

Blueprint

for the Future

Pima County



Juvenile Court Center

2005 Annual Report

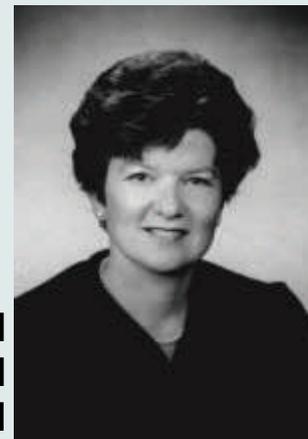
Table of Contents

Judicial Update.....	3
Director’s Welcome	7
Judicial Officers.....	9
Mission Statement	10
Vision	11
Success Stories	12
<u>Division Updates</u>	
• Budget & Finance.....	15
• Probation Division.....	17
• Detention Division	22
• Child & Family Services.....	25
CASA	27
Jury Trial Information	31
Model Dependency Court	33
Family Drug Court	34
Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution	35
Adoptions/Guardianships	36
Key Community Partnerships.....	37
Employee Recognition.....	38
Community Advisory Board.....	39



Judicial Update

Patricia Escher
Presiding Judge



Managing Change

Anyone who comes to the Juvenile Court these days will hear a variety of unexpected sounds. In addition to the usual calls from the bailiffs, hushed conferences of lawyers and families, and squeals from small children, you are likely to hear the sound of drills, hammers, and saws. We are in the middle of remodeling to add four courtrooms, office space for the human resources division, and a new training area. The sounds of this change are symbolic of the change that has been occurring everywhere within the Juvenile Court.

Changing Leadership

In June, we completed the transition of judicial leadership, as I succeeded Judge Hector Campoy as presiding judge. In addition, three new judges have begun their assignment to the Juvenile Court bench. Having a year to serve as associate presiding judge and learn from Judge Campoy made my transition as smooth as possible. Working with a strong management team, my goal has been to build on the good work he accomplished here.

There is also new leadership in the Child and Family Services Division. Chris Swenson-Smith became the division director in September, and three new supervisors head the dependency, CASA, and Family Drug Court units.

To improve coordination and increase efficiencies, we have begun the process of consolidating the administrative divisions of the Juvenile and Superior courts. The consolidated training division will be housed in the new training facility when construction is completed in 2006. Human resources personnel assigned to serve the Juvenile Court will remain at the Juvenile Court Center.

Changing How We Work at the Court

We have been challenged by the 11% increase in dependency case filings and the corresponding increase in the number of hearings each day, while at the same time managing 73 requests for jury trials in termination of parental rights cases. With county funding, we added a second mediator to our staff to build on our success in reducing the cost of contested hearings and jury trials through alternative dispute resolution (ADR). The impact of ADR is profound: in 2005, agreement on contested issues was reached without an adversarial hearing in 70% of the cases referred to the mediator.

We have also begun in earnest the hard work of correcting the negative consequences that flow from disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system and the inappropriate use of detention. Working in collaboration with our community stakeholders through the Disproportionate Minority Contact/Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (DMC/JDAI), we are implementing an ambitious strategic plan that is already producing results. As a result of more objective intake screening, we are reducing the number of juveniles admitted to detention. We have fully implemented the "Step Up" program in detention, which helps prepare juveniles for a safe and successful release from detention to a community setting. With improved planning and delivery of behavioral health services in the community, we have succeeded in shortening the average length of stay in detention without jeopardizing community safety. The average daily population in detention has decreased from 173 in 2004 to 135 in 2005. The average length of stay has declined from 16.83 days in 2004 to 14.11 in 2005.

Our probation department has done an outstanding job of working with minors in the juvenile justice system. Based on our history of excellence and innovation, Pima County Juvenile Court has the honor of becoming the first court in the nation designated a "Model Delinquency Court" by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). Through the model court process, with technical assistance from NCJFCJ, we will build on our past success and identify ways in which we can expedite case processing and improve outcomes for delinquent minors and their families.

We continue to use problem-solving court approaches to address addicted populations through our Family Drug Court and Juvenile Drug Court. Our goal is to expand the use of problem solving court strategies to other populations. In 2005, we were awarded a Bureau of Justice Assistance grant to target the high number of minors referred to the Juvenile Court on domestic violence charges. We will work with law enforcement and behavioral health providers to prevent referrals through the use of community-based alternatives. For those juveniles who are referred to court, we will expedite case processing and the provision of behavioral health services to prevent future referrals.

