

**NCJFCJ 69th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JULY 16 - 19, 2006
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Resolution No. 7

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STRENGTHENING THE
MULTIDISCIPLINARY COALITION OF JUDGES, PEDIATRICIANS,
PEDIATRIC DENTISTS, PSYCHIATRISTS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, AND
CHILD WELFARE PROFESSIONALS ADDRESSING THE MENTAL
HEALTH AND MEDICAL NEEDS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN
DEPENDENCY AND DELINQUENCY SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, all children have the right to a healthy and safe childhood in a nurturing, permanent family;

WHEREAS, juvenile and family court judges are mandated to oversee the safety, permanent placement, and well-being of all children who come before the courts, and the NCJFCJ has developed publications and other materials setting forth best practices;

WHEREAS, in order to ensure the well-being of children involved in the dependency and delinquency system, juvenile and family court judges must have access to, and an understanding of, state-of-the-art research from relevant, non-legal disciplines and evidence-based practices;

WHEREAS, physicians, dentists, psychiatrists, psychologists, child welfare professionals, and other medical and mental health treatment providers strive to improve the health and well-being of infants, children and youth of the nation by utilizing and producing scientific research, knowledge, and practice;

WHEREAS, the integration of existing and future research and knowledge about the medical and mental health needs of children in the dependency and delinquency systems would facilitate better judicial decision-making, evidence-based and innovative programming, service delivery, practice, and policy development, and overall systems reform;

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges support the work of the Mental Health/Medical-Legal Issues Committee in establishing an ongoing multidisciplinary coalition with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Zero to Three, the Child Welfare League of America, and the NCJFCJ affiliate Office of Child Development and Mental Health, to identify issues of mutual interest, to share information and materials, and to prioritize joint projects designed to assist physicians, dentists, psychiatrists, psychologists, child welfare professionals, and other medical and mental health treatment providers, judges, attorneys, and other court personnel to improve outcomes for the infants, children and youth across the nation; and to integrate research into practice and policy to enhance the well-being of our children and families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatrists, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the Child Welfare League of America, and Zero-to-Three. The National Council expresses its appreciation for the participation of Dr. Joy Osofsky, President, Zero to Three; Dr. Eileen Ouellette, President, American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Mary Crane, American Academy of Pediatrics; Dr. Avram Mack, American Psychiatric Association and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; Dr. Antoinette Kavanaugh, American Psychological Association, during the National Council's 69th Annual Conference, July 16, 2006, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Adopted this 19th day of July, 2006
By the Membership Assembled in Conference
In Milwaukee, Wisconsin