

2018

NATIONAL JUDICIAL INSTITUTE ON  
DOMESTIC CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING  
EVALUATION  
PORTLAND, OREGON  
AUGUST, 2018



## National Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking Portland, Oregon

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) hosted the National Judicial Institute on Domestic Child Sex Trafficking (NJIDCST) in Portland, Oregon from August 15-18, 2018 for judges and other judicial officers. The purpose of the NJIDCST is to provide judicial officers with tools needed to develop or enhance their ability to handle the multifaceted and challenging aspects of cases involving domestic child sex trafficking. Pre- and post-Institute surveys are administered to assess the immediate impact of the training on participant knowledge acquisition, decision making, practice and attitude change, and satisfaction. The results below summarize the responses of 20 Institute participants.

### Participants

Of the 20 respondents, most (35%) indicated they were a judicial officer for 15 or more years. The remaining indicated 10-14 years (15%), 5-9 years (30%) and 0-4 years (20%). Most respondents (40%) indicated they hear family law cases including domestic violence, divorce, child support, and guardianship matters while 35% indicated they hear both Child Abuse/Neglect Cases & Juvenile Justice cases and the remaining 25% indicated hearing general jurisdiction cases.

### Change in Knowledge by Topic Area

Respondents were asked to rank their level of knowledge across 15 DCST topic areas, both before and after the Institute, using a four point scale. The pre and post average scores are displayed for each topic area along with the difference. T-Test analyses indicated that the change in average scores were significant for all 15 topics.

Topic Area	Pre-Avg	Post-Avg	Difference
How to integrate judicial leadership and collaboration into DCST response	1.67	3.44	1.77*
Demographic information on buyers of child sex	1.78	3.44	1.66*
Characteristics and demographics of DCST victims	1.94	3.56	1.61*
Major federal laws that relate to trafficking	1.83	3.17	1.33*
The role of bias and cultural misinformation in DCST cases	1.94	3.17	1.22*
How victim trauma affects decision-making & interaction with justice system	2.28	3.44	1.16*
Risk factors for entry into sex trafficking	2.44	3.61	1.16*
Techniques for in-court engagement with youth affected by trauma	2.06	3.11	1.05*
The effects of exploitation on DCST victims	2.44	3.5	1.05*
Power and control dynamics of child sex traffickers	2.56	3.56	1*
The core components of services for DCST victims	1.61	2.56	0.94*
Emerging legislation that relates to DCST	1.67	2.61	0.94*
Strategizing effective placement for juvenile DCST victims	1.61	2.5	0.88*
How historical trauma affects community and individual level risk	2.5	3.17	0.66*
The core conditions of healing from trauma and victimization	2	2.56	0.55*

Note:4-point scale (4=great deal of knowledge, 3=fair amount of knowledge, 2=limited knowledge, and 1=no knowledge)  
\*Signifies statistical significance where p-value is less than 0.05.

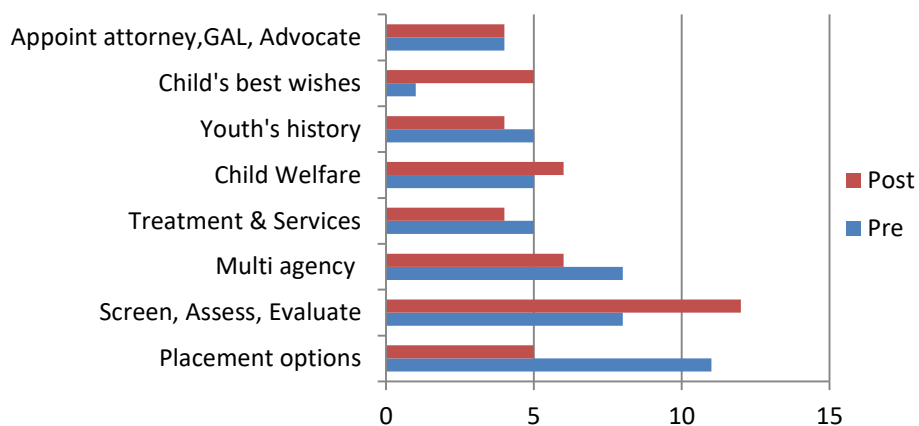
## Identifying DCST Risk Factors

Respondents were given a case scenario both before and after the Institute in which they were asked to identify up to 10 DCST risk factors. On average, respondents identified 4.5 risk factors prior to the Institute and 4.75 risk factors after the Institute, which is not a significant increase. The table below displays the percentage of respondents who correctly identified each risk factor before and after the Institute and the percent change, ordered from the most change to the least. The age of the boyfriend, substance abuse, and runaway behavior were most commonly identified before the Institute while previous sexual assault, age of the boyfriend, run away behavior and child welfare history were most commonly identified after the Institute.

