

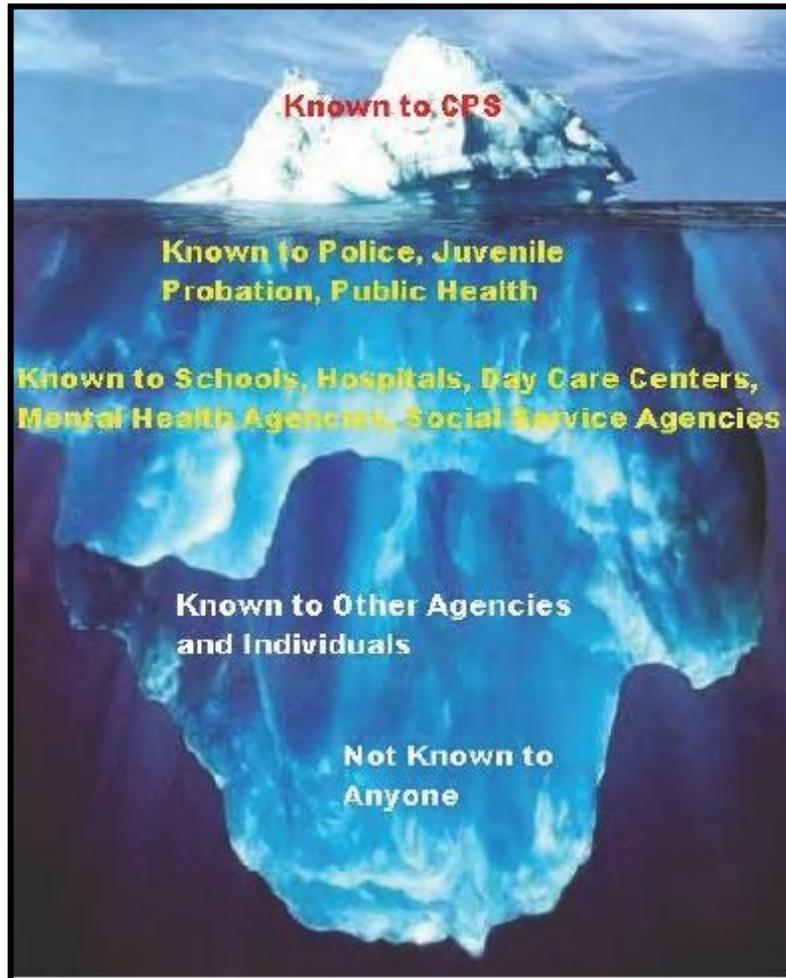
**THE SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN**

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

THE STATE OF CHILD WELFARE

The Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (“NIS-4”) – released in early 2010 – was the United States Department of Health and Human Services’ most recent effort to meet its Congressional mandate to estimate the incidence of child abuse and neglect in the United States. Since its inception in 1980, a consistent finding of the NIS has been that CPS agencies investigate a relatively small portion of child abuse and neglect that exist in our communities. Or rather, children investigated by CPS represent “only the tip of the iceberg.”¹

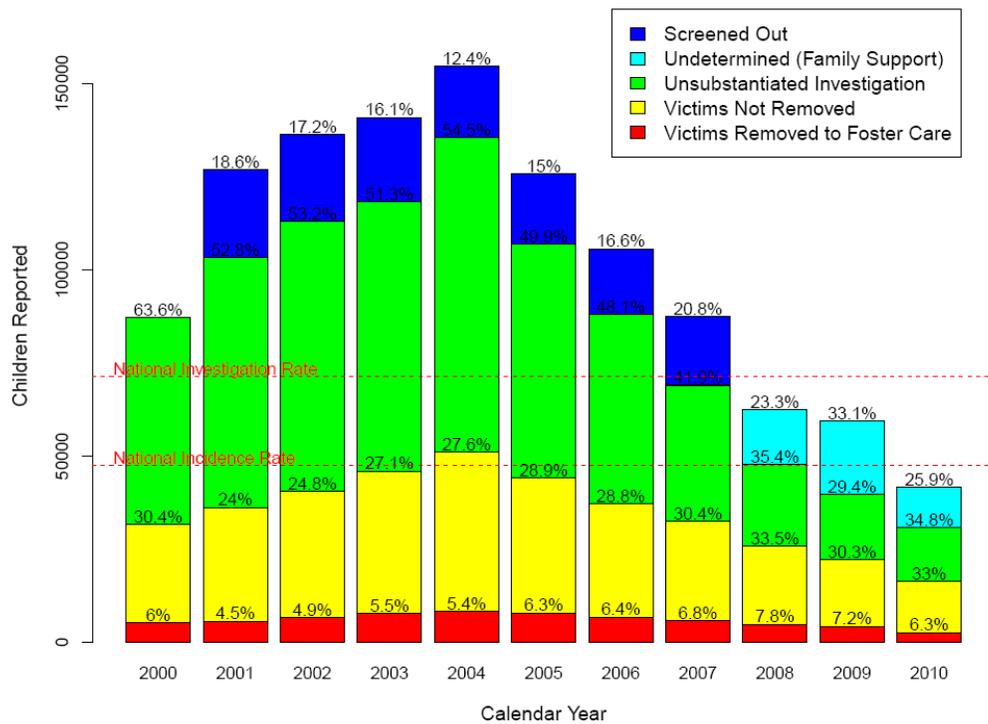


**FIGURE 1 – LEVELS OF RECOGNITION OF CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT
FROM NIS-4, PAGE 2-2, WWW.NIS4.ORG**

¹ Sedlak, A.J., Mettenburg, J., Basena, M. Petta, I., McPherson, K., Greene, A., and Li, S. (2010). *Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect (NIS-4): Report to Congress*. Washington, DC: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Srvcs., Administration for Children & Families.

