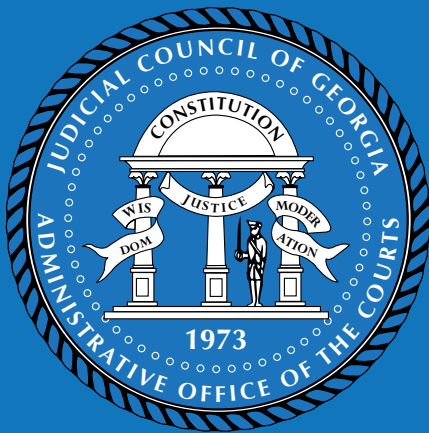


The Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Justice for Children Administrative Office of the Courts

2014 Annual Report



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www.j4c.georgiacourts.gov

THE STATE OF CHILD WELFARE IN GEORGIA

By the end of the 2014 federal fiscal year, the number of children in foster care in Georgia had climbed to 9124, a 34% increase from just four years earlier. Figure 1 contains Georgia’s key child welfare measures: the overall number of children in foster care (black line), the number of children removed to foster care (red line), and the number of children discharged from foster care (blue line). Also, the purple and yellow rectangles reflect the proportion of removals where the children had previously spent time in care. As Figure 1 reflects, a recent spike in removals has contributed to the increase in the foster care population. During the third quarter of 2013, there were just over 1500 removals to foster care. During the same period in 2014, there were 2183, a 37% increase.

Georgia Foster Care Dynamics, Statewide

Courtesy of Fostering Court Improvement, Sept 1998 to Oct 2014

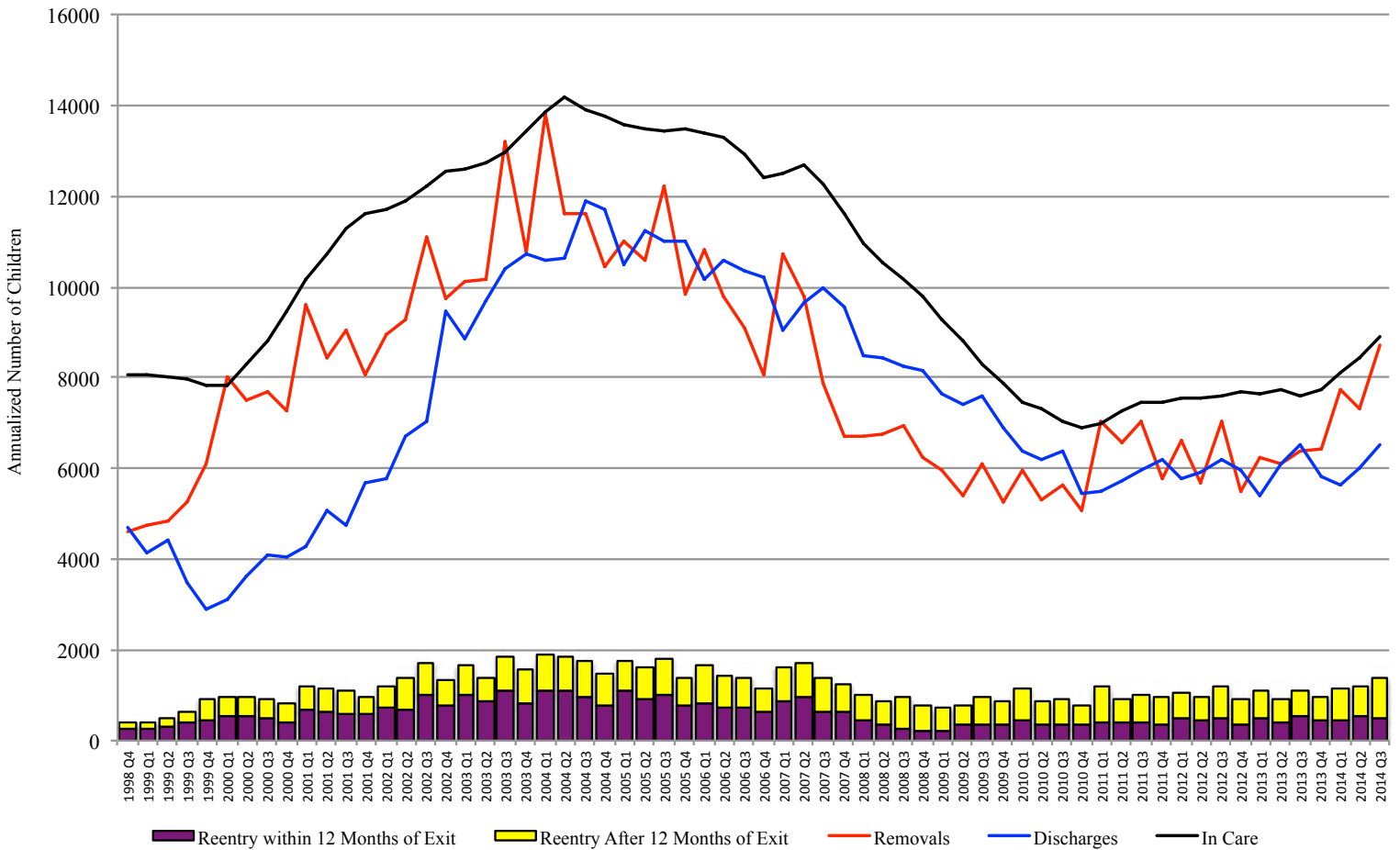


FIGURE 1 - STATEWIDE FOSTER CARE DYNAMICS
COURTESY OF FOSTERING COURT IMPROVEMENT

Although there appears to be a growing number of children entering foster care, the number of children receiving child protective services overall remains relatively stable. Figure 2 reflects the monthly count of children who were reported to the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services (“DFCS”) for abuse and neglect, categorized by the response and disposition type. The blue and red rectangles represent the number of children investigated by DFCS, with blue representing the substantiated investigations and red representing the unsubstantiated investigations. Yellow represents the children referred to the Family Support track, implemented in 2007 as Georgia’s alternative response track.