Changing How We Work With Our Partners

The children who come before our court, and their families, have many needs that cannot be met by the Juvenile Court alone. Recognizing this, we and our community stakeholders are changing the way we do business to ensure an early and comprehensive response. We have agreed that every child with behavioral health needs (most of our children) will have a child and family team – including the child, the parents, counselors, probation officers, and any other support person – to complete an early, comprehensive assessment, develop a plan and implement services. In 2005, we began with children placed in detention, to expedite their safe and supported release into the community, and new dependency cases, to ensure the prompt delivery of needed services.

Working with our community partners in the Model Dependency Court Working Committee, we are developing strategies to deal with the impact of the methamphetamine epidemic and to redouble our efforts to find permanency for children who have been in foster care for more than two years. And we are coordinating between case managers and probation officers to provide better services and more effective case management for dually adjudicated minors.

As part of our DMC/JDAI initiative, we have begun to partner with two neighborhoods in Pima County to develop community-based alternatives to detention. Through this process, we hope to develop a model that can be replicated throughout our community to find ways that juveniles can be safely maintained in a community setting. We are also working to strengthen our relationship with the Tohono O’odham Nation and the Pasqua Yaqui Tribe to find ways to improve outcomes for native youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

Many of our children are faring poorly in school, even if they are enrolled and attending. Often this is the result of unrecognized special education needs. Children in foster care fall further and further behind, as they change schools with every change in placement. In 2005, a multi-disciplinary committee of professionals and volunteers developed a Pima County education resource handbook. A cadre of highly trained volunteer education consultants is now available to assist families, probation officers, and case managers in finding the right school for each child, and to ensure that their educational needs are being met.

We continue to benefit from the work of many volunteers who contribute their time and talent to make a difference in the life of a child. In addition to the ongoing work of our Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and our educational consultants, we have partnered with Davis Monthan Air Force personnel who are serving as mentors to juveniles in detention. They meet with juveniles before and after their release, appear at their hearings, and provide them the practical advice and coaching that these juveniles need to learn how to become successful adults.

Looking to the Future

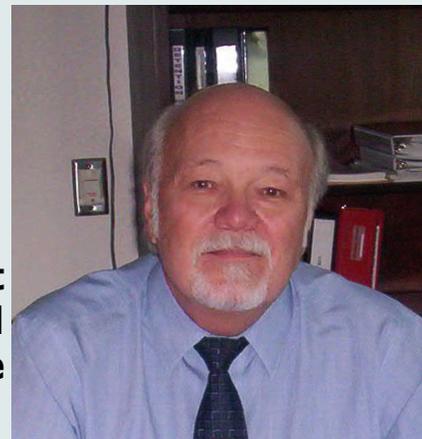
Pima County is fortunate to have such dedicated and talented staff, management, and judges at the Juvenile Court. (We are also fortunate to have community partners who share our vision for children and are willing to collaborate with us to achieve common goals.) As we continue to implement change in 2006, our children and families will reap the rewards.

Patricia Escher



Director's Welcome

Rik Schmidt
Court Administrator



Year 2005 was very successful for our Juvenile Court and the children and families we serve. This Annual Report reflects some of our successes but, at the same time, reminds us of challenges to be met.

The Honorable Patricia G. Escher, Presiding Judge, has provided extraordinary leadership as we move toward a comprehensive service delivery system that will fully meet the needs of our community. Since becoming Presiding Judge in June 2005, her ability to inspire collaboration and focus on real solutions has helped us define our goals more clearly and solidify the process for attainment. I look forward to tremendous success under her leadership and commitment.

In our 2004 Annual Report, I made reference to our efforts to therapeutically engage children and families to ensure high quality of service and positive outcomes. We remain committed to this philosophical principle, and 2005 reflects our efforts to move from principle to application. This past year we have focused on collecting and analyzing data to drive our initiatives and create a "best-practices" foundation for the work we do. We are becoming much more focused on outcomes versus raw numbers to measure progress. We also are challenging ourselves to test some of our fundamental practices, whether in probation, detention, or the dependency side of the Court. I would like to thank the W. Haywood Burns Institute, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the National Council of Family and Juvenile Court Judges (NCJFCJ) for their respective expertise and support with our DMC, JDAI and Dependency Model Dependency Court initiatives. These organizations are truly the leaders and experts in the field, and they have provided extraordinary assistance in helping us move toward our vision.