As far as quantifying the tip of the iceberg, one could conservatively estimate only 35% of actual child abuse and neglect victims are investigated by CPS agencies. Supplemental reports² are expected to address this issue, and elaborate on why our child welfare reporting system’s ability to identify victims pales in comparison to, say, the medical field, where systems are designed to capture closer to 95% of “victims” of a disease.

Another key finding of NIS-4 was that the incidence of child abuse and neglect decreased between 1993 and 2005. In 2004, Georgia’s incidence of child abuse and neglect likewise began decreasing, as did the number of referrals received and investigations conducted by DFCS.



**FIGURE 2 – DFCS CHILD MALTREATMENT DISPOSITIONS
COURTESY OF FOSTERING COURT IMPROVEMENT**

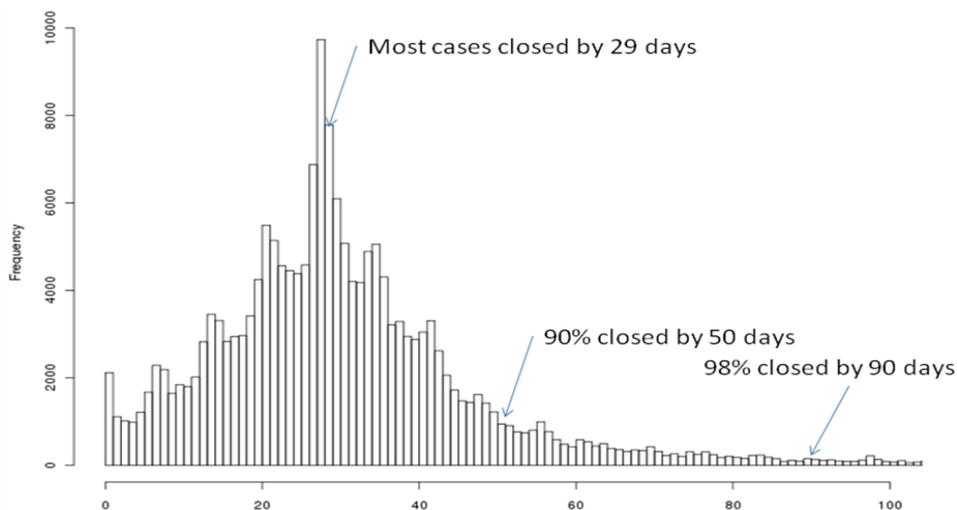
In Figure 2, the green blocks represent the cases resulting in unsubstantiated investigations. In other words, these cases represent allegations formally investigated by DFCS, for the purposes of determining whether the child was a victim of abuse and neglect, resulting in the professional determination that there was not enough evidence to support substantiation of the allegation. Since investigations can cause fragile families great stress, there are few, if any, benefits to

² As of April of 2011, these reports have not been published.

unsubstantiated investigations. In 2004, unsubstantiated investigations were the end result of more than half of the referrals received by DFCS. At the end of 2010, that rate was down to one-third.

Likely contributing to the reduction in unsubstantiated investigations is Georgia’s effort to implement an alternative response system. Alternative Response³ refers to the practice of allowing more than one method of initial response to a report of child abuse and neglect. The two tracks typically call for either an investigation or an assessment. An investigation is designed to gather evidence and make a formal determination of whether the child is a victim of abuse and neglect. An assessment is designed to assess family strengths and needs and determine whether services would best support positive parental care. The core element of any alternative response is to ensure the safety and well-being of children, while recognizing the agency’s ability to assess risk and authority to make decisions about the necessity of removal and court involvement. In Georgia, DFCS granted county offices the authority to draft protocols that would allow CPS case managers to ‘divert’ cases from the investigative track.

The practice of diversion began surfacing in 2004, but was not recognized (from a data standpoint) as a separate practice until 2008. In Figure 2, the light blue boxes⁴ represent the proportion of diverted cases statewide. Most diverted cases are closed within 30 days, and as Figure 3 demonstrates, virtually none remain open after three months.



**FIGURE 3 – DIVERSION: LENGTH OF OPEN CASES
COURTESY OF FOSTERING COURT IMPROVEMENT**

³ Also referred to as Differential Response, Dual Track, Multiple Track, Multiple Response.

⁴ The term “Undetermined” is used since in diversion, no formal determination is made as to whether the child is a victim of abuse or neglect.

The emergence of alternate response practices raise questions about the appropriate role of judicial oversight in certain stages of child welfare practices. While Georgia’s foster care population continues to decline, as demonstrated in Figure 4, the state’s juvenile court judges have worked to define an appropriate role for the courts in DFCS’ emerging family support and family preservation practices. Beginning in October of 2010, the Committee on Justice for Children (J4C) provided funds for a Safety Collaborative Meeting as a forum for the Council of Juvenile Court Judges leadership to meet regularly with DFCS leadership to discuss these issues.