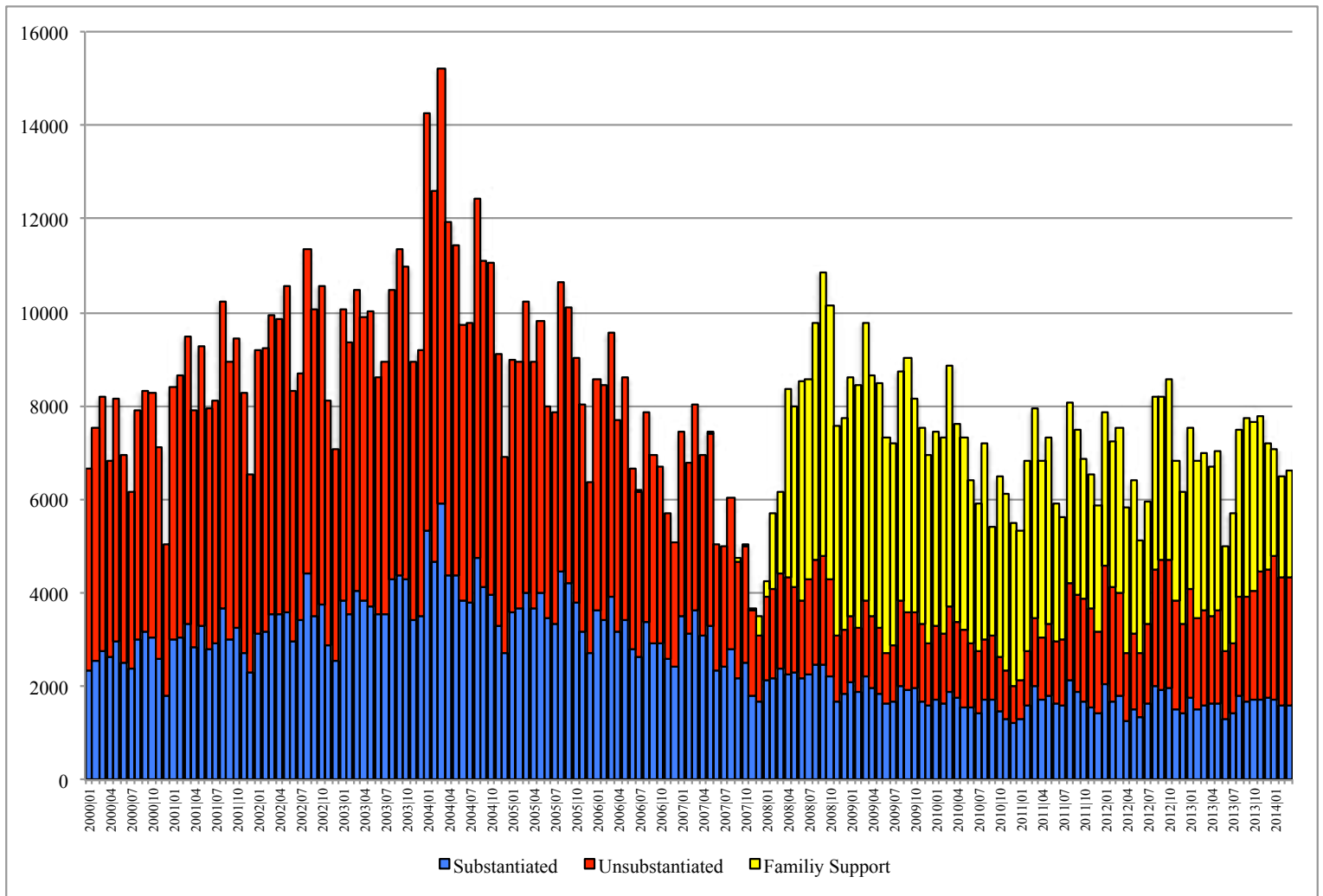


FIGURE 2 – STATEWIDE CPS DYNAMICS
 COURTESY OF FOSTERING COURT IMPROVEMENT

The number of children experiencing child abuse and neglect within six months of a prior report – one of our system’s most reliable measures of child safety – continued to increase during 2014. Of the nearly 19,000 children that were the subject of a substantiated abuse or neglect report between December 2012 and November

2013, 4.8% were re-victimized within six months of the original abuse and neglect. Of the nearly 24,000 children who were the subject of an unsubstantiated investigation between December 2012 and November 2013, 4.9% were victimized during the next six months. Finally, of the more than 38,000 children that were referred to family support services (non-investigative track) between December 2012 and November 2013, 5.8% were victimized during the next six months. As Figure 3 reflects, our recurrence rates across all disposition types are on the rise, but still well below the 2004 peak.

