I wish to begin by thanking all of you for all that you have done to make our system run efficiently.     Through the collaboration of our partners, new ways of helping our youth and families have developed.   We are now beginning to look to the future and considering which new paths we should stay on and continue to use.  The pandemic forced us to employ practices that may have taken significant time to implement if we were not forced to do so.  Now looking at the accomplishments, which ones do we choose to keep in place?   What lessons have we learned that have value and that we should continue to utilize?   Are there certain types of court hearings like TPCs or scheduling conferences that should continue in a virtual way, even when it is no longer necessary?     Should hearings be hybrid?   Should parties have the ability to elect to be in person or virtual?   Is there a better way to handle documents/ exhibits virtually?

This email is the beginning of this conversation.   What we would like to do is have all stakeholders discuss and brainstorm these issues with their colleagues and then email the ideas and inspirations back to me and Liz Finn Gorski.  We will compile a list and then provide the list to the stakeholders.  After the list is disseminated, we will have a virtual roundtable discussion.   After the discussion, we will craft a suggested policy and procedure for submission for  approval to Chief Judge Triggiano.   Due to the ever changing state of the world, we do not have an exact date for implementation.   Our anticipated time frame would potentially be summer of 2021.

Now as to the timetable for this conversation, please provide the following by the following dates:

Please provide your list of ideas by email by March 1, 2021

Please mark your calendar a roundtable zoom meeting on Thursday, March 11, 2021 at noon.  Zoom information will be sent closer to the date.

Thank you for your willingness to part of the solution to make our Children’s Division a better place to be.