In her Judicial Update in this report, Judge Escher refers to several areas of improvement this past year, including our success in decreasing the detention census from 173 in 2004 to 135 in 2005. While these numbers may reflect some initial success with our DMC/JDAI activities, it's important for us to realize that ultimate success is not measured in numbers but, rather, by the standards of fairness and equity demonstrated by the entire juvenile justice continuum. To achieve this fundamental goal of equal justice, we must push forward with programs and services that will sustain and reinforce the progress achieved to date. This will require intense collaboration, program evaluation, and managed change. I see this as our continuing challenge for the foreseeable future.

We also need to guard against complacency and self-satisfaction. We have had a terrific year at our Juvenile Court, in many ways, but the work still lies ahead of us. Our staff continue to be the Court's most valuable resource and, at times, it becomes difficult for them to make yet another change or move toward still another set of responsibilities and duties. I understand this dynamic and we will continue to encourage and support staff as we move forward. This is critically important work and we must succeed.

We also have a responsibility to inform our constituents and stakeholders and protect against bureaucratic misunderstanding and inefficiencies. The initiatives we are engaged in require a shifting and reallocation of resources, not a decrease. This is a critical element to sustain our successes, and we must effectively provide accurate analysis and explanation to capture the support of key stakeholders. Ultimately, what we do must make sense from a philosophical, practical, and financial perspective.

I am honored to be the Director of the Pima County Juvenile Court. Judicial leadership, staff excellence, and the significance of the work we do continue to inspire me. What better course to take as we each find our role in society. I look forward to a successful 2006 and invite new ideas from all members of our collaborative team. Thank you for taking the time to read this report and consider our work.

Rik Schmidt



Judicial Officers

Pima County Juvenile Court is fortunate to have an outstanding group of Judges and Commissioners who are all dedicated to the Vision and Mission of the Court and to service to the children and families of this community.

Presiding Judge Patricia Escher

Presiding Judge Hector E. Campoy

(through June 2005)

Associate Presiding Judge Michael O. Miller

Judge Terry Chandler

Judge Howard Hantman

Judge Charles Harrington

Judge Jane Eikleberry

Judge Virginia Kelly

Judge Paul E. Tang

Commissioner Suzanna S. Cuneo

Commissioner Ted Knuck

Commissioner Danelle Liwski

Commissioner Elizabeth Peasley-Fimbres

Commissioner Kathleen Quigley

Commissioner Stephen Rubin

Commissioner Joan Wagener

Commissioner Javier Chon – Lopez

Mission Statement

The Pima County Juvenile Court is charged under the Federal and State Constitutions, laws, and rules of the court with jurisdiction over all children under the age of 18 years who are referred for reasons of mental health, incorrigibility, delinquency and for all families involved in dependencies, severances and adoptions.

The mission of the Pima County Juvenile Court is to promote the interest and safety of the community, promote the rehabilitation of children and families, facilitate the protection of children who are abused and neglected, and facilitate the provision of services to children and families involved with the court all in accordance with the due process of law.

The Juvenile Court will work actively with and provide leadership to the community, public and private agencies to promote justice, education, and the prevention of delinquency and abuse.



The Vision of Pima County Juvenile Court Center

An Organization Committed to:

- **Community protection**
- **Restoring victims**
- **Successful youth and families**



Special points of interest:

- Louisa // Drug Court
- Stephanie // Drug Court & Residential Treatment
- Brock
- Sonia
- Heather

Success Stories

Louisa and her Experience with Drug Court

Louisa was admitted to Drug Court shortly after wrecking her mother's car while high on cocaine, alcohol and pills. Just before the accident, she no longer wanted to live. Following is an excerpt from Louisa's Drug Court graduation speech:

"When you're small you can do no wrong, because you know nothing else but good. When I grew up and the world revealed itself to me with open arms, down the road I went on alcohol, up the ladder of cocaine, the sleepless nights of meth, and across the dirty bridge of needles. But that was not enough. Money, sex, drugs, and cars were no longer fun. No adrenaline, no high, just numb. But I could never get away from the hurt, the loneliness, being ashamed and feeling used up. The world didn't make me sober, nor help me in any way. I made the choice; I made the choice to be who I am right now, drug-free, standing here today. On September 11 of this year, I will be clean

and sober for one year. Believe me, it took a good two years of me trying to get sober before I was actually put into Drug Court. But thanks to Drug Court and the Drug Court team, it just gave me that extra push saying 'Stay clean'. And because of all of you, I'll now be on my way to starting a new life for myself."

