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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Five Family Drug Courts Receive
Peer Learning Courts of Excellence Awards**

ANAHEIM, California (September 6, 2012) – The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) and Children and Family Futures (CFF) announced the selection of five Family Drug Court (FDC) Peer Learning Courts during *Family Drug Courts: A National Symposium to Improve Family Recovery, Safety and Stability*. Recognizing the need to highlight national best practice models for FDCs and to further the exchange of learning through peer-to-peer technical assistance (TA), the mentorship sites are:

- Baltimore City Circuit Court, Juvenile Division (Baltimore City, Maryland)
- Chatham County Juvenile Court, Family Dependency Treatment Court (Chatham County, Georgia)
- Hillsdale County Family Drug Court (Hillsdale County, Michigan)
- Jackson County Family Drug Court, 16th Judicial District (Jackson County, Missouri)
- Pima County Juvenile Court (Pima County, Arizona)

As part of the program, the selected Peer Learning Courts will host visiting FDC professionals to view their court in action, share policies and practices, and lessons learned.

“We are excited to be working with these Family Drug Courts. They have a lot to offer the field as Peer Learning Courts,” said Dr. Nancy K. Young, Director of CCFF. “Awardees represent courts throughout the U.S. that demonstrate the use of sound evidence-supported practices and policies, as well as strong collaboration among the courts, child welfare, substance abuse treatment agencies and other key partners.”

FDCs oversee cases of child abuse and neglect involving parental substance use disorders have greatly expanded in the last decade. Approximately 36,000 children are served in the 360 courts across the country each year. The purpose of a FDC is to protect child safety, ensure a permanent care-giving environment and promote the well-being of children through family recovery. The courts operate collaboratively, drawing on community partners’ expertise in child welfare, substance abuse treatment and other community services to address the needs and build on the strengths of each family member. Partners ensure timely access to substance abuse treatment and other needed services for parents, children and families through better communication and efficiencies across service systems. They promote long-term stabilized recovery to enhance the possibility of family reunification within mandatory legal timeframes.

The FDC Peer Learning Court Program is part of a range of TA opportunities that is available through CFF, a non-profit based in Irvine, CA that specializes in the design, implementation and evaluation of innovative human services programs and policies, as well as the delivery of TA. For additional information about the FDC Training and Technical Assistance or Peer Learning Court Programs, contact Phil Breitenbucher or visit the Children and Family Futures website.