

Fifth Judicial District – Children’s Justice Team – April 2009 Summit Goals

Goal #1: Strengthen the relationship between the child and their GAL.

6 Month Outcome: Scheduled date for CLE with draft agenda.

Action Steps:

Lead Contacts:

Target Completion Date

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Survey GAL’s on what barriers they perceive to visiting their clients, actions they take to “make it work” and how their attorney/client relationship could be strengthened. Use Youth survey results (1 st and 2 nd versions) with letter explaining situation to introduce topic and concerns to GALs.	Terri Bailey and Jane Rosein – draft letter to GAL’s with survey results.	May 21, 2009 – Bring to Team meeting for feedback, next steps.
Hold CLE for GAL’s and Parent Attorneys covering Barrier Issues and demo Technology – consider using mini-grant for gas cards for GAL’s, web cams and/or Skype memberships	Beth Baldwin, Wendy Rickman, Vickie Hodge, Lisa Cook planning committee.	Hold event by November 30, 2009. Schedule by September 1, 2009.
Pilot Internet Video communication (Skype) between GAL and child	Daron Hensen and Pat Greenwood pilot program with Anne Akers; Beth Baldwin mini-grant request.	Initial Skype communication between Daron and Pat to occur by 5/21/09 meeting.
Encourage Youth attendance at FTM’s and Court to facilitate GAL/child relationships	Lisa Cook - work with FTM facilitators to encourage child attendance at FTM’s	
Work on Home visit scheduling coordination between caseworkers and GALs.	Kris Roudybush – discuss with supervisors to work with their staff	Discussions completed by May 21, 2009 meeting.
Work with SPD’s office on encouraging them to change current policy of not paying attorneys travel time to attend FTM’s or court hearings – Write request to state council on issue to facilitate consistent payment standards to strengthen ability of Gal and Parent Attorneys to provide quality representation to their clients (currently SPD pays for travel to child visits,	Judge Gamble, Judge Lloyd and Beth Baldwin	By July 1, 2009 provide letter to Children’s Justice State Council.

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but not to court hearings, FTM's, education conferences or other staffing).		

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to delays in appointments.	Union County and distribute to Judge Gamble and Beth. Judge Gamble, Beth, Judge Lloyd, Judge Franklin and Judge Parker to oversee implementation of new process in 5A and 5B.	May 1, 2009. Implement new attorney appointment process in 5A and 5B by September 1, 2009.

Goal #4: Implement Post Termination Hearings 60 days after Termination Orders entered.

6 Month Outcome:

Action Steps:	Lead Contacts:	Target Completion Date
Communicate expectation to appropriate DHS staff that 45 day post termination reports required. New emphasis.	Kris Roudybush and Wendy Rickman	By May 21, 2009 meeting
Judges will begin scheduling Post Termination hearings 60 days after entering termination orders.	Judge Art Gamble and Judge John Lloyd	Implement new hearing scheduling by June 1, 2009; Conference call with Juvenile Judges between 5/21 and 6/1.
Court Administration will provide to DHS Adoption Unit in Des Moines the list of local adoption attorneys for 5A and 5B counties.	Beth Baldwin will provide list to Wendy Rickman for distribution to workers (and families).	By May 21, 2009
Hold discussion with JoEllen Johnston regarding what is and is not working for making adoptions happen in 5A and 5B counties, suggestions for improvement, streamlining, etc.	Wendy Rickman and Kris Roudybush, report back to Team (written and oral).	At July 23, 2009 team meeting
Clerks to tickle Termination cases for Judges to review files at day 46 for progress, 45 day report, et. al.	Beth Baldwin to work with Clerks	Implement tickling system by June 1, 2009.