Since her graduation from Drug Court, Louisa has worked with the Clean and Sober Theatre and the Pima County Youth Substance Abuse Committee. She is currently a full-time student at the Pima Community College High School/ College credit program. Although Louisa was committed to sobriety before entering Drug Court, she said that she wouldn't have accomplished it without the frequent Drug Court reviews and the open honest communication that developed because of the Drug Court relationships.



Stephanie's Success Story

After four referrals to the court, Stephanie was placed on standard probation at age thirteen. Despite this, she continued to run away and she drank up to a bottle of vodka a day, used drugs, and failed to attend school or counseling. After a year and a half, she ran away again. Her mother was distraught and lying awake at night with worry because she knew Stephanie was placing herself at great risk. Stephanie was picked up and placed in Detention. At Stephanie's request she went to residential treatment and was released to the Drug Court program. While in Drug Court, Pantano Behavioral Health Services provided Stephanie with counseling at Jewish Family and Children Services to deal with her post-traumatic stress disorder and alcohol/drug dependence. Stephanie successfully completed Drug Court and probation one year later at age sixteen and a half. At her Drug Court graduation, Stephanie's mom cried and thanked the Drug Court for giving back her daughter. It has been six months since Stephanie's graduation from Drug Court. She has since completed her GED and is enrolled as an honor student at Pima College. Stephanie now aspires to earn her college degree and work in a field helping young children who are victims. She is currently working full-time at a child care center that accepts many children of parents who are in residential treatment. Stephanie believes that the intensive counseling, weekly drug testing and court appearances saved her life. When asked where she would be without Drug Court, Stephanie didn't hesitate to say that she would either be dead or a pregnant single mom with no education.

Brock's Success Story

Brock was recently recommended for early termination of probation. Brock was placed on Standard Probation for selling his prescriptive medication at school, his sixth referral to the Court. His involvement with the Court began in January of 2004. Brock's referral included Domestic Violence with both his parents. He had a history of spitting on his mother and taking off with the car without permission or a license. Brock was failing four of his six classes, the others he was barely passing. Since being placed on standard probation, Brock attended his counseling regularly and changed schools. In his own words - "I made better friends who influenced me to do good rather than bad." As a part of his conditions of probation, Brock was ordered to attend Cognitive Skills Classes. During the course of attending these classes, Brock came to the realization that he could be in control of his thoughts, which then led to the control of his actions. "We can either control those thoughts or be slaves to them; I have chosen to control them." Brock is now making exceptional grades, his behavior at home is respectful and cooperative, and he is now a wonderful role model to his younger brothers.

Sonia's Success Story

Sonia's first referral to the Court was when she was fifteen, for Minor in Possession. Sonia continued to gather referrals every few months for Shoplifting, Runaway in County, and False Reporting. On her eighth referral, Sonia was detained and accepted to La Canada for substance abuse treatment. While at La Canada, Sonia confronted her family issues, which were at the root of her behavior. Her mother was too often looking to her for companionship and not giving her the nurturing she needed. Her father, with good intentions, often criticized her without any encouragement when she did do well. Her parents' arguments left her discouraged and she had limited coping skills. Through participating in the counseling at La Canada, Sonia found her motivation to stay sober, addressed her needs with her mother, and worked with her father on more positive communications. Although her parents continue to argue, Sonia has used her new skills to stay sober and focused on her own future. She is currently attending school at Tucson Accelerated, (drug testing negative regularly) and is a straight "A" student.