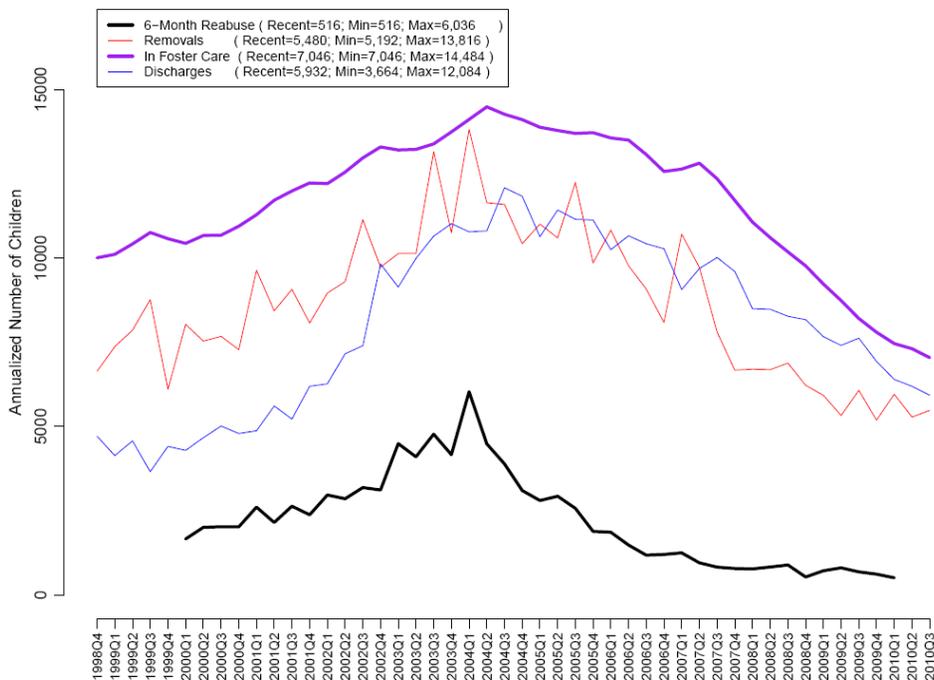


FIGURE 4 – FOSTER CARE DYNAMICS
COURTESY OF FOSTERING COURT IMPROVEMENT

Balancing the fundamental rights of citizens to be free from undue government interference with the compelling governmental interest to protect children is no simple task. Emerging practices like diversion, coupled with a declining foster care population, raise complex questions about the appropriate level of judicial oversight of CPS practices. Yet in the wake of addressing such complex issues, other seemingly simple matters have commanded a ‘back to basics.’ The report that follows highlights the efforts of J4C to facilitate discussion of complex matters, such as the role of judicial oversight in the administration of child protective services, while continuing to ensure that children in state custody are safe and moving towards permanency.

SUMMARY

In the following report, the J4C programs and projects are summarized. It is J4C's commitment to improve the court process for civil child abuse and neglect cases in Georgia. J4C focused on nine goals for the year of 2010: (1) Improving the Quality of Representation for all Parties; (2) Improving the Appellate Process; (3) Developing, Reporting, and Actively Using Data Measures for Courts; (4) Increasing Placement Stability for Children in Foster Care; (5) Family Preservation; (6) Finding Permanency for Children Most Likely to Age out of Care; (7) Streamlining the ICPC Process; (8) Ensuring Foster Parents Receive the Opportunity to be Heard in Judicial Proceedings; and (9) Improving Title IV-E Reimbursement Rates.

Each goal implicates a myriad of complex issues, yet the bottom line is simple: keep children safe. Preserve families whenever possible, and find new families when it is not. While it is important to tackle complex issues, we should not lose sight of the 13,553 children that spent time in DFCS custody during the 2010 FFY, over half of whom did not experience placement stability. We should not lose sight of 574 children that emancipated from DFCS custody last year, with no legal or permanent connection to a supportive and caring adult. The data demonstrate these problems are manageable. As a professional community, we can wrap our arms around 574 children, and we should.

J4C's programs and projects are designed to assist the courts and the stakeholders in their efforts to better serve the children and families who appear before them. We welcome feedback on how J4C can continue to serve the juvenile courts and improve the lives of children in foster care.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Justice for Children (J4C) was created in 1995 to assess and improve court proceedings involving abused and neglected children. J4C is a part of the Federal Court Improvement Program, originally authorized as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1993. All 50 states participate in this program which provides funds to the highest court in the state to improve the court process as it relates to the safety, well-being and permanence of children in foster care.

With direction from the J4C Committee, from our federal grant guidelines, and in collaboration with community partners, J4C identified nine goals for which we focused our efforts in 2010: (1) Improving the Quality of Representation for all Parties; (2) Improving the Appellate Process; (3) Developing, Reporting, and Actively Using Data Measures for Courts; (4) Increasing Placement Stability for Children in Foster Care; (5) Family Preservation; (6) Finding Permanency for Children Most Likely to Age out of Care; (7) Streamlining the ICPC Process;

The mission of J4C is to improve the legal and court process of court-involved children in civil child abuse and neglect proceedings.

