

**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: Safety Framework (Part 1) – Assessing Child Safety and Harm Removal as a Collaborative Court Team**

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

Join us for this interactive workshop session focused on the critical aspects of assessing child safety and well-being within a collaborative court program. A team of cross-system experts will provide an overview of the existing frameworks currently used in Washington State to assess both child safety and harms of removal in the context of child welfare cases, with a specific focus on cases involving high-potency synthetic opioids. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the critical balance between ensuring child safety and preventing the unnecessary removal of children by child welfare. There will also be opportunities to practice newly learned assessment skills with hypothetical scenarios and group discussions. Participants will leave the workshop with enhanced skills and practical tools that can be applied in therapeutic court settings to help ensure the safety of children while prioritizing keeping families together whenever possible.

This session is designed for all roles within multidisciplinary court teams, including judicial officers, court coordinators, social workers, legal professionals, parent allies/support, and community providers, who work together to ensure the safety and well-being of children involved in the dependency court.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- Learn the key components and principles of effective child safety assessments.
- Review the legal framework governing child safety and removal decisions.
- Examine the psychological, emotional, and social impacts of removal on children.
- Understand the short-term and long-term effects of separation from primary caregivers.
- Develop skills to critically evaluate when removal is necessary and when alternative safety plans can be implemented.
- Explore strategies to mitigate the harm of removal when it is deemed necessary.
- Engage in interactive case studies to apply learned concepts in real-world scenarios.

#### **Presenters: Laura Vogel, Ryann Charvat, Jacob D'Annuzio, Ryan Murrey**

Laura Vogel is the CIP Co-Director & Training Specialist for the Administrative Office of the Courts' (AOC) Family & Youth Justice Programs. She coordinates training opportunities for judicial officers and court partner, along with facilitating cross-systems court improvement efforts. 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. Laura holds bachelor's degree from North Dakota State University and a Master of Public Administration degree from Kent State. Laura is a Certified Trauma Support Specialist and is a board member for HeartStrides Therapeutic Horsemanship. Originally from the Midwest, Laura's early career involved coordinating specialty criminal domestic violence courts and high-risk lethality teams. She spearheaded the effort that resulted in the implementation of the first domestic violence court program in the state of North Dakota. She has a wealth of experience in facilitating cross-system court improvement projects and strives to bring creativity and authenticity into her work. She also brings expertise in group facilitation, project management, judicial officer education, graphic design, and online course development.

Ryann Charvat currently serves as the statewide Child Safety Program Manager for the Department of Children, Youth and Families in Washington State. She has been practicing social work for over eighteen years and has devoted the last ten years to a career in public child welfare. Ryann has a vast amount of experience, including working within CPS Investigations, Family Assessment Response, Child Welfare Case Management and Licensing Investigations. She additionally worked within the Quality Assurance/Continuous Quality Improvement Division as the Regional Safety Administrator, where she analyzed national and statewide trends in public child welfare, facilitated complex-case consultations, and consulted on near-fatality/fatality reviews. Ryann serves on several committees sharing her expertise on child safety and strives to improve outcomes for those most vulnerable. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work from Eastern Washington University and has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social Sciences with a Minor in Administrative Management from Central Washington University.

Jacob D'Annunzio is a managing attorney of 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 juveniles 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.

Ryan Murrey has been with the Washington CASA/Child Advocate State Association (WACAP) since 2000, save for 3 years when he worked for the King County Superior Court as their FJICP specialist. He received his Master's degree in Organizational Development from Seattle University in 2013, and his undergraduate degree in Geology from the College of Wooster. During his 10 years as executive director of the state association, Ryan has overseen the development of numerous technical assistance achievements for the statewide Child Advocate network, including the development of the 30 hour curriculum to train new title 13 guardians ad litem, creation of the "ICWA Institute" for volunteers and staff to gain additional certification in working with and for native American children in state court and has lead and curated multiple CASA/GAL program development seminars at the state, regional, and local level. Ryan also serves on numerous committees at the statewide CASA/Child Advocate representative, including the Supreme Court's Commission on Foster Care, the statewide Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Committee and AOC Safety Framework team.

## **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: Safety Framework (Part 2) – Safety Planning as a Collaborative Court Team**

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

This workshop builds on Part 1 by demonstrating how collaborative court teams can utilize current assessments of safety to develop, implement, and monitor effective in-home safety plans. Participants will learn how collaborative court teams can work across multiple agencies and system partners to create comprehensive safety plans that address the diverse, individualized needs of children and families. There will also be opportunities to practice safety planning with hypothetical scenarios and group discussions. Participants will leave the workshop with an increased understanding of how the structure of collaborative court teams can promote effective safety planning and deeper appreciation for the creative methods that systems can utilize to keep families safely together.

This session is designed for all roles within multidisciplinary court teams, including judicial officers, court coordinators, social workers, legal professionals, parent allies/support, and community providers, who work together to ensure the safety and well-being of children involved in the dependency court.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

- Review the key components of an effective safety plan.
- Understanding how current assessments of safety can be utilized to create effective safety plans.
- Learn how to tailor safety plans to meet the unique needs of children and families.
- Explore process for conditional in-home placement during Shelter Care
- Develop skills to engage families in the safety planning process.
- Discuss ethical considerations and challenges in collaborative safety planning.
- Engage in interactive exercises and role-playing scenarios to apply learned concepts.

**Presenters: Laura Vogel, Ryann Charvat, Jacob D'Annuzio, Ryan Murrey**

See Session 2 Notes for Presenter Bios

**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**