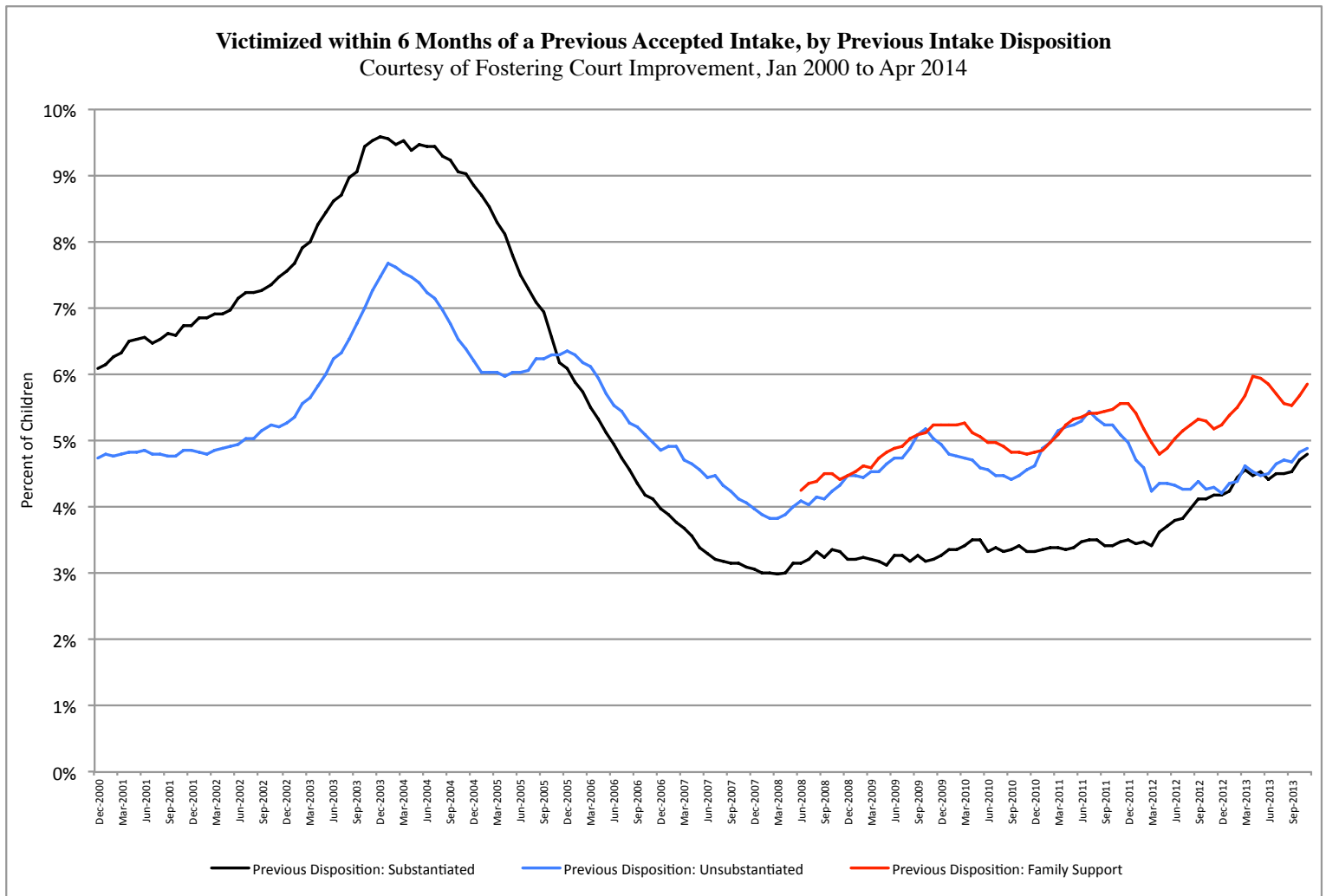


FIGURE 3 – VICTIMIZED W/IN 6 MONTHS OF A PREVIOUS ACCEPTED INTAKE, BY PREVIOUS DISPOSITION TYPE, COURTESY OF FOSTERING COURT IMPROVEMENT

It remains true that most children involved with our child welfare agency remain protected from ongoing abuse and neglect. Yet our benchmark for child safety must be demanding, and our state’s CPS efforts should be focused on ensuring that the number of children that are the subject of multiple and repeated incidents of abuse and neglect remains as low as possible. priority of family preservation, with foster care to be only a last resort

The Committee on Justice for Children is committed to improving justice for children and families involved in civil child abuse and neglect proceedings in Georgia. Central to that commitment is ensuring children remain in their home with their family whenever that can be safely achieved. Thus, the recent spike in removals warrants a more comprehensive examination of Georgia’s removal dynamics.

Removals, even a temporary separation, should be reserved for those cases where it would be contrary to the child’s welfare to remain in the home, despite the agency having made reasonable efforts to prevent the removal. The decision to involuntarily separate a child from their parent is an inquiry of constitutional magnitude, and one recognized by our state and federal courts as among the most scrutinized intrusions into the private lives of citizens. The decision to remove a child from his or her parents’ custody is vested in the juvenile courts of our state, and is governed by an expansive set of laws and regulations. As Figure 3 reflects, the removal rate across Georgia’s 49 judicial circuits varies by a factor of nine.