(8) Ensuring Foster Parents Receive the Opportunity to be Heard in Judicial Proceedings; and (9) Improving Title IV-E Reimbursement Rates. Although it was anticipated in 2009 that J4C would return to focusing exclusively on the first five goals, at the direction of our Committee and with additional funding from outside sources, J4C continued to work on all nine goals. Each goal is discussed below.

1. IMPROVING LEGAL REPRESENTATION

A long-standing priority of J4C has been improving both the quantity and quality of legal representation for all parties in deprivation matters by: 1) establishing standards of practice; 2) ensuring attorney access to high-quality training; and 3) developing quality assurance program.

Standards of Practice. With financial support and technical assistance from J4C, the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council (GPDSC) pushed forth their standards from 2009 and focused on training, improving communication and knowledge and building expertise within their ranks.

Georgia Parent Attorney Advocacy Committee (GPAAC) holds monthly meetings and offers comprehensive trainings throughout the year. With regard to establishing standards for child representation, there have been two major events in 2010. The State Bar of Georgia issued an advisory opinion regarding the potential conflict between a child's expressed legal interests and what the attorney considered to be in the child's best interests. The opinion is currently before the Supreme Court of Georgia for review, and will invariably shape the role of the child attorney in future child deprivation proceedings. Furthermore, Senate Bill 292 was introduced during the 2010 Georgia legislative session, which sets minimal standards for representing children in child deprivation proceedings. Although the bill was not passed, the bill's sponsors have indicated it will be re-introduced in 2011. As to Agency representation, in 2010, J4C and DFCS began working with the Attorney General's (AG) office on standards and issues mutually targeted for improvement. Representation from the AG's office attends monthly Collaborative meetings with DFCS and J4C staff.

Training. J4C hosts biannual child welfare attorney trainings at the State Bar and partners with other agencies to host trainings such as GPDSC's parent attorney trainings and Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation's Professional Series on Critical Issues Facing Special Needs and At-Risk Children. In 2010, J4C continued its partnership with the Barton Child Law and Policy Center to provide the Georgia Child Welfare Legal

Academy (CWLA), a monthly workshop hosted at Emory University School of Law. In 2010, seven workshops were lead by various national and local child welfare experts covering the following topics: the implementation of presumptively open juvenile courts, reasonable efforts through effective case planning, the Robin Nash Memorial Lecture, the Cold Case Project, reducing child maltreatment through SafeCare, the Child and Family Services Review, and a trauma informed approach to children in state custody. Videos of the presentations are archived online. Visit www.childwelfare.net for more info. This year, J4C was one of several sponsors the statewide Youth Law Conference, which for the first time, was aligned with the statewide SAAG training. On the first day, SAAG attorneys participated in a dual-track workshop that enabled them to attend training with child and parent attorneys.

J4C provides scholarships for attorneys and judges to attend national conferences, including the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' annual conference as well as the Child Abuse and Neglect Institute; and the National Association of Counsel for Children's annual conference. Additionally, the eight attorneys J4C sponsored to attend the 'Train the Trainer' NITA training in San Francisco in 2009 served as faculty at the Child Welfare Attorney Trial Techniques Training at Emory University, attended by 96 attorneys and judges. The training was sponsored by J4C, GACC, the Barton Clinic, GPDSC, and the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. Finally, J4C partnered with the Georgia

Association of Counsel for Children (GACC) to sponsor the first class of Georgia attorneys to apply for certification from NACC as a Child Welfare Law Specialist in 2009. At the 2010 Youth Law Conference, Justice Hines recognized Georgia's first class of Child Welfare Law Specialists as certified experts in child welfare law.

2. DEVELOPING, REPORTING, & USING DATA MEASURES FOR COURTS

Data are used by J4C to monitor the safety and well-being of children in state custody. For several years now, J4C has partnered with Fostering Court Improvement (FCI) to provide more than 100 child welfare data measures to stakeholders. In partnership with DFCS and OCA, these measures – broken down by county, DFCS region, judicial circuit and judicial district – are publicly available at:

www.fosteringcourtimprovement.org/ga

- **J4C Summits.** J4C first began working with Georgia juvenile court judges to convene Justice for Children summits in 2007. At the end of 2010, 42 judicial summits have been held, reaching 114 counties. See Figure 2-A. This past year, a total of 8 J4C summits were held in local communities, reaching 29 counties. When a jurisdiction hosts a summit, a large portion of the day is devoted to an in-depth explanation of the most relevant local data. Attendees are later encouraged to create action plans to improve outcomes for youth in care, and to evaluate those plans by monitoring the publicly available foster care data.

