

## **LUNCH AND LEARN 2020**

**Robeson County**

**January 30, 2020**

### **ROCKET DOCKET: WHAT WORKED**

- Non-secure, Pre Adjudication Hearings, Review Hearings W/out change of Plan are done first when possible.
- Social Workers are now sending Affidavit for medical records. Parent attorney now know what experts are going to be called which helps them to be prepared.
- Communication between DSS Staff, GAL and Parent Attorney continues to improve.
- As clients are signing in, communication is being sent to court room so parent attorneys and DSS attorneys know what clients are here for court.

### **ROCKET DOCKET: WHAT DIDN'T WORK**

- Parent Attorneys struggle with juggling A/N/D Court vs. their other Courtroom Commitments.
- Parents aren't always present when the assigned case is called which makes it difficult to proceed.
- Limited meeting space to available for attorneys to meet with their client.
- Social Workers are not always available when their assigned case is called due to other obligations or emergencies that may pop up on a court date. Example- CPS reports are still being assigned (Immediate 72 hours)
- Difficult to determine how long a case will take.... Cases that should take 5-10 minutes may end up taking 45-60 minutes.

### **OTHER CONCERNS DISCUSSED**

- Pager system needs work- social worker unable to sit in court all day
- Lack of Parent Attorneys
- Having a separate day for TPR hearings was helpful

**MOVING FORWARD:**

- Numbers assigned to cases, if there are no clients in waiting room they will not be a priority
- Cases in which parents are present to be priority
- Adjudication/Disposition need to be schedule on separate dates from TPR hearings.
- Take into consideration witnesses when scheduling court calendar
- Parent Attorneys will speak with supervisors when making important decisions on cases.
- Interview Rooms along the court hallway will be unlocked for parent attorney use on court days only
- Parent attorneys will let Tiffany and Jessica know when they leave the courtroom area their location to help reduce wait time.

**Suggestion**

- Recess/break so attorneys would have a chance to talk to each other or client
- Look at a more improved system that works in real- time (like DMV) to keep social workers, parent attorneys, witnesses and clients aware of cases that coming up.

**JUDGES:**

- Increased 2 days recently
- Attorneys let others know whereabouts when they leave court room.