Heather's Success Story

Heather's story truly reflects the difference that supportive parents can make. Heather was on Standard Probation for stealing her father's truck and damaging it, when her mother discovered a pipe in her room. Heather admitted to her mother that she used the pipe to smoke methamphetamine. Heather's parents were divorced, and she was residing with her mother, where she was sneaking in her adult boyfriend who had introduced her to methamphetamine. Her mother was outraged, not only at the drug use but the deceit Heather employed to sneak around on her. Mom aggressively pursued having this young man punished for his actions. She also informed him that if he was ever on her property again he could look forward to charges of trespassing. Financially, Heather's parents worked together to afford a residential treatment facility in Utah, and Heather was admitted for over six months. While Heather was there, her parents made numerous trips to participate in her counseling, arrange after care crisis plans, and they were a big part of her recovery. Since returning to Probation, Heather and her family voluntarily signed up for Drug Court. Through Drug Court, Heather and her family have grown stronger and more knowledgeable about avenues to sobriety. She is spending more productive time weekly with her father. Heather is now employed, seeks counseling regularly and tested clean the entire time she has been involved with Drug Court. She has completed 5 months in the Drug Court Program.



Budget & Finance

The Court receives funding from a variety of sources including Pima County, the State of Arizona, federal grants and special revenue funds and a private foundation. Total revenue increased from \$33.2 million in Fiscal Year 2004/05 to \$34.6 million in Fiscal Year 2005/06. The Pima County general fund remained the largest single source and provided the majority of the funding for the administrative, detention and judicial services divisions.

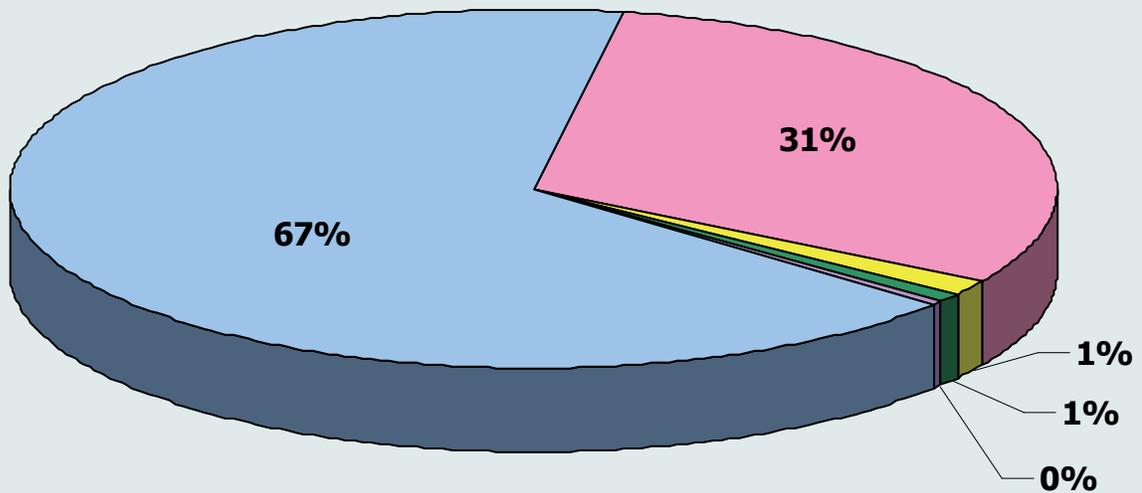
The second largest funding source was the State of Arizona. The majority of the state budget came through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and funded a variety of probation functions including intensive probation, standard probation, diversion, family counseling and treatment for court involved youth. The Court also received funding from the Arizona Department of Education through its collaborative efforts with five school districts. This funding allowed 27 probation officers to work directly in local schools under the Safe Schools Program. The State also funded victim services through the Juvenile Victims' Rights Program. In total, these state grants provided 60 percent of the Probation Division's annual funding.

The Court with the leadership of the management team and the diligent efforts of all its employees, remains committed to making both efficient and effective use of its financial resources to provide quality services to the children and families of Pima County. The following charts show a breakdown of funding by source and functional area.

Funding by Source

General Fund	\$23,092,877
State Grants	\$10,640,514
Federal Grants	\$498,392
Fees	\$242,200
Other	\$125,000
	<hr/>
	\$34,598,983

Funding By Source FY 2005-06



County
 State General Fund
 Federal Grants
 Fees
 Other



Probation Division

The Probation Division consists of 146 probation officers, 16 supervisors and coordinators, 33 surveillance officers, 37 support staff and a court psychologist. Approximately half of our staff is funded through county funds appropriated to the courts by the Pima County Board of Supervisors and half from various state funds appropriated by the state legislature. Currently 68% of our line officers have less than five years experience and effective training is very important to the division. Throughout the past year, we have developed and implemented a comprehensive training program called "Fundamental Skills Development" for our new Probation Officers. This program allows us to provide our officers with the philosophical foundation along with basic process and content areas that are essential. In addition to the Fundamental Skills Development training, our officers complete an 8-hour Safety Orientation within 30 days of hire and also attend a two-week Certification Academy and a 40-hour Defensive Tactics Academy prior to completion of their first year of employment.