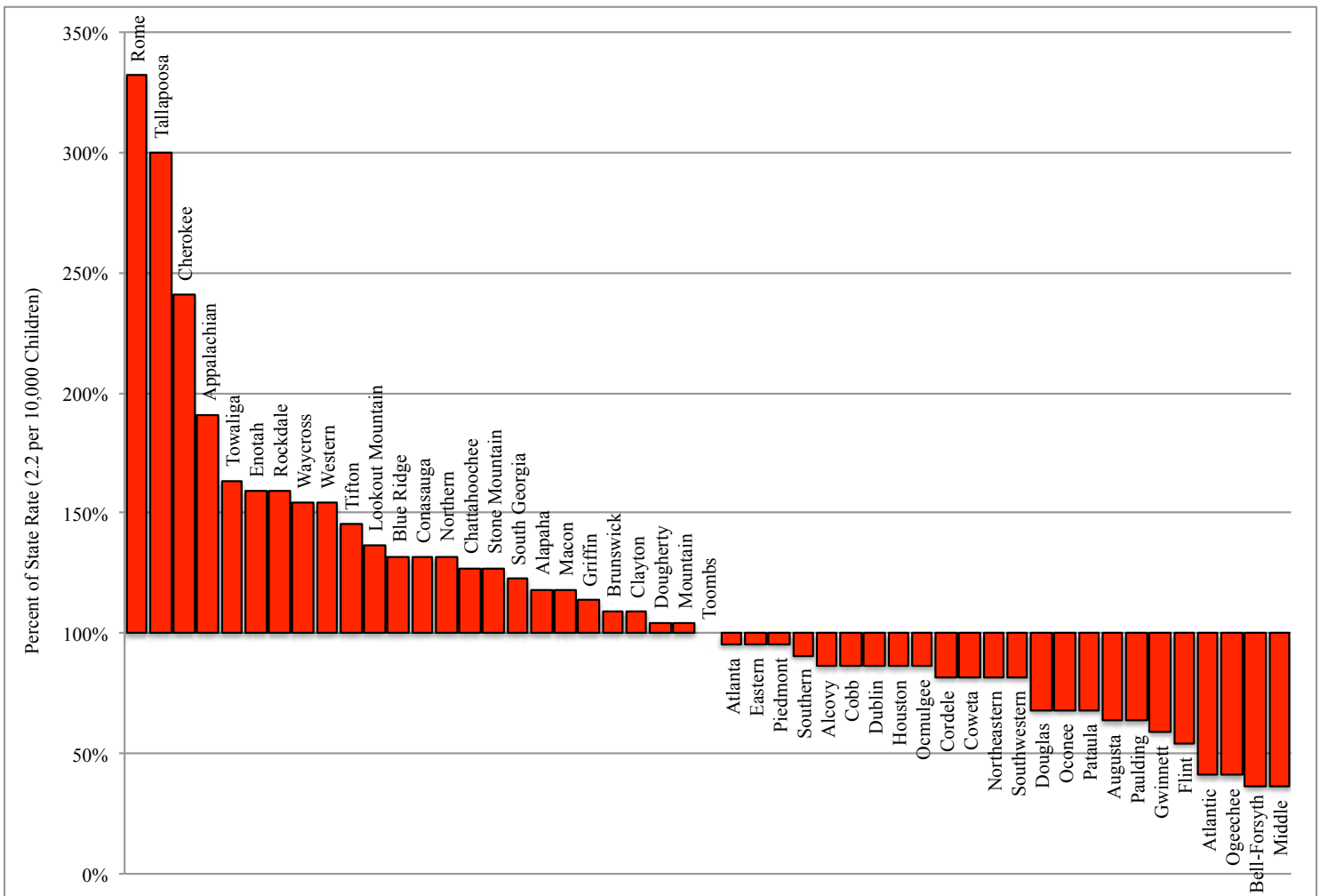


FIGURE 3 – 2014 FFY AVERAGE MONTHLY REMOVALS PER 10,000 CHILDREN

While the legal implications of the removal process are central to the mission and function of Georgia’s juvenile courts in promoting justice for children and families, removals can traumatize children (even abused and neglected children), and the effects of such trauma with the use of state power and resources can be lasting. For this reason, our child welfare system remains in line with the national priority of family preservation, utilizing traditional foster care as only a last resort. One such measure of our state’s adherence to the priority of family preservation is the number of children that are reunified within 72 hours of their removal. Figure 4 contains these data, based on all reunifications finalized during the 2014 FFY, for judicial circuits that had at least one such reunification.

