Collaborative structure

A successful three-branch approach involves three groups: a core team of decision makers, an implementation team and an extended team of additional stakeholders. Each team has critical responsibilities in developing, implementing and overseeing a coordinated strategic plan.

**THE CORE TEAM**

**WHO?**

- Executive branch: Governor’s office, state agency leaders
- Legislative branch: Relevant legislative committee chairs, legislators engaged in task forces or other work on child welfare, sponsors of past child welfare legislation, legislative staff
- Judicial branch: Supreme court justices, juvenile or family court judges, court improvement program representatives

**CORE TEAM**

DEcision MAKERS

**IMPLEMENTATION TEAM**

**EXTENDED TEAM**

AddiTiOnal Stakeholders
REFORMING CHILD WELFARE THROUGH A THREE-BRANCH APPROACH

THE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

WHO?

• Additional leaders from the executive branch (e.g., human services, health, education, criminal justice, public safety, workforce and behavioral health).

• Additional legislators, including members of appropriations, health, education, human services and other committees; legislative staff; and legislators who may be foster parents, former foster youth, adoptive parents, social workers, law enforcement or medical professionals.

• Additional judicial branch representatives.

• City and county officials.

• Tribal child welfare leaders, tribal council representatives.

• Birth families, foster youth or alumni, kinship care providers and foster parents.

• Private-sector service providers.

• Community-based organizations (CBOs).

THE EXTENDED TEAM

WHO?

• Advocates and constituents (when appropriate).

• Supervisors and staff representing the frontline perspective.

• Business leaders and other private-sector representatives.

• Legal representatives of children, parents and families.

• Representatives of the faith community.

• Child and family policy or research organizations.

• Representatives of higher education and workforce training programs.

• Media representatives.
THE CORE TEAM

WHAT DO THEY DO?

• Identify shared goals and outcomes for children, families, communities or the child welfare system.

• Develop a coordinated strategic plan to achieve a common goal.

• Participate in and monitor implementation of the strategic plan.

• Provide leadership and encouragement and model three-branch collaboration for all involved in implementing the plan.

• Periodically assess progress, address challenges and communicate needs with other branches.

• Educate peers on the mission, purpose and goals of the approach.

• Recruit leaders from the branch to participate in the implementation team and extended team.

• Lead work groups to address specific elements of the strategic plan.

• Develop a plan to communicate the vision, mission and goals of the plan to the broader community.

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

• Meet regularly (monthly or biweekly) in person or virtually.

• Communicate regularly by email or phone.

• Participate in regular, issue-specific work group meetings.
REFORMING CHILD WELFARE THROUGH A THREE-BRANCH APPROACH

THE IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

WHAT DO THEY DO?

- Assist with development of the strategic plan.
- Assist with implementation of the strategic plan.
- Participate in issue-specific work groups.
- Demonstrate the value and behaviors of a three-branch approach to the broader group.
- Help communicate the vision, mission and goals of the strategic plan to the broader community.

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

- Meet regularly (quarterly, bimonthly) in person or virtually.
- Communicate regularly by email or phone.
- Participate in regular, issue-specific work group meetings.

THE EXTENDED TEAM

WHAT DO THEY DO?

- Build broad understanding of and buy-in for the strategic plan.
- Provide perspective on the strategic plan and its implementation.
- Help communicate the vision, mission and goals of the strategic plan to the broader community.
- Help implement the strategic plan.

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN DO THEY MEET?

- Convene at the outset of the initiative, and then as needed to build broad buy-in for the strategic plan.
- Participate in issue-specific work group meetings.
- Communicate regularly by email or phone.