

## **Children's Justice Project Advisory Council Rules**

### **Rule 1. Children's Justice Project Advisory Council**

The Children's Justice Project Advisory Council (CJP) shall operate under the direction and supervision of the Chief Justice of the Wyoming Supreme Court.

### **Rule 2. Mission Statement**

CJP seeks to advance practice within Wyoming's juvenile court system to improve outcomes for children and families in the areas of permanency, safety, and wellbeing. CJP utilizes data gathering, education, and community stakeholder partnerships to create, implement, and support projects which foster continuous quality improvement. CJP recognizes the integral role of the courts and court participants within the child welfare system and seeks to promote meaningful and on-going collaboration between the courts and other child welfare team members on behalf of the children and families served.

### **Rule 3. Membership**

The advisory council shall be multi-disciplinary and statewide. It shall be composed of no more than 26 members appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, who shall also appoint such successors as necessary to fill vacancies created by the death, resignation, or other cause for an advisory council member to be rendered unable to serve. Ex-officio members may be appointed to the advisory council. In the event a member's term expires, the Chief Justice has the discretion to request the member to serve another term. Members will be appointed to serve a 3-year term.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in making appointments to the advisory council, may select members that are representatives of, but not limited to, the Supreme Court, District Court Judges, Legislators, Prosecuting Attorneys, Attorney General or designee, Department of Family Services, Guardians *ad Litem*, Parents' Attorneys, child advocates, clerks of district court, State Public Defender or designee, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Indian Tribes, Department of Health, education, mental health providers, foster care alumni, foster care service providers, or other applicable individuals.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court shall designate the Chairperson of the advisory council. The Chairperson may form sub-councils as needed to accomplish the business of the advisory council.

A person may not serve on the advisory council if the person is required to register as a lobbyist in his/her profession.

#### **Rule 4. CJP Executive Committee**

At the discretion of the Chairperson, there shall be an executive committee for CJP. The executive committee shall consist of 5 members, including the Chairperson, who are current members of CJP and appointed by the Chairperson. The purpose of the executive committee shall be to assist the CJP Coordinator in carrying out the mission of CJP outside the quarterly meetings of CJP. The executive committee's duties may include:

- The authority to approve requests of the CJP Coordinator that require attention before the next regularly scheduled CJP meeting.
- Provide feedback to the CJP Coordinator when drafting the agendas and topics to be addressed at the quarterly CJP meeting.
- To provide direction for the CJP Coordinator and CJP by ensuring CJP focuses its resources on the most important issues that are consistent with CJP's mission.

#### **Rule 5. Compensation**

A member of the advisory council is not entitled to compensation but is entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses incurred by the member while conducting official business of the advisory council. Compensation shall be at standard rates set by the State of Wyoming.

#### **Rule 6. Staff**

The Wyoming Supreme Court shall provide staff for the advisory council.

#### **Rule 7. General Powers, Responsibilities and Duties**

The advisory council shall convene at least annually. It shall consult with the Supreme Court in developing and implementing strategic plans and monitoring progress toward outcomes to meet the requirements of the federal grants.

The advisory council's responsibilities include but are not limited to implementing approaches for Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) to ensure that proceedings related to child abuse and neglect promote due process of law; timely, thorough and complete court hearings; high quality legal representation to parents, children and the

department of family services, both in and out of court; and engagement of the entire family in court processes relating to child welfare, family preservation, family reunification and adoption. The advisory council's duties include but are not limited to: attending meetings; documenting the amount of time spent on projects for the state match grant requirement; reviewing and commenting, when appropriate, on proposed rules, regulations, standards, guidelines, reports, legislative bills, court assessment questionnaires and instruments; collection and review of data, and providing recommendations for court reform to the Supreme Court.

#### **Rule 8. Duration**

The Children's Justice Project Advisory Council shall continue until dissolved.