

Track 2 – October 18, 2024
2024 WSADCP Therapeutic Court Conference
Workshop Summaries and Presenter Bios (Listed by Session Number on Schedule)

Community Courts

Session 1: Problem-Solving Courts: Standards and Outcomes

This session will lead court planners and practitioners through the essential procedures and policies of successful community courts. Best practices identified by the broader community justice field as well as the Guiding Principles of Community Justice will be woven into discussions about how community courts should ideally operate from case identification through graduation.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the guiding principles of community justice.
- Explore the new best practices for community courts.
- Re-imagine the role that courts can play in public safety and well-being.

Presenters: Tia Strozier & Gina Smith

Tia Strozier currently serves as the Associate Director of Policy and Practice for the Community Justice Technical Assistance team at the Center for Justice Innovation (CJI). In this role, she works with local criminal justice community and system partners to develop and implement equitable, impactful alternatives to traditional prosecution, policing and policymaking. Incorporating her insights as a misdemeanor prosecutor with the Los Angeles City Attorney's office, Ms. Strozier uses technical assistance to support jurisdictions across the country as they tell a new story about their local criminal justice system. Serving both as a calendar court deputy and community prosecutor, she has experience managing a caseload of varied misdemeanor charges and working collaboratively with community, city and county government representatives, and law enforcement to address quality of life issues in the Downtown and South Los Angeles neighborhoods. In her pursuit to promote legal literacy, Ms. Strozier has hosted multiple public safety summits highlighting the expertise of system and policy partners. She also co-created *Community Vision Conversations*, a facilitated dialogue designed to spark systemic reform while prioritizing comprehensive community healing following George Floyd's death. Ms. Strozier graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Hampton University, and earned her Juris Doctorate from Indiana University - Maurer School of Law.

Gina Smith is a Senior Program Manager on the Community Justice team. Ms. Smith's role provides technical assistance to established and aspiring community courts nationally and supports sites on new project planning and management. Before joining the Center, Ms. Smith's prior roles include serving as a Cook County Adult Probation Officer and Director of Policy and Accreditation as well as the Policy Advisor for the Administrative Office of Illinois Courts Office of Statewide Pretrial Services. In these roles, she supported clients during their terms of probation, policy research and development, and implementation of the Illinois SAFE-T Act. Ms. Smith received her B.A. from Columbia College Chicago and her J.D. from DePaul University College of Law.

Collaborative Courts

Session 2: There's No Place Like Home: Understanding the Harms of Removal and Family Separation

Collaborative Courts are Family Therapeutic Courts including Early Childhood Courts, Safe Babies Courts, and Indian Child Welfare Act Courts

The idea of taking kids first and sorting it out later to “avoid” abuse is one of the biggest paradoxes in the history of governmental practice. The child welfare system has historically undervalued the enormous impacts of removal to children and has largely failed to recognize that even temporary separation can result in irreparable damage. In 2023, Washington became one of the first states in the nation to statutorily require child dependency courts to consider the likely harms a child will experience if removed from their home. This training will introduce participants to the concept of “harm of removal” in the context of child welfare and how Washington used a multidisciplinary approach to create practical tools, resources and training that supports cross-system identification and mitigations of harms of removal to children.

Learning Objectives:

- Increase understanding of how forcibly removing a child from their parent(s), even in cases of abuse and neglect, can be extremely disruptive to a child’s neurological and socio-emotional development.
- Enhance basic understanding of the domains of a child’s life that are impacted by removal and continued family separation.
- In cases where removal is ordered, ways judges, attorneys, case workers, advocates, allies and others can reduce the short-term and long-term harms associated with the trauma of forced family separation.

Presenters: Laura Vogel & Jacob D’Annunzio

Laura Vogel is the CIP Co-Director & Training Coordinator for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Family & Youth Justice Programs. She coordinates training opportunities for dependency courts and system partners, along with facilitating multiple cross-system court improvement efforts. Originally from the Midwest, Laura’s early career involved coordinating specialty criminal domestic violence courts and high-risk lethality teams. Prior to working for AOC, Laura was employed by Thurston County Superior Court as the Family Recovery Court Coordinator, and subsequently as the Safe Babies Court Community Coordinator. She holds bachelor’s degree from North Dakota State University, a Master of Public Administration degree from Kent State, and is a Certified Trauma Support Specialist. Laura leads the statewide effort to develop resources and training that supports court communities in assessing and responding to the harm of removal in child dependency cases. She brings a wealth of expertise in the trauma of family separation and has presented locally and nationally on the harm of removal in child welfare, including a plenary presentation at the National Association of Counsel for Children’s 2024 National Child Welfare Law Conference.

