

**JUDICIAL, COURT, AND ATTORNEY
MEASURES OF PERFORMANCE (JCAMP)**

JUDICIAL SURVEY REPORT

AUGUST 14, 2023

Purpose of the Judicial Survey

- JCAMP is designed to help understand and improve child welfare court practices through a developed set of performance measures.
 1. Family Engagement
 2. Due Process
 3. High-Quality Legal Representation
 4. Safety
 5. Permanency
- Performance measures focus on:
 - Court Processes
 - Professional Practice
 - Family Experience

The performance measures data obtained through the JCAMP project allows to gain valuable information about system and standards so we can make determinations about how to move forward with CIP projects.

Survey Demographics

151 Judges & Magistrates Invited

103 Survey Responses

Average time on bench: 9.73 years

Most judges have 1 year experience on the bench

Counties with the Most Participation

Davidson	Hamilton	Wilson
Cheatham	Knox	Shelby

Key Takeaways: Quality Legal Representation – Parent Attorneys

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appear in court prepared • Appear knowledgeable on applicable legal issues and legal arguments • Explain parents' rights and obligations prior to entry of settlement 	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising notice and service objects • Raising the issue that an immediate risk of harm no longer exists • Requesting discovery
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Key Takeaways: Quality Legal Representation – Guardian ad Litem

<p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appear knowledgeable on applicable legal issues and legal arguments • Appear in court prepared • Share the wishes of the youth/child 	<p>Challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocating alternative placements • Requesting discovery • Raising the issues that an immediate risk of harm no longer exists
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Key Takeaways: Court Practices

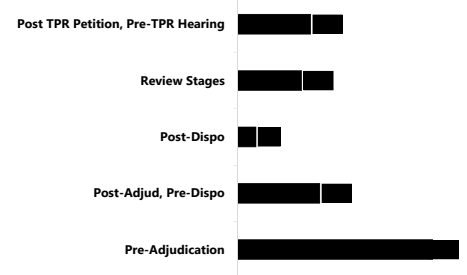
Strengths

- Accommodations for parents who might have limitations allowing them to participate in hearings
- Discussion between parties on what is preventing the child from returning home
- Consistency of the GAL representing the child/youth throughout the life of the case

Challenges

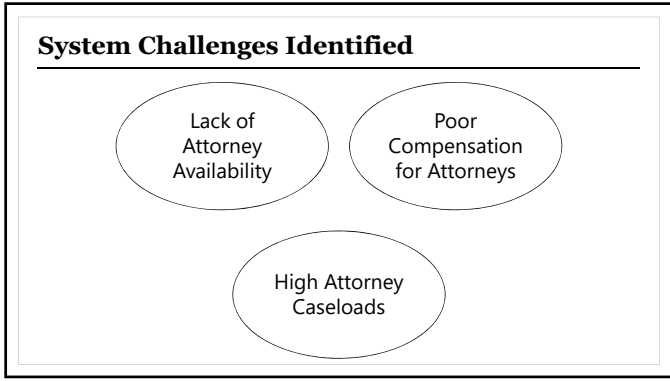
- Detailed visitation orders
- Visitation orders taking into consideration the nature, extent, and quality time of siblings living separately
- Transitional plans to reunify families when an immediate risk of harm no longer exists are not being presented to the court

Continuance Practice: Stages



Continuance Practice: Reasons





- Focus Group Topics**
- Based on your responses 5 topics have been identified for further discussion.
1. System Challenges Concerning Appointed Attorneys
 2. Engagement of Foster Parents and Relative Caregivers in Court Process
 3. Reasonable Efforts Findings Related to Safety Decision-Making and Removals
 4. Advocacy for Reunification When the Threat of Immediate Risk of Harm No Longer Exists and Permanency for Families
 5. Ensuring All Families Have Equal Access to Fair Court Hearings

- A Few Extras**
- ✓ All responses in the focus groups are valid – there are no right or wrong answers and no “expected” answers.
 - ✓ Try to stay on topic.
 - ✓ The information shared in these focus groups is anonymous. There will be individuals in each group taking notes, but your names will not be recorded with your comments. We are not recording these focus groups.
 - ✓ We will be preparing a summary report of the data collected from our JCAMP Quality Legal Representation project which will be made available to you. The results from the survey and these focus groups will help to inform future CIP projects.
 - ✓ **Thank you for your participation!**
