5.c. Implement</p>	<p>06/30/03</p> <p>7/15/03</p> <p>8/15/03</p>				<p>This will be evaluated during case reviews and through stakeholder interviews with judges and attorneys.</p> <p>Current information about a child's performance in school is critical for ongoing assessment of risk, safety and adequacy of case plan. Teachers fill a major role as an information source about how the child is perceived to be progressing, how effective the case management services appear to be in assisting the family and whether or not the child appears to be safe and stable.</p>
--	--	--	--	---	---	--	--	--	--

Item 22. Physical Health of the Child

Areas Needing Improvement

This plan addresses the physical health for children in foster care placements. The Department requires that all children entering a licensed placement have a health screening within 72 hours of removal from home. Information on the child's health history and current immunization records must be maintained and must accompany the child in a "resource book." Dental health needs, both initial and on-going, present a particular challenge as there is a shortage of dentists who are willing to accept Medicaid.

Outcome or Systemic Factor Needing Improvement	Goal/Negotiated Measure /Percent of Improvement	Method of Measuring Goal Improvement	Lead and Action Steps	Benchmarks Toward Achieving Goal	Benchmark Date Of Achievement	Goal Date of Achievement	Status and Comments
<u>Item 22. Physical Health of Child</u>			3. <u>Ensure detailed information about the child's educational performance, physical health, dental health and mental health needs are included in the Judicial Review reporting format.</u> LEAD: Family Safety Policy Unit / CBC Lead Agencies	Benchmarks and dates are in WB2 Item 21: Action Step 5			

Outcome Well-Being 3 Children Receive Adequate Services To Meet Their Physical And Mental Health Needs

Item 23. Mental Health of the Child

Area Needing Improvement

This plan addresses the need for mental health assessments and the lack of readily available mental health resources.

Currently all children, ages 5 or older, who are removed from home and placed in a licensed setting, are required to have a Comprehensive Behavioral Health Assessment. This assessment covers cognitive, behavioral, emotional, and developmental issues, functioning, and history. Family functioning and service recommendations are also addressed in the report. Lack of resources is a challenge, both in getting timely mental health assessments completed by quality providers and in the provision of follow up services recommended by the assessment. Florida's continued implementation of specialized mental health services for children in state custody are expected to assist the state in meeting this goal.

Outcome or Systemic Factor Needing Improvement	Goal/Negotiated Measure /Percent of Improvement	Method of Measuring Goal Improvement	Lead and Action Steps	Benchmarks Toward Achieving Goal	Benchmark Date Of Achievement	Goal Date of Achievement	Status and Comments
Item 23. <u>Mental Health of Child</u>			1.c. LEAD: Districts / Region / CBC Lead Agencies	1.c. Continue to work in partnership with the Department of Health regarding increased capacity for existing Sexual Abuse Treatment Programs, contracted by the Department of Health, to provide psychosexual assessments and treatment programs for sexually active and reactive children. ➤ Discuss potential service options at next joint monthly meeting between DCF Family Safety staff and Department of Health Children's Medical Services staff. ➤ Determine timeframes for implementation of any identified services ➤ Implement identified services based on established timeframes 1.d. Pursue potential for alternative funding sources for behavioral health services through Florida Kid Care, Behavioral Health Network, etc	6/30/03 7/31/03 9/30/03 4/30/03		
			2. <u>Ensure detailed information about the child's educational performance, physical health, dental health and mental health needs are included in the Judicial Review reporting format.</u> LEAD: Family Safety Policy Unit	See Benchmarks and dates in WB2 Item 21: Action Step 5			

SYSTEMIC FACTOR: Case Review System

Item 29: Provides a process for foster parents, pre-adoptive parents and relative caregivers of children in foster care to be notified of, and have an opportunity to be heard in any review or hearing held with respect to the child.

Area Needing Improvement

This plan addresses the notification of and opportunity to be heard in a review or hearing held with respect to a child.

There is a need for all parties involved in the child's permanency to be notified of court dates and to have an opportunity to be heard during any proceedings. The notification of hearings to parents is frequently completed in court at the end of the current hearing. Parents are provided with written notice of the next hearing date and time. However, there are inconsistencies in notifications to absent parents, foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative/non-relative caregivers. HomeSafenet serves as the record of all such parties involved and should help to facilitate timely and accurate notification

Outcome or Systemic Factor Needing Improvement	Goal/Negotiated Measure /Percent of Improvement	Method of Measuring Goal Improvement	Lead and Action Steps	Benchmarks Toward Achieving Goal	Benchmark Date Of Achievement		Goal Date of Achievement		Status and Comments
<p><u>Item 29: Provides a process for foster parents, pre-adoptive parents and relative caregivers of children in foster care to be notified of, and have an opportunity to be heard in any review or hearing held with respect to the child.</u></p>			<p>1. Implement a standard process to ensure timely notification of hearings for absent parents, foster parents, relative and non-relative caregivers, pre-adoptive parents and other substitute caregivers who may be involved with the child. LEAD: Family Safety Program Office General Counsel's Office District / Region / Community Based Care Agencies</p> <p>LEAD: Family Safety Program Office General Counsel's Office</p> <p>District / Region / Community Based Care Agencies</p>	<p><u>1.a. Develop the standard process that includes a tracking mechanism for notices to substitute caregivers, which includes date of notice, date of hearing, and attendance.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Establish a workgroup that will include representatives from the judiciary, local court liaisons, and community partners to develop a standard notification process .</u> ➤ <u>Present a workshop on involving parents and caregivers in all reviews and hearings involving children and the caregiver's right to be heard during all be conducted at the Dependency Court Improvement Summit</u> ➤ Disseminate for statewide implementation ➤ Implement <p><u>1.b. Develop a brochure or "fact sheet" on court process. The brochure, which will emphasize the right of parents and all substitute caregivers to be heard, the rights and responsibilities of participants, etc. will be provided to parents and all substitute caregivers of a child under supervision.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Work jointly with the Dependency Court Improvement Project on the development</u> ➤ <u>Meet with DCIP and include the court's input</u> ➤ Disseminate for review and comment ➤ Incorporate comments ➤ Send final brochure to print ➤ Deliver brochure statewide ➤ Distribute locally 	<p>4/30/03</p> <p>7/31/03</p> <p>8/31/03</p> <p>10/31/03</p> <p>11/30/03</p> <p>10/31/03</p> <p>6/30/03</p> <p>7/31/03</p> <p>8/30/03</p> <p>9/15/03</p> <p>9/30/03</p> <p>11/1/03</p> <p>11/15/03</p>				<p>This will be monitored through case reviews, specifically through stakeholder interviews to begin 7/03.</p>

<p><u>Item 29: process for to be notified of, and have an opportunity to be heard in any review or hearing held with respect to the child.</u></p>			<p>LEAD: Family Safety Program Office General Counsel's Office</p>	<p>1.c. Research the California Home Placement Study, which includes recommendations that speaks to caseworkers encouraging caregivers' participation in the court process for strategies to implement statewide.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conduct research ➤ Compile the information and make recommendation to leadership regarding replication ➤ Replicate if appropriate 	<p>10/31/03</p> <p>10/31/03 11/30/03</p> <p>12/31/03</p>				
--	--	--	---	---	--	--	--	--	--