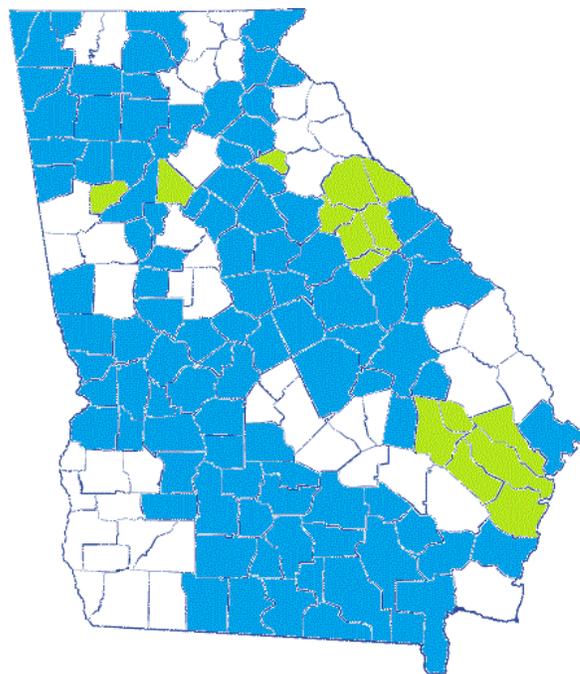


FIGURE 2-A: LOCATION OF SUMMITS HELD

In 2010, J4C began circling back to communities that previously held a J4C summit and working with the judges to host a follow-up Permanency, Safety and Well-Being (PSWB) Workshops. The workshops mirror the substantive curriculum of the J4C summits: a localized data presentation, a legal discussion regarding permanency, and a youth engagement presentation from Georgia EmpowerMENT. However, the agenda is condensed to a half day and ends with a working lunch to discuss progress on the action plans. The PSWB Workshops further our commitment to bringing resources and training to the local communities. In Figure 2-A, the counties in light-blue have hosted a J4C Summit, while the counties in light green have hosted both a J4C Summit and PSWB Workshop.

- **Data Updates.** Annual data update letters are sent to judges that have hosted a summit. The letters highlight emerging trends, with particular emphasis on the areas selected in the action plan.
- **Stakeholder Meetings.** J4C provides funding to counties to come together regularly (monthly, quarterly, etc) to discuss local issues related to child welfare. J4C is occasionally called upon to present data updates to the stakeholder groups at these meetings. For example, last summer, J4C provided a local data update at the Tallapoosa Circuit Stakeholder meeting. The presentation focused heavily on the *Child Welfare Doppler Radar*, discussed below, to identify concentrations of child abuse and neglect in Polk and Haralson counties. The meetings provide the local stakeholders an opportunity to engage in an open, multi-disciplinary evaluation of current programs and existing practices in the community. J4C sponsored over 100 such meetings in 2010.

3. IMPROVING THE APPELLATE PROCESS

J4C continues to monitor the implementation of HB 369, which changed the appellate process for TPR appeals from direct to discretionary.

The data show the discretionary application process has greatly reduced the time from filing an appeal to final disposition. However, a new delay in finalizing the TPR process has manifested – the production of transcripts.

Bartow County Juvenile Court Judge Velma Tilley took over as lead judge for the Improving the Appellate Process goal toward the end of 2009. During the first year, there has been considerable progress in identifying the delay in production of transcripts. Judge Tilley first met with the Georgia Certified Court Reporters Association during their annual meeting to discuss the production of transcripts for juvenile court cases. It was determined that, absent exigent circumstances, there was agreement and support for adopting a standard requiring production of trial transcripts within 30 days in TPR cases. Shortly thereafter, J4C surveyed the clerks on issues related to the production of transcripts. Over 90 clerks responded, representing 125 counties. See Figure 3-A. The responses indicated no objection from the clerks to a requirement that transcripts for juvenile court appellate cases be produced within 30 days.

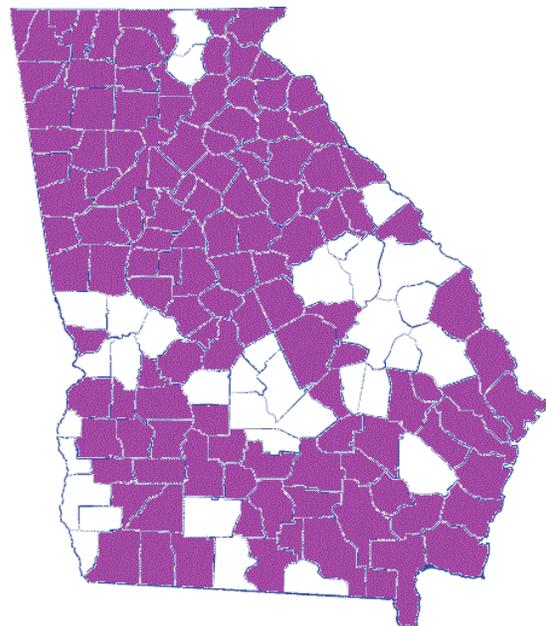


FIGURE 3-A: COUNTIES RESPONDING TO SURVEY

J4C continues to publish a quarterly appellate law summary of child welfare appeals in Georgia. The summaries are posted on our website, and members of the Georgia Association of Counsel for Children receive these updates electronically.