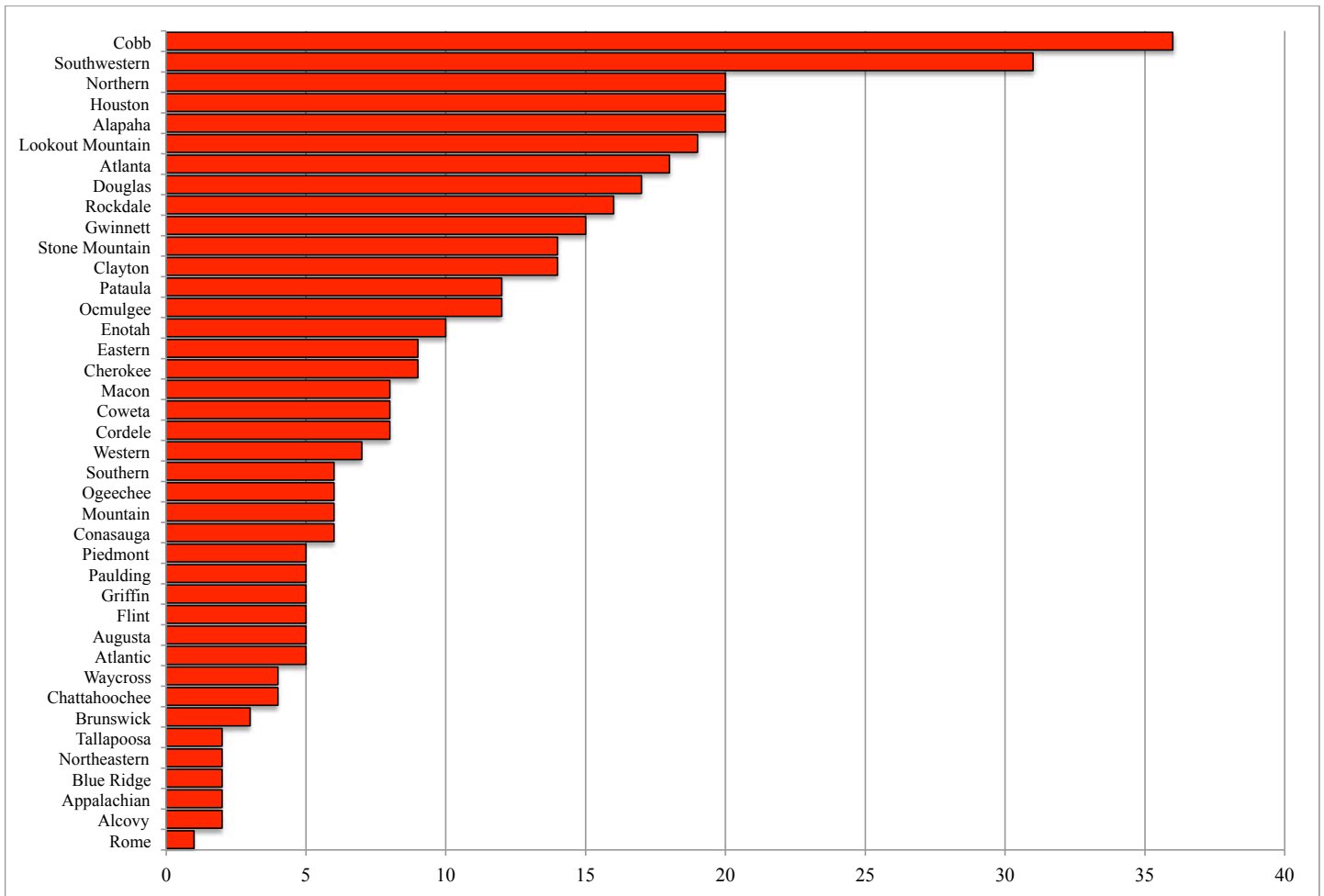


FIGURE 4 – 2014 FFY PERCENT OF CHILDREN REUNIFIED WITHIN 72 HOURS OF REMOVAL BY JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, COURTESY OF FOSTERING COURT IMPROVEMENT

These children, who spent less than three days in care before returning to their home, may represent our most promising opportunity to improve justice for children and families and prevent unnecessary removals.

On January 1, 2014, House Bill 242 – the comprehensive rewrite of Georgia’s juvenile code – became law. While years of advocacy and resources were required to pass the bill, the focus in 2014 inevitably turned to implementing the legislative requirements locally. Also during 2014, there were many leadership changes in Georgia. Ashley Willcott, J.D., C.W.L.S., an original Cold Case Fellow and Cold Case Project Lead, was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal in April to be the Georgia’s Director of the Georgia Office of the Child Advocate (OCA). The Honorable Peggy Walker of Douglas County, a past committee member and founding member of the Georgia Court Improvement Initiative, was sworn in as the President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Commissioner Bobby Cagle was appointed as Director of Georgia’s Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). In addition, the Governor appointed a Child Welfare Reform Council during 2014. This Council just released its final report and recommendations. See: <https://gov.georgia.gov/child-welfare-reform-council>

While these and other changes impact our work, the Committee on Justice for Children maintained fidelity to the nine areas of priority identified in the strategic plan in 2014:

- improving the quality of representation for all parties;
- improving the appellate process;
- developing, reporting, and actively using data measures for courts;
- increasing placement stability for children in foster care;
- promoting family preservation;
- promoting and achieving permanency for children most likely to age out of care;
- streamlining the ICPC process;
- ensuring foster parents receive notice of and have the right to be heard in judicial proceedings; and
- improving Title IV-E reimbursement rates. These priorities are reflected in major projects such as the Cold Case Project, our participation in the National Quality Improvement Center on the Representation of Children in the Child Welfare System study, enhancements to our Court Process Reporting System, and many others discussed in this report.

J4C welcomes feedback on how the federal Court Improvement Grant funds can best support Georgia’s juvenile courts to improve justice for and promote the permanency, safety, and the well-being of children and families involved in Georgia’s child welfare system.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The Supreme Court of Georgia Committee on Justice for Children (J4C) was created in 1995 to improve justice for children and families involved in civil child abuse and neglect proceedings in Georgia. J4C is a part of the federal Court Improvement Program (CIP), originally authorized as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1993. Forty-eight states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico participate in CIP, which provides funds to the highest court in the jurisdiction for the purpose of improving the court process as it relates to safety, well-being and permanency for children in foster care.

J4C receives advice and direction from a 29 member committee, comprised of judges, legislators, attorneys, DFCS staff, medical professionals, and other stakeholders working in child welfare. With direction from the Committee, pursuant to federal statutory and funding requirements, and in collaboration with community partners, J4C continued working on the nine priorities in our strategic plan during 2014: (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) Promoting Family Preservation; (6) Promoting and Achieving Permanency for Children Most Likely to Age out of Care; (7) Streamlining the ICPC Process; (8) Ensuring Foster Parents Receive Notice of and Have the Opportunity to be Heard in Judicial Proceedings; and (9) Improving Title IV-E Reimbursement Rates. Each priority is discussed below.

