CORE COMPETENCIES TRAINING

Establishing Legitimacy, Building Credibility & Getting to Know Your District

OBJECTIVES

- Become familiar with jurisdictional practice
- Get to know the child welfare professionals in your district and court
- Learn about services available
- Practice advocacy skills in out of court meetings and events
- Develop collaborative skills
- Employ litigation skills

KNOW YOUR COURT

Identify the Professionals

- Judicial officers
- City/County Attorneys
- District Personnel: Family/Juvenile Court Facilitator, Court Clerk, District Administrator
- Contact the OCR for additional jurisdiction-specific resources
- See District Contact Information as provided

Identify Practice Standards

- What MOUs are in place in your jurisdiction?
- What BPCT projects are underway?
- What specialized courts does your jurisdiction have?
- How does your jurisdiction approach specific issues?

Learn Available Services

- Volume 7 Regulations
- Treatment providers
- Funding sources and limitations
- Child-specific resources

Out of Court Advocacy

Learn Meeting Types

- ARDs (Administrative Reviews)
- VOICES (Value of Individual and Community Engagement Services)
- FSRT (Family Safety and Resource Team Meeting)
- FUM (Family Unity Meeting)
- PRT (Permanency Roundtable Meeting)
- Staffings
- Mediation

Attend Meetings

- Attend all meetings if possible
- Send an agent if you are unable to attend if possible
- Out of court meetings are a tremendous source of information
- Use the opportunity to collaborate or gather information for litigation

Meeting Preparation

- Know your case and your meeting. Be prepared to advocate accordingly
- ARDs are largely information-sharing
- VOICES meetings may be an opportunity for advocacy and collaboration
- Mediation: Know the issues.
- Remember: the courtroom, not the meeting room, may be the place to win your argument.

Collaboration and Litigation

Can you do both?

Yes!

Collaboration and Litigation

- Both collaboration and litigation are highly necessary skill sets in this practice
- Collaborate when possible
- Litigate when necessary
- Develop both skill sets

Mediation/Collaboration

- Learn the basic skills
- Take a course
- Read a book
- Learn to identify areas for collaboration
- Use mediation skills to deal with difficult parties/counsel/professionals each day

Litigation Strategies

- Always be prepared to litigate: You are a LAWYER after all!
- Build courtroom credibility at every hearing
- Create clear records
- File appropriate motions
- Confer with counsel
- Share the necessary information
- Respect others' points of view and positions of advocacy

CREDIBILITY

- Examples of credibility issues in the courtroom
- Examples of credibility issues in out of court advocacy

QUESTIONS?

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Enjoy your GAL practice. This is amazing work you get to do on behalf of children.