4. INCREASING PLACEMENT STABILITY

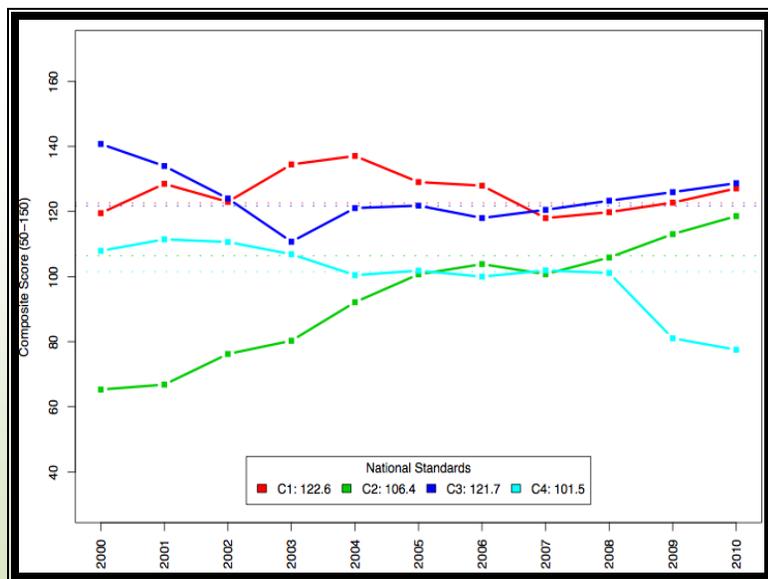
The Child and Family Services Review (“CFSR”) is the federal government’s program for assessing the performance of a state’s child welfare community with regard to achieving positive outcomes for children and families. The CFSR is implemented by the Children’s Bureau, an arm of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. Placement Stability is one of the four measures to evaluate permanency. Figure 4-A demonstrates Georgia’s performance on the CFSR permanency composites from 2000 through 2010. In the last few years,

Georgia has improved on all measures except placement stability, for which our performance has dramatically declined.

In 2010, J4C partnered with the Office of the Child Advocate and DFCS to explore ways to provide stable placements for children in state custody. After reviewing case files and data, J4C has developed a curriculum and is prepared to begin hosting specialized placement stability trainings in local communities around Georgia. This work will begin in early 2011.

5. FAMILY PRESERVATION

The Family Preservation priority revolves around the core value that children do best in their own home, provided they can remain there safely. In 2010, J4C turned to what has been dubbed the *Child Welfare Doppler Radar* to further examine the dynamics connected to child safety.



**FIGURE 4-A: GEORGIA’S PERMANENCY COMPOSITE SCORES
COURTESY OF FOSTERING COURT IMPROVEMENT**

The Child Welfare Doppler Radar displays the intensity of CPS activity in an area. For example, by examining the Savannah Doppler map, displayed in Figure 5-A, one can identify the heavy concentration of CPS investigations (the left map) that take place in Yamacraw Village. This public housing project swallows up a great deal of the CPS resources in Chatham County DFCS.

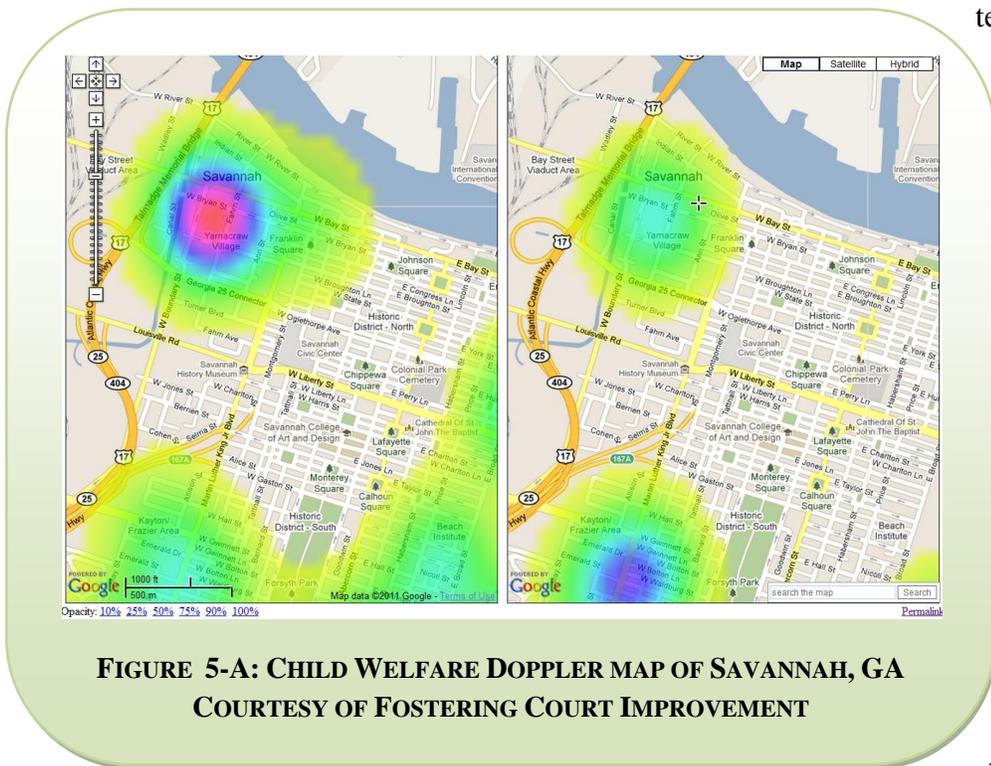
However, the right map demonstrates the intensity, or

lack thereof, of cases diverted from an investigation. This suggests children living in Yamacraw Village are much more likely to be the subject of a CPS investigation than they are to receive up-front family support services.