Topic Area	Pre-%	Post-%	% Change
Current Living Status with Older Boyfriend	10%	20%	100%
Multiple Placement	30	55	83
Child Welfare History	40	65	63
Previous Sexual Assault	55	80	45
Runaway Behavior	60	65	8
Katrina's Age	20	20	0
Age of Boyfriend	80	75	-6
Termination of Mother's Rights	50	40	-20
Substance Abuse/Use	70	55	-21
Group Home	30	0	-100

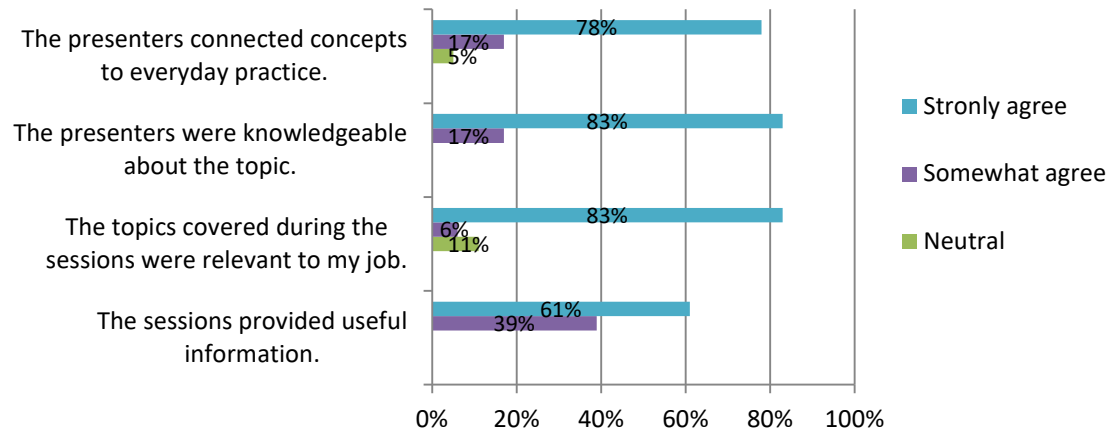
## Creating Judicial Orders

Participants were asked before and after the Institute to identify what they would put in their judicial orders following a first/initial hearing. Pre- and post-Institute answers were analyzed for common themes. Eight main themes were identified including: 1) appoint child advocate, GAL, and/or attorney, 2) discuss child's wishes, 3) gather youth's history, 4) involve child welfare, 5) provide treatment/services, 6) multi-agency representation, 7) screen/assess/evaluate and 8) consider placement options. Most themes remained consistent between the pre and post surveys; however there was an increase in considering the child's best interest, an increase in screening and assessment efforts, and a decrease in using placement options for DCST victims between the pre and post survey.



## Satisfaction with Institute

Participants were asked to rate their agreement (selecting from five responses ranging from “strongly disagree” to “strongly agree”) with four statements regarding components of the Institute. The results below indicate most attendees were satisfied with the Institute. Participants were also asked “Overall, how satisfied were you with the training”. Most indicated they were very satisfied (55%) or satisfied (39%) with the training. The remaining 6% were neutral.



## Applying Knowledge

Respondents were asked to indicate how likely they are to apply what they learned in the Institute to inform decisions in their future work. Over 90% of respondents indicated they were “likely” (11%) or “very likely” (83%) to use what they learned in their future work. Six percent of respondents indicated they were somewhat likely to apply NJIDCST knowledge to their future work.

## Participant Comments

**Most Beneficial to Future Work.** Respondents were asked to identify something they learned that will be the most beneficial to their future work. Respondents indicated the following were most beneficial:

- Identifying DCST victims through screening/assessment tools
- Gathering more history on the youth
- Engaging youth effectively in court
- Becoming trauma informed
- Changing perspective to view youth as DCST victims, not offenders

**Least Beneficial to Future Work.** Respondents were asked to identify something from the Institute that they liked the least or would be least beneficial to their future work. Respondents indicated the following:

- Exercises including the fishbowl, bed sheet, race and tribal division activities
- Discussion on historical trauma lacked connection to outcomes or how to address it
- Abstract information with little concrete detail (i.e., specialty courts)

**Institute Improvements.** Respondents were asked to share any ideas or suggestions that might help future Institutes. Respondents indicated the following:

- More discussion/ role play of effective court room strategies to interact and engage youth
- Additional social activities to network with other attendees outside of the Institute
- More small group discussions rather than large groups
- Hear from youth victims
- More discussion of resources and other ways to help DCST victims get out of their situations
- Shorter days