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

1. IMPROVING LEGAL REPRESENTATION

A long-standing priority of J4C has been improving legal representation for all parties in civil child abuse and neglect proceedings by: 1) promoting uniform standards for the practice of law; 2) ensuring access to high-quality training for attorneys practicing in child welfare; and, 3) developing a quality assurance program.

Standards of Practice. With support and technical assistance from J4C, the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council (GPDSC) built on their established standards for parent representation through improved communication and knowledge building expertise. Georgia Parent Attorney Advocacy Committee (PAAC) holds monthly meetings and

offers comprehensive trainings throughout the year. Furthermore, J4C has provided limited funding to support nine Family Treatment Drug Courts, a model which focuses on intense engagement of parents early in their cases. J4C also maintains a contract with an experienced child welfare mediator who does mediations for juvenile courts upon request, provides training to new and established programs, and mediates cases for the Cold Case Project.

With respect to child representation, there have been two major events in 2014. First, HB 242 became law January 1, 2014, requiring that all children in foster care be appointed an attorney to represent their legal interests and a GAL to represent their best interest. During 2014, Georgia participated in the final year of the National Quality Improvement Center on the Representation of Children study regarding the impact of a child-centered model of representation (discussed later in this report). Participation in this program has provided additional funding, training, and support to attorneys representing children in their local communities.

J4C supports a Peer Review Program for all attorneys practicing in civil child abuse and neglect proceedings. In partnership with the Office of the Child Advocate, J4C contracts with certified Child Welfare Law Specialists to conduct peer reviews involving court observations, interviews with stakeholders, and an informal report to the local juvenile court judges and attorneys participating in the review. This program is available statewide.

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 2014, 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 2014, J4C established a theme of "A Year of Openness" for the CWLA. Seven workshops were led by various national and local child welfare experts covering the following topics: Redaction of Child Welfare Records; Open Juvenile Courts; the Stigma of Foster Care; Open Adoptions 2014; Dissecting a Child Welfare Case; and Confidentiality, Transparency, and Accountability. Videos of the presentations are archived online at: www.bartoncenter.net.

Additionally, J4C participated as one of several sponsors of the statewide Youth Law Conference, and supported the Georgia Association of Counsel for Children's sponsorship of 11 attorneys attending the National Association of Counsel for Children's annual conference in Denver, Colorado. Also, J4C sponsored 35 judges to attend the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges' annual conference in Chicago, Illinois, where the Honorable Peggy Walker was sworn in as President.

J4C provided scholarships and/or grant funding for: five judges to attend the Child Abuse and Neglect Institute; the biannual Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges' conferences; the annual Juvenile Court Clerks' conference; and a legal track at the annual

Foster Parent Association conference.

J4C continues to partner with the Georgia Association of Counsel for Children to sponsor and support attorneys who apply for certification from the National Association of Counsel for Children as Child Welfare Law Specialists (CWLS). Georgia currently has 41 CWLS, with five preparing to take the exam in 2015. Georgia's current CWLS include both practicing attorneys and juvenile court judges.

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

J4C uses data to promote justice for and monitor the safety, permanency and well-being of children in state custody. Georgia is an ongoing participant in the Fostering Court Improvement (FCI) project, which provides more than 100 child welfare measures at the local level. In partnership with DFCS, these measures – broken down by county, DFCS region, judicial circuit and judicial district – are publicly available at: www.fosteringcourtimprovement.org/ga.

- **J4C Summits.** J4C began working with Georgia juvenile court judges to convene Justice for Children summits in 2007. By 2013, J4C had held over 80 judicial summits, covering every judicial circuit. In 2014, J4C continued to return to communities to host follow-up summits where the data identified certain challenges. The summits originally included an in-depth exploration of the most relevant local data, an overview of the legal framework governing permanency, and a youth-engagement panel. In 2013, the agenda was modified to include a presentation on well-being and the legal requirements of reasonable efforts, preserving on the agenda the local data presentation.

- **Data Updates.** J4C continues to publish and deliver annual data letters to Georgia's juvenile courts. The letters include statewide and local measures central to the courts' role in ensuring justice for and promoting the permanency, safety, and well-being of children involved in child welfare proceedings. These letters also highlight statewide and local noteworthy trends.

- **Stakeholder Meetings.** J4C continues to provide funding to counties to meet regularly (monthly, quarterly, etc.) to discuss local issues related to child welfare. J4C is often called upon to present data updates or provide other substantive trainings at these meetings. J4C sponsored over 70 such meetings in 2014.

3. IMPROVING THE APPELLATE PROCESS

J4C publishes quarterly appellate law summaries of child welfare appeals in Georgia. The summaries are posted on our website, and members of the GACC receive these updates electronically via a listserv.

4. IMPROVING PLACEMENT STABILITY

J4C continues to provide placement stability trainings at stakeholder meetings and conferences to promote the court's role in ensuring children experience placement stability. In 2014, J4C contracted with a CWLS attorney to visit communities and deliver a presentation at stakeholder meetings to promote legal advocacy for placement stability. In late 2014, J4C, GA DFCS and OCA launched the GA Fosters and Adopts Project with both Governor Deal and Presiding Justice Harris Hines making individualized videos to assist with recruitment of foster and adoptive parents, in order to meet the great needs of the child welfare system and to enhance placement stability for foster children.

5. PROMOTE 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 2014, J4C continued to work with the juvenile courts and DFCS to explore the appropriate role of the legal system in promoting family preservation.