6. THE COLD CASE PROJECT

The Cold Case Project was designed to improve permanency for Georgia’s most vulnerable youth – those most likely to emancipate from foster care without permanency. In 2009, J4C launched a

temporary project with DFCS and OCA. The project was implemented with the assistance of a scientific research firm and was used to review individual cases and identify systemic problems leading to poor outcomes for youth in foster care. At the end of the project, 214 cold cases had been reviewed, and the Georgia Cold Case



CPS dynamics are complex. It is not simply family dynamics that contribute to assessing risk. Rather, there are often external factors – e.g., environmental risk –that influence whether a child may remain safely in their home. Nonetheless, Yamacraw Village represents a perfect storm of the implications of system failure. It may be one of the more dangerous places in Savannah for children to live - yet we place family after family there. Yamacraw is representative of a problem we must address, rather than endure.

Project Report was published, including a list of recommendations to help find permanency for these vulnerable children. An electronic version of the final report is available on our website.

In 2010, Casey Family Programs provided additional funding to continue identifying and reviewing cases. New fellows were hired and trained, and the project is operating inside DFCS in full consultation with J4C. J4C was also invited to present on the Cold Case Project at numerous events, including the National Council of Juvenile and Family

Court Judges Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Conference in Reno, NV.

7. IMPROVING ICPC

The purpose of the Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) project is to ensure the safety and well being of children who are placed across state lines. Georgia law requires a handful of procedural safeguards to effectuate that goal, but these procedures often result in lengthy delays and limited accountability in the judiciary. In 2008, J4C contracted with part-time Judge Britt Hammond, of the Toombs Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court, who undertook the challenge of improving the ICPC process.

During 2010, Judge Hammond continued to work on behalf of J4C to establish border agreements between neighboring states, including Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina and Florida. As those agreements are finalized, the ICPC process is streamlined and delay is minimized.

8. FOSTER PARENTS' NOTICE & RIGHT TO BE HEARD PROJECT

Foster parents play a vital role in caring for children in state custody. Improving the knowledge on the law regarding notice and opportunity to be heard for foster parents is part of an on-going, statewide training effort to improve the court process for children in care. Judge Britt Hammond also works with the Adoption and Foster Parent Association of Georgia (AFPAG) to coordinate trainings entitled, "Right to be Heard" around the state. The presentation is given to foster parents to inform them of their rights under the law as well as provide tips for presenting information in court. During 2010, with the

support of J4C, Judge Hammond held 13 'Right to be Heard' trainings, reaching over 500 foster parents in more than 40 counties. The trainings are targeted on the weekends during the academic school year, and childcare is provided to enable foster parents to attend.

9. THE TITLE IV-E PROJECT

J4C established the Title IV-E Project to explore the judiciary's role in improving federal reimbursement in Georgia. Lead Judge Britt Hammond interviewed his colleagues to determine who, in each jurisdiction, is responsible for drafting the orders (the orders are often drafted by the agency attorney). Judge Hammond receives copies of orders deemed non-compliant by the federal government and contacts each judge to discuss the court order and identify barriers to IV-E compliance. This provides a much needed feedback loop to the field.

MAJOR ACTIVITIES

COURT IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

The Court Improvement Initiative (CII) is modeled after the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' Model Courts Program. Judges from sixteen locations across the state voluntarily joined

CII PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

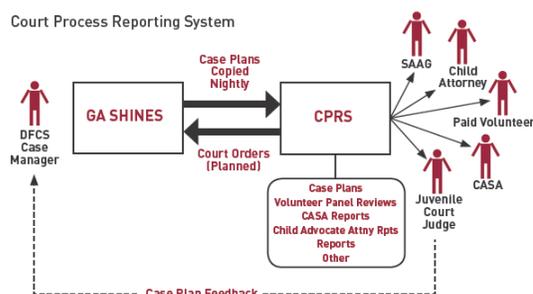
Appalachian Circuit
 Atlanta Judicial Circuit
 Bartow County
 Clayton County
 Chatham County
 Cobb County
 Douglas County
 Eastern Judicial Circuit
 Hall County
 Houston County
 Newton County
 Paulding County
 Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
 Toombs Judicial Circuit
 Troup County
 Western Judicial Circuit

CII to improve how courts handle child abuse and neglect cases. CII courts gather to share practices, attend workshops on emerging best practices, and develop protocols or standards for CII courts to initiate in their jurisdictions. The semi-annual CII meetings provide a forum for vigorous discussion and shared learning. Each participating court reports on their own

improvement efforts. In 2010, CII met in Rome, GA at WinShape Retreat and Savannah, GA at Chatham County DFCS.

COURT PROCESS REPORTING SYSTEM

The Court Process Reporting System (CPRS) is a secure, web based system that provides child-specific case plan information to juvenile court stakeholders. CPRS interfaces with SHINES, and downloads updated case plan data on a nightly basis.



J4C continues to see increased usage and access to CPRS. CASA programs, currently CPRS' largest user base, continue to be key partners for improving CPRS data quality. J4C continues to provide equipment to juvenile court stakeholders to ensure timely access to CPRS and provides new and ongoing trainings around the state.

Many new enhancements were released in 2010. At the end of the year, J4C reached an agreement with DFCS to automatically transmit court orders from CPRS to SHINES. Many juvenile court clerks are uploading orders into CPRS, and the new enhancements will automatically transfer those to SHINES, eliminating the need for DFCS staff to request paper copies or retrieve copies from CPRS.