From January through December 2005, the division received 16,266 referrals for delinquent or incorrigible allegations. Each one of the 9,631 juveniles involved in these referrals was individually interviewed, and in all cases where there was an admission or adjudication, consequences were assigned based on individual risk and need. For some juveniles referred for relatively minor charges, the consequence might consist of 20 hours of community service work and participation in an educational program. For others with more severe referrals, they might be referred to treatment or educational programs, ordered to pay restitution or complete community work and could be placed on Standard Probation, Juvenile Intensive Probation, committed to the Department of Juvenile Corrections or transferred to the adult court system.

We are currently working on our mid-year performance measures; however, our closing reports for fiscal year 2004-2005 indicate the excellent service provided by our officers. During that time, the Probation Division achieved the following:

- ♦ 100% completion of the risk needs assessment for Diversion eligible juveniles.
- ♦ 73% of all referrals were interviewed within 30 days of receipt of referral. This exceeds the expected 60% statewide outcome.

- ◆ **85% of Diversion eligible juveniles paid the diversion fee. This exceeds the expected 70% statewide outcome.**
- ◆ **90% of standard probationers paid restitution as ordered. This exceeds the expected 70% statewide outcome.**
- ◆ **80% of standard probationers completed community work as ordered. This exceeds the expected 70% statewide outcome.**
- ◆ **70% of standard probationers successfully completed standard probation exceeding the expected 66% statewide outcome.**
- ◆ **80% of Juvenile Intensive probationers paid restitution as ordered. This exceeds the expected 70% statewide outcome.**
- ◆ **86.4% of Juvenile Intensive Probationers successfully completed on probation, exceeding the expected 66% statewide outcome.**
- ◆ **During fiscal year 2004-2005, our JIPS officers completed 72,441 contacts with juveniles; 46,374 or 64% of those contacts were made after 6:00 p.m.**
- ◆ **During fiscal year 2004-2005, Pima JIPS probationers completed 26,929 hours of community work. These hours convert to \$80,787 using the current minimum wage for 16-17 year old juveniles.**

One of the very positive and unique features of Pima County Juvenile Probation involves our collaboration with outside agencies. We currently have on-site liaisons for The Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA), Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC), Child Protective Services (CPS), and the three mental health networks, La Frontera, Pantano and Providence. In addition to these longstanding liaison arrangements, during the past year, we have expanded to include a liaison from the Pima Community Access Program (PCAP) and volunteer Educational Consultants. The PCAP liaison works with the parents of court involved juveniles to explore health insurance possibilities and the Educational Consultants work with probation officers, juveniles and families to insure that educational needs are being met. The on-site location of these integral partners has led to very positive outcomes for our juveniles. Through these collaborations, we have become much more effective in securing cooperation for funding and ensuring appropriate services are provided.

In addition to co-locating liaisons in our building, we have recently implemented the use of Child and Family Teams for detained juveniles. These teams include the professionals assigned to a case along with the child, parent and others who support the family. The team meets in Detention to formulate a plan for release. This is a very new process for the Probation Division, and we are hopeful that it will expedite appropriate release and lead to positive outcomes.