In 2006, DFCS expanded intake to include alternative responses to accepted reports of abuse or neglect. In lieu of the traditional investigative track, certain low risk cases were sent to the Family Support track. This contributed to a dramatic reduction of the number of children in foster care, as family preservation efforts began to manifest in lower removal rates and increased discharge rates. J4C, in partnership

with DFCS, the Barton Child Law and Policy Center, and the Office of the Child Advocate sponsored a number of meetings to explore the court's role in this changing child welfare environment, particularly to discuss an effort to discourage the use of temporary guardianships when child abuse or neglect is alleged. See: <http://tinyurl.com/k9rgunp>

The exploration of certain practices, such as the use of protective orders in appropriate CPS cases, will continue to be explored.

6. PROMOTING AND ACHIEVING PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN IN LONG TERM FOSTER CARE

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 this project in full partnership with DFCS. In 2014, the project moved into the OCA and continued in partnership with DFCS showing a good return on investment, with financial support and technical assistance from Casey Family Programs. To continue to emphasize the court's role in promoting permanency for children, three Cold Case Courts were established in 2014: Fulton County, Carroll County, and Polk County. The Cold Case Court model consists of a special docket for judges to review children on the Cold Case list. Cold Case Project child outcomes and annual reports are available on the J4C website.

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. State 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 Juvenile Court Judge Britt Hammond of the Toombs Judicial Circuit Juvenile Court to undertake the challenge of improving the ICPC process.

During 2014, Judge Hammond continued to work on behalf of J4C to establish border agreements between neighboring states, including Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida. After establishing legal agreements, there are on-going progress meetings to discuss any outstanding or emerging issues. In 2014, the South Carolina border agreement was expanded from 5 counties to 20 counties. The Alabama agreement was likewise expanded from 2 to 11 counties, with plans to expand statewide in 2015. Judge Hammond also conducts many statewide and regional trainings relating to ICPC and the use of border agreements to reduce delays in placement of children across state lines, and presented at the National Association of Counsel for Children's annual conference in 2015, highlighting the AL-GA work.

In 2014, Judge Hammond continued to serve on the National Advisory Committee to explore the possibility of developing a national ICPC database.

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

Foster parents play a vital role in caring for children in state custody. Under federal grant obligations, J4C is charged with ensuring foster parents receive notice of foster care proceedings involving children

in their care, as well as being given the right to be heard at such proceedings. On behalf of J4C, Judge Britt Hammond works with the Adoption and Foster Parent Association of Georgia (AFPAG) and Bethany Christian Services to provide training to foster parents in Georgia. The training informs foster parents of their rights under the law and also provides tips for testifying and communicating with the juvenile court. During 2014, with the support of J4C, Judge Hammond held eight 'Right to be Heard' trainings, reaching nearly 429 foster parents in 58 counties. The trainings are held on weekends during the academic school year and childcare is provided to encourage foster parents to attend. Judge Hammond and Christopher Church again presented at the National Foster Parents Association Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida. Judge Hammond presented at the Adoption and Foster Parent Association of Georgia annual conference as well.

9. THE TITLE IV-E PROJECT

J4C continues the Title IV-E Project to improve federal reimbursement rates in Georgia. Lead Judge Britt 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.

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 seventeen jurisdictions across the state voluntarily joined CII to improve how courts handle child abuse and neglect cases. CII courts gather twice a year to share practices, attend workshops on emerging best

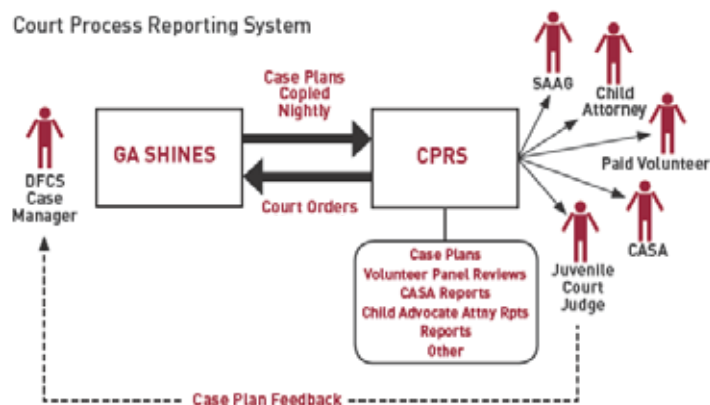
CII PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS

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

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 jurisdiction's ongoing improvement efforts. In 2014, CII met in Chatham County and Newton County.

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 2014. Most noteworthy, J4C entered into an agreement with the Department of Juvenile Justice to download DJJ data. J4C continues to download educational data pursuant to an agreement with the Department of Education. J4C is now in discussions with Amerigroup, Georgia's managed health care provider for foster children, to exchange more up-to-date health data relevant to a child's case plan.

J4C continues to partner with DFCS and the juvenile court clerks to electronically and automatically transmit court orders from CPRS to SHINES. Many juvenile court clerks are uploading orders into CPRS, which automatically transfers them to SHINES, eliminating the need for DFCS staff to request paper copies or manually enter them in SHINES.

In addition to real-time child-specific case plan information, CPRS provides a variety of programmatic reporting tools and case management features for users.

J4C provides statewide training to CPRS users on an as needed basis.

For more information, visit www.gacprs.org.



QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ON THE REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

Georgia was selected as one of two states to act as a research and demonstration site for the National Quality Improvement Center for the Representation of Children in the Child Welfare System at the University of Michigan Law School. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago serves as the scientific evaluation partner in this project. This study seeks to measure the effectiveness of the QIC Best Practice Model of Representation for child representatives in dependency cases. There are 126 attorneys participating in this study throughout the state. Half of the attorneys serve as treatment attorneys who have been trained in the QIC Best Practice Model (Model). The other attorneys serve as the control group, and represent children without specialized training in the Model.

