

**Next Steps for CJA Relative Placement Assessment**  
**Lynn Travis, Travis Consulting Co**  
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**Goal:** Reduce trauma to the child victim and the victim's family by increasing the number and quality of connections to and placements with family/culture for children in foster care in Oregon.

**Proposal:** Develop a cross-disciplinary, interactive training designed for local juvenile court and child welfare communities (juvenile court judges, attorneys, CASAs, CRB members, DHS caseworkers and other child serving professionals) that will increase participant understanding about the following:

- The advantages of relative placement and connection for children and families involved in juvenile court dependency proceedings;
- Oregon juvenile code and DHS administrative rules related to working with relatives as safety service providers; foster placements and adoptive placements;
- The relative placement bench card and other judicial resources designed to assist judicial inquiry about relatives;
- Best practices for identifying and engaging relatives for each discipline participating in the training;
- Connections between relative preferences and compliance with other laws or child welfare practices (i.e., ICWA or relatives as safety service providers);
- Strategies to increase relative connections for foster youth in APPLA placements without jeopardizing state or federal support during transitions to independency living;

**Activities to be completed by 9/30/2011:**

1. Adapt training materials developed in Phase I and existing resources to include:
  - A revised supplement to the bench card that addresses the same issues from a participant's perspective rather than the judge.
  - Materials addressing relatives roles in safety model implementation.
  - Materials connecting administrative rules relating to working with relatives to the revised adoption rules.
  - Material relating to barriers to working with relatives for youth in APPLA.

2. Develop a facilitator's guide that will allow local convenors to deliver the interactive training.
3. Identify and schedule 2 counties to receive training.
4. Arrange for video taping and distribution system for the instructional portion of the training.
5. Record one session for distribution

**Activities to be negotiated in future funding cycles:**

1. Additional trainings in other Oregon counties.
2. Consultation with local trainers or jurisdictions.

**Staff:**

Lynn Travis, J.D. Lynn Travis is an attorney in Portland, Oregon with 23 years of experience practicing in Multnomah County Juvenile Court and former Oregon Judicial Department Model Courts Coordinator. She has trained judges, lawyers and CASAs on application of Oregon law and administrative rules relating to working with relatives. She conducted phase one of the CJA Relative Placement Project.

Timothy Travis, J.D. Timothy Travis is a nationally recognized expert on juvenile court improvement and juvenile court/child welfare collaboration. He has many years experience as an attorney in Oregon's juvenile courts, as the first Juvenile Court Improvement Program Manager for the Oregon Judicial Department and as a circuit court judge pro tem. He trains and consults with juvenile courts and child welfare agencies throughout the US for the American Bar Association's Center on Children and the Law.

Sara Kopplin, MSW. Sara Kopplin is the Reconnecting Children with Families Coordinator for Washington County and former CASA supervisor. She has extensive experience collaborating with DHS and other participants in juvenile court dependency proceedings as well as identifying and engaging relatives to promote higher levels of permanency and life long connections for children in foster care. She is a frequent trainer and presenter on issues relating to juvenile dependency cases as well as working with relatives.