**Brenda Flynn
Probation Division Director**



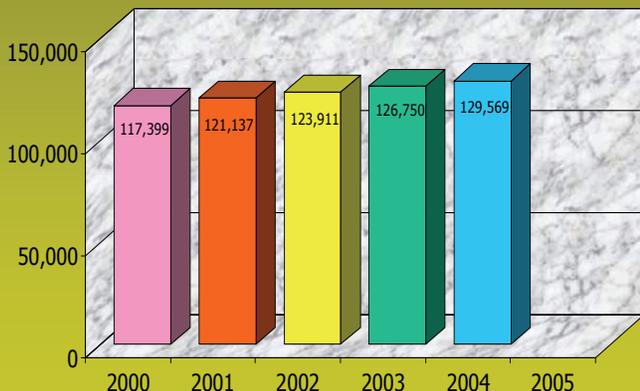
Delinquency History 2000—2005

SEVERITY CODES	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	% chg 99-05
Population ages 8-17	109,879	117,399	121,137	123,911	126,750	129,569	132,246	
Felony-Violent Crimes Against Person	512	409	413	383	338	372	412	-19%
Felony Crimes Against Property	980	913	1021	798	853	847	839	-14%
Obstruction of Justice	1810	2118	2250	2037	1831	1891	1766	-2.4%
Misdemeanor Against Person	1826	1862	1921	1726	1689	1700	1875	+2.6%
Drug Offenses	1817	1948	2009	1925	1992	2050	2106	+15.9%
Public Peace	4178	3661	3738	3422	3495	3575	3716	-11%
Misdemeanor Against Property	1757	1870	1875	2069	1999	2066	1717	-2.0%
Status Offense	4336	3,755	3,572	3,114	3,036	3,445	3827	-11.7%
City Ordinance	0	2	2	3	4	2	8	---
Total Complaints	17,216	16,538	16,801	15,477	15,237	15,948	16,266	-7%
Number of Youth Represented	9,670	9,515	9,689	9,280	9,372	9,673	9631	-0.4%
% Youth Population	9%	8%	8%	7.5%	7.4%	7.5%	7.2%	
<u>DETENTION REFERRALS</u>								
Brought to Detention	5,508	5,316	5,619	5,157	4,882	5,033	4,989	-9%
Detained	2,889	3,463	3,809	3,697	3,496	3,598	3,389	17%
Average Detained	52%	65%	68%	72%	72%	71%	67.9%	30%
Average Daily Population (annually)	123	143	166	154	173	173	136	10%