J4C partners with the Barton Child Law and Policy Center at Emory University and the Georgia Association of Counsel for Children for this study. Barton Center trains attorneys and monitors ongoing fidelity to the Model while GACC serves as coach for individual attorney consultation. This four-year study will conclude in June of 2015. The QIC-ChildRep website is at: www.improvechildrep.org

TRAUMA SUMMITS

In 2014, J4C launched a statewide training effort under the leadership of NCJFCJ President and Douglas County Judge Peggy Walker. The Trauma Summits are sponsored by J4C, the Carter Center, Casey Family Programs, Goshen Valley Boys Ranch, and the State Bar of Georgia's Child Protection and Advocacy Section. The purpose of the summit is to promote a call to action for the legal community to learn as much as possible about brain science so that our legal advocacy is aligned with the latest information for building the capabilities of caregivers and strengthening communities to promote child well-being. Four summits were held throughout 2014; one in Atlanta, Savannah, Dahlonega, and Tifton. For more information, visit <http://complextrauma.us>.

Current J4C Committee Members

- Presiding Justice P. Harris Hines (Chair), Supreme Court of Georgia
- Samuel S. Olens, Attorney General
- State Representative Mary Margaret Oliver
- State Representative Wendell Willard
- Judge J. Lane Bearden, Juvenile Court of Cherokee Judicial Circuit
- Judge Jason Deal, Superior Court of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit
- Judge Michael Key, Juvenile Court of Coweta Judicial Circuit
- Judge Sheri Roberts, Juvenile Court of the Alcovy Judicial Circuit
- Judge Robin Shearer, Juvenile Court of the Western Judicial Circuit
- Judge Patricia Stone, Juvenile Court of the Eastern Judicial Circuit
- Judge John Sumner, Juvenile Court of the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit
- Judge Velma Tilley, Juvenile Court of the Cherokee Judicial Circuit
- Ms. Ashley Willcott, Esq., CWLS, Director of the Office of the Child Advocate
- Dr. Sharon Hill, Georgia State University, Visiting Faculty
- Bobby Cagle, Director of the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services
- Ms. Katie Jo Ballard, Director of the Governor's Office for Children and Families
- Dr. Garry McGiboney, Deputy State Superintendent for Policy of the Georgia Department of Education
- Mr. W. Bradley Bryant, Esq. Executive Director of Georgia Student Finance Commission
- Mr. Ross King, Executive Director of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia
- Mr. Duaine Hathaway, Executive Director of Georgia CASA
- Ms. Sharon Hill, Esq., Executive Director of Georgia Appleseed
- Ms. Kathleen Dumitrescu, Esq., Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation
- Ms. Elizabeth Imes, Esq.
- Dr. Brent Wilson, Child Psychiatrist
- Ms. Diana Rugh Johnson, Esq., CWLS Child and Parent Attorney
- Ms. Kate Cantrell, Director of Youth Villages in Georgia and Florida
- Ms. Rachel Davidson, Esq. Georgia Division of Family and Children Services
- Mr. Thomas Worthy, Esq. Governmental Affairs at the State Bar of Georgia

J4C Advisory Members

- Dr. Jordan Greenbaum, Medical Director at the Child Protection Center of Children's Health care of Atlanta
- Professor Bernadette Hartfield, Esq., Georgia State University College of Law
- Professor Alex Scherr, Esq., University of Georgia School of Law
- Professor Melissa Carter, Esq., Director of the Barton Child Law and Policy Clinic at Emory University
- Professor Renata Turner, Esq., Director of Pro Bono Outreach and Externships at John Marshall Law School
- Professor Timothy Floyd, Esq., Director of Law and Public Service Program at Mercer University School of Law
- Ms. Deidre' Merriman, Esq., Co-Chair of the Juvenile Law Committee of the State Bar of Georgia

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J4C Contractors and Partners for 2014

Barton Child Law and Policy Center at Emory University School of Law hosts the Child Welfare Legal Academy and more
Bethany Christian Services of Georgia-support to foster parents
Lori Bramlett- organizer of the Court Improvement Initiative
Casey Family Programs funded the Cold Case Project in 2014
Cold Case Project and Court-now shared with Ashley Willcott's Office of the Child Advocate

Attorney Mary Hermann
Attorney Jenifer Carreras
Attorney Aver Oliver
Attorney Tom Rawlings
Attorney Brooke Silverthorne
Attorney Leslie Stewart
Detective Rick Chambers
CASA Director Belinda Bentley
Social Worker Brenda Gowen
Social Worker Kathy Floyd
Statistician Michael Fost

Christopher Church runs the data portion of the Court Improvement Initiative and more
Department of Human Resources-partners on most all projects
Georgia Association of Counsel for Children-support, education for attorneys
Georgia CASA-support, education, CPRS for CASA volunteers and staff
Lynn Goldman-support, education for dependency mediation
Karlise Grier-host of four Complex Trauma Summits
Judge Britt Hammond-support, education to foster parents, ICPC border agreements
Multi-Agency Alliance for Children-support, education to providers and EmpowerMENT
Object Resource Group, George Li-Court Process Report System and technology advisor
Parent Attorney Advocacy Committee, within GPDSC-support, education to parent attorneys
Events by Saving Grace, Regina Roberts-organizer of the J4C Summit initiative and more
University of Michigan-lead of the QIC Child Attorney Study
Vital Pictures-producers of Judge Peggy Walker's video for the NCJFCJ See:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cU6iiubzXw>