

The Pelican Center focus is on intensive coordinated interdisciplinary training and education of child welfare practitioners (children's and indigent parents' attorneys, judges, child protection staff, CASAs, foster parents, district and child welfare agency attorneys and others.

Over time the Pelican Center will be involved with each of the following major CIP areas of work:

- Data projects;
- Improving the quality of legal representation for children and indigent parents;
- Improving the quality of hearings, especially through greater participation by children and foster parents;
- Overseeing projects and approaches to improve child well-being outcomes;
- Improving ICWA compliance;
- Ensuring CIP Participation in the federal child welfare system review process;
- Encouraging efforts related to continuous quality improvement (CQI) of global child welfare outcomes.



Pelican Center for Children & Families

We Care for Our Own

The Pelican Center for Children and Families is a Louisiana non-profit organization dedicated to improving outcomes for Louisiana's children and families.

Our Mission Statement:

"A statewide, multidisciplinary collaborative strengthening the child welfare continuum from prevention to permanency."

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Pelican Center for Children & Families



Effective January 1, 2015, the Louisiana Supreme Court transferred the administration of Court Improvement Program (CIP) functions and responsibility for implementation of the CIP strategic plan to the Pelican Center for Children and Families.

To support and enhance the work of the Louisiana Court Improvement Program, the Center will provide multiple opportunities for documented, ongoing, meaningful collaboration with key stakeholders, including the Louisiana judiciary, Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Louisiana CASA, the Louisiana Public Defender Board, the Louisiana Bar Foundation, the Mental Health Advocacy Services/Child Advocacy Program, the three Louisiana Legal Services Corporations, the Louisiana Foster and Adoptive Parents Association, the National Association of Social Workers – Louisiana Chapter, the National Association of Black Social Workers, the Louisiana District Attorneys Association and an alliance of the seven Louisiana public universities' Schools of Social Work, which is being headed by Southeastern Louisiana University.



Safety, Permanency, Child & Family Well-being

Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect.

Children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate.

Children have permanency and stability in their living situations.

The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children.

Families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs.

Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs.

Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

Improving Global Outcomes For Children

Mark Harris, JD, previously the Project Coordinator for the Louisiana Supreme Court's Court Improvement Program (CIP), is the Executive Director of the Pelican Center. His email address is mark.harris@pelicancenter.org.



Meaningful, On-Going Collaboration

- Regular meetings of stakeholders
- Joint initiatives aimed at improved outcomes
- Evidence-based best-practice information dissemination

Training

- Online and In-person
- CLE and Interdisciplinary Training
- "Together We Can" Conference
- University Alliance Partnership

Data Collection and Analysis

- CLARO website: www.clarola.org
- Integrated Juvenile Justice Information System
- Model Court
- Federal Child & Family Services Review

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Louisiana
Court Improvement Program