LAW SCHOOL NETWORK

The Law School Network is a new tool developed to reach out to students in Georgia's five law schools. By accessing the Law School Network web site, students can have information at their fingertips about internship, externship, fellowship and employment opportunities; student loan forgiveness; CLE opportunities related to child welfare law; and relevant articles.

The Law School Network website is: w2.georgiacourts.org/j4clawschoolnetwork.

J4C is planning presentations for each law school to discuss opportunities in child welfare law.

ILP SUMMITS

EmpowerMENT is an organization of former and current foster youth in the state of Georgia who understand the need for change in the foster care system. To that end, EmpowerMENT sends members to speak to Judges, Attorneys, CASAs, and stakeholder groups to help them understand what it means to grow up in foster care. In 2010, EmpowerMENT began holding ILP (Independent Living Program) Summits throughout the State, with the goal of providing vitally important information (for example, "22 Things You Should Do Before You Leave Foster Care") to youth ages 14 and up who are currently in foster care. These ILP Summits have been well received, and participation by the teens in attendance is very high.

2010 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Justice P. Harris Hines (Chair), Supreme Court of Georgia
- Dr. Normer Adams, Exec. Dir. GA Association of Homes and Services for Children
- Ms. Isabel Blanco, DFCS Deputy Director of Field Operations
- Ms. Kathleen Dumitrescu, Esq., Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
- Mr. Robert Grayson, Esq., Cobb County, Special Assistant Attorney General
- Judge Kevin Guidry, Juvenile Court Piedmont Judicial Circuit
- Judge Jackson Harris, Superior Court Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
- Mr. Duaine Hathaway, Exec. Dir. Georgia CASA
- Judge Michael Key, Juvenile Court Coweta Judicial Circuit
- Ms. Lisa Lariscy, Regional Director DFCS
- Judge Desiree Peagler, Juvenile Court Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit
- Melissa Carter, Director Office of the Child Advocate
- Judge Lawton Stephens, Superior Court Western Judicial Circuit
- Judge Velma Tilley, Juvenile Court Bartow County
- Judge Peggy Walker, Juvenile Court Douglas Judicial Circuit
- Mr. W. Terence Walsh, Esq., Alston & Bird LLP, Chair of the State Bar Committee on Children and the Courts

2010 ADVISORY MEMBERS

- Judge Bryant Henry, President, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Judge Deborah Edwards, President Elect, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Judge Gregory Poole, Vice President, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Judge Robin Shearer, Secretary, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Judge Lane Bearden, Treasurer, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Judge Robert Rodatus, Immediate Past President, Council of Juvenile Court Judges
- Judge George Rountree - District 1
- Judge Tom Matthews - District 3
- Judge Vincent Crawford - District 4
- Judge Belinda Edwards - District 5
- Judge Lee Todd - District 6
- Judge Mark Murphy - District 7
- Judge Phillip Spivey - District 8
- Judge John Worcester-Holland - District 9
- Judge Britt Hammond - District 10
- Dr. Jordan Greenbaum, Medical Director, Child Protection Center, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- Ms. Darice Good, Esq., Co-chair of Juvenile Law Committee, State Bar of Georgia
- Ms. Kirsten Widner, Esq., Co-chair of Juvenile Law Committee, State Bar of Georgia
- Ms. Trenny Stovall, Esq., Director, DeKalb County Child Advocacy Center
- Ms. Jennifer Bennecke, Director, Governor's Office for Children and Families
- Mr. Anthony Reeves, Assistant Project Coordinator, Georgia Youth EmpowerMENT Group,
- Dr. Betsy Bockman, Ph.D., Principal Inman Middle School
- Ms. Elaine DeCostanzo, Former Division Director, Office of Planning and Budget
- Ms. Omotayo Alli, Esq., Director, Fulton County Office of the Child Attorney
- Ms. Vivian Egan, Esq., Legal Services Manager, Department of Human Services, DFCS
- Ms. Sharon Carlson, President, Adoptive and Foster Parent Association
- Ms. Elizabeth Williamson, Esq., Office of the Attorney General
- Professor Bernadette Hartfield, Esq., Georgia State University School of Law

- Ms. Jane Okrasinski, Esq., Executive Director, Georgia Association of Counsel for Children
- Mr. Bobby Cagle, Director, Legislative and Governmental Affairs, Georgia Department of Human Services
- Ms. Anne Proffitt Dupre, Esq., J. Alton Hosch Professor of Law, University of Georgia School of Law
- Professor Alex Scherr, Esq., University of Georgia School of Law
- Professor Barbara Bennett Woodhouse, Esq., Co-Director, Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic
- Professor Renata Turner, Esq., Director of Pro Bono Outreach and Externships, John Marshall Law School
- Professor Timothy Floyd, Esq., Director of Law and Public Service Program, Mercer University School of Law

2010 STAFF MEMBERS

Ms. Michelle Barclay, Esq., Director

michelle.barclay@gaaoc.us

404-657-9219

Ms. Christopher E. Church, Esq., Managing Attorney

christopher.church@gaaoc.us

404-463-5227

Ms. Pat Buonodono, Esq., Managing Attorney for Education

patricia.buonodono@gaaoc.us

404-989-8358

Ms. Regina Roberts, Training Coordinator

regina.roberts@gaaoc.us

404-463-0044

Ms. Paula Myrick, Grants Coordinator

paula.myrick@gaaoc.us

404-463-6480