Jacob D’Annunzio, is a Managing Attorney and the Training Coordinator for the Parents Representation Program at the Washington State Office of Public Defense (OPD). Jacob began his career as a public defender at the Skagit County Public Defender, where besides working with juvenile and dependency cases, he was involved in creating the Family Treatment Court, working towards increasing visitation available for families, and working toward a foster mentor

program. Jacob serves on the Children, Youth, and Family Services Advisory Committee, Washington State’s Citizen Review Panel, and various other committees where he works towards improving the state’s child welfare system.

Community Courts

Session 3: Meaningful Community Engagement for Courts

Community is the heart and head of a thriving Community Court model. Birthed from transparent, transformative collaboration between community and justice system stakeholders, Community Courts remain a dynamic approach to facilitating responsive community safety in a neighborhood because of their culturally competent construction and people-centered vision. This session will explore ways justice system partners can meaningfully and equitably engage community members as strategic partners in the creation and implementation of a local Community Court.

Learning Objectives:

- Explore novel ways that court programs can connect with communities.
- Understand the essential work of centering person-centered equity in courts.
- Walk through real examples of court-led equity work in action.
- Define procedural justice and understand its relationship to recidivism.

Presenters: Tia Strozier & Gina Smith

See Session 1 Notes for Presenter Bios

Collaborative Courts

Session 4: Understanding and Applying State Public Health Guidance on High Potency Synthetic Opioids in Child Dependency Cases

Collaborative Courts are Family Therapeutic Courts including Early Childhood Courts, Safe Babies Courts, and Indian Child Welfare Act Courts

Join us for an informative, highly-interactive workshop focusing on applying the recently released [Public Health Guidance on High-Potency Synthetic Opioids](#) in child dependency cases. Creation of this guidance was mandated by the Washington State Legislature in the 2024 passage of SB 6109, which requires courts to give “great weight” to both the guidance created by the Washington State Department of Health and the risk of lethality posed by high-potency synthetic opioids. Participants will learn about the creation of this guidance and engage in scenario activities and group discussions to develop a deeper understanding of how to apply this guidance in child welfare cases. This session will help therapeutic court teams identify ways to keep children safe and support family healing in cases where parental opioid use is an issue.

Learning Objectives:

- Increase basic understanding of high-potency synthetic opioids and the intersection with families involved in child welfare, including the potential impacts of parental misuse on child safety, the unique considerations for children exposed to high-potency synthetic opioids in their environment, and effective treatment and harm reduction strategies.
- Enhance ability of court teams to effectively apply current public health guidance to dependency cases involving high-potency synthetic opioids, including harm reduction strategies for safety planning.
- Provide opportunities to practice applying the public health guidance to hypothetical scenarios and engage in discussions with peers.

Presenters: Laura Vogel, Kelly Warner-King, Jacob D'Annuzio

See Session 2 Notes for Laura Vogel and Jacob D'Annuzio Bios

Kelly Warner-King is the Program Manager for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Family & Youth Justice Programs. Kelly has extensive experience working with courts, attorneys, social workers and community providers to improve outcomes for children and families involved in dependency court. Her work in the child welfare court system was as an attorney for parents and children, the manager of the King County Family Treatment Court, the coordinator of the Supporting Early Connections program and a youth attorney at TeamChild. Drawing on her ability to reach across systems to meet the needs of children and families, Kelly has also consulted for nonprofit and government agencies, facilitating multi-disciplinary system improvement efforts such as the One Family One Team Court Pilot Committee and the Washington State Safe Babies Design Team. Early in her career, Kelly was an education policy analyst with the RAND Corporation and the University of Washington's Center on Reinventing Public Education, and served as the first Legal Ombuds at the Washington State Office of the Education Ombuds. Kelly holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and earned her law degree from New York University School of Law. She was the recipient of a Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowship from the Open Society Institute.

To receive CEU, CLE, or CJE credit, session evaluations must be completed and returned. Evaluations will be emailed after the conference.

Schedule subject to change