

## **Court Improvement Program Committee**

### **Mission:**

The Court Improvement Program Committee, through the direction of the SD State Supreme Court, will assess the system's handling of child abuse and neglect cases and recommend improvements for achieving safety, permanency, and well-being in a timely manner.

### **Duties:** The committee will:

- Act in an advisory manner and work on specific tasks as needed.
- Review court assessment results and make recommendations for change/improvements in terms of timeliness, effectiveness, and quality of the court system in handling child abuse and neglect cases.
  - Goal of the assessment/survey is to: identify barriers in achieving timely permanency in child abuse/neglect cases.
  - CIP Coordinator will compile the results of all assessments/surveys and report to the committee.
- Identify strategic initiatives and prioritize them with the overall goal of achieving permanency for children, who have come into care and custody of the state, in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.
- Make recommendations for improvement or enhancement of services, data collection, and training via CIP grants.
- Encourage collaboration between the courts, agencies, and community stakeholders.
- Create educational materials related to dependency court proceedings.
- Assist in strategic planning of the CIP program.
- Support the courts efforts to comply with Adoption Safe Families Act (ASFA).

**Appointment:** Recommended by the State Court Administrators Office and appointed by the Chief Justice

**Terms:** Committee members will serve either three or five year terms.

**CIP Committee Make-up:**

1. Presiding Judge (Judge Jeff Davis)
2. Circuit Judge (Judge Scott Myren)
3. Circuit Court Administrator (Tony Benning)
4. State's Attorney's Office (Roxie Erickson)
5. A&N Trained Attorney (Becky Morlock Reeves)
6. Department of Social Services (Virgena Wieseler, Vicki Burger & LuAnn Van Hunnik)
7. Victim Witness Specialist (Sharon Kallemeyn)
8. CASA Representatives (Amy Benda)
9. Foster Care/Adoptive Parent (Amy Benda)
10. Tribal /ICWA representative (Dave Valandra)
11. Legislator (Todd Schlekeway)
12. Law Enforcement (Marty Graves)

**SCO Staff:** Sara Kelly-CIP Coordinator

**Meetings:** The committee will meet annually and/or as needed.