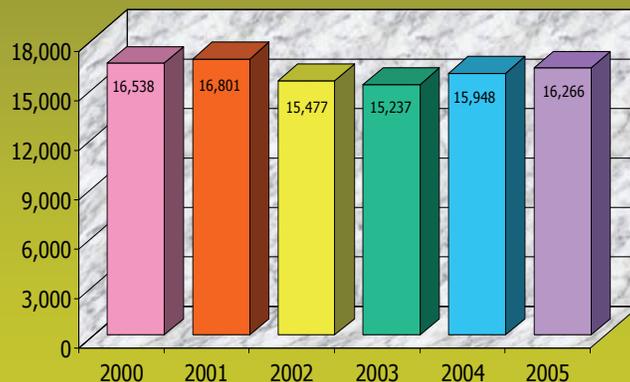


Delinquency History 2000—2005

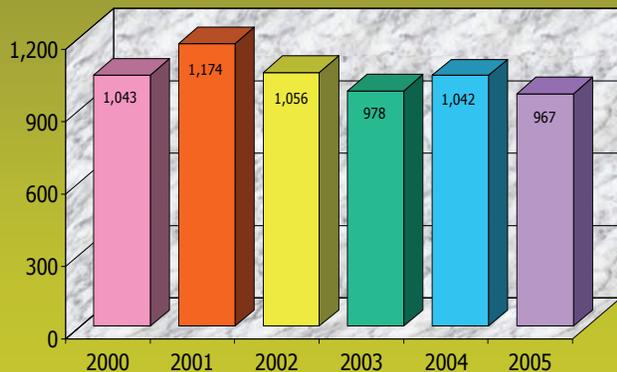
Population of Minors 8-17 2000 - 2005



Delinquency Referrals 2000 - 2005

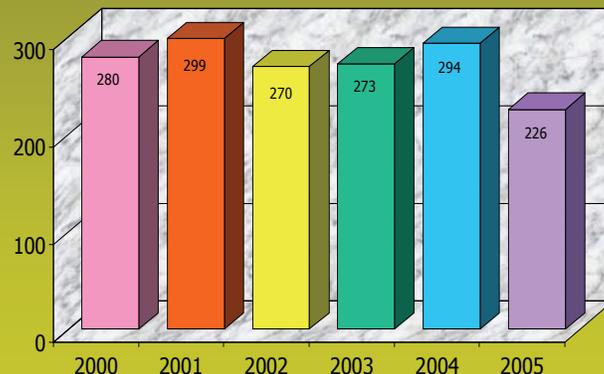


Average Monthly Caseload on Standard Probation 2000 - 2005

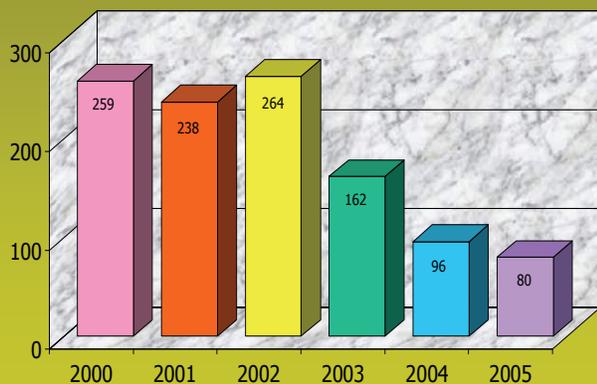


Average Monthly Caseload on JIPS 2000 - 2005

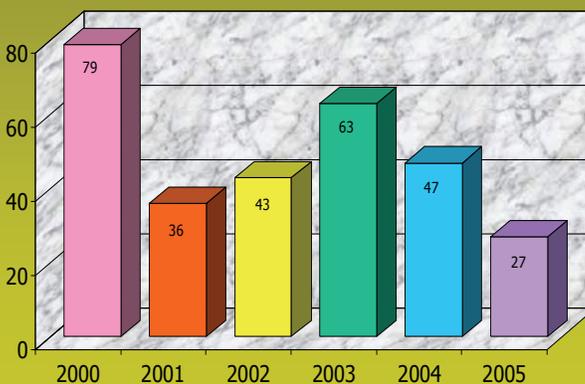
JIPS = Juvenile Intensive Probation



Youth Committed to ADJC 2000 - 2005



Youth Re-Committed to ADJC 2000 - 2005





Detention Division

The Detention Division in 2005 continued to deploy its part of the Court's philosophy of therapeutic engagement of youth for their skill development. The Division also has continued its work to improve the conditions of confinement as part of the Court Center's commitment to the Disproportionate Minority Confinement / Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (DMC/JDAI)

Step-Up Detention Mentoring Program: The Detention Division set a goal to have its skill development program implemented in all its general adolescent boys living units in addition to the program implemented in the girls living units. Through the efforts of many staff, this goal was achieved by the end of the year. The Division has identified several indicators that the program is having success. It is commonly known that positive working relationships are a key to help youth learn and develop. Youth surveyed reported that 78% thought their mentors were beneficial to them and that they have had to think about how their actions have affected others. Also 88% of the youth surveyed reported that they were encouraged by staff towards better behaviors, while 74% of the youth reported that the program helped them take accountability for their actions. The same percentage said they have been given valuable skills and information while they were in Detention that they could use when they left Detention. Despite Detention's structured environment and the loss of their usual freedoms, 66% of the youth surveyed reported that Detention has been a positive experience in their lives. The above feedback from the youth served in Detention is a clear indicator of the work Detention Staff have been doing to therapeutically engage youth and teach them new life skills. These outcomes are also indicators of improvements in the conditions of confinement in Detention.

Quality Improvement and Assurance Program Coordinator: In an ongoing effort to improve the processes, procedures, programs, and skills of staff in Detention, a Program Coordinator position has been assigned for quality improvement and assurance. The Division's identification, development, facilitation, and implementation of standards of quality will greatly be enhanced by this key position.

Medical and Mental Health Care: During 2005, University Physicians Healthcare (UPH) has been the medical and mental health services provider for Detention. The provider leadership and staff in the facility have worked excellently with Detention Staff and Administration beginning with their initial startup and throughout the year. Mental and medical health services for detained youth here have never been better here. The goal of the Court Center to continue its National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) accreditation is shared by the administrations of both UPH's and Detention. The Court's Detention facility is currently the only juvenile detention in Arizona to be accredited.

Restraint Reduction Initiative: For the past 2 years, Detention has been working to reduce the number of restraints required for acting out youth exhibiting aggression towards other youth, staff, or themselves. Detention staff have performed an excellent work in mentoring, teaching, and working with our youth. During 2005 restraint bed usage was reduced by 38% compared to the incidents occurring in 2004.

JDAI Self Inspection: In September of 2005, Court Center staff with the assistance of collateral agencies, and a parent and two former youth who had been confined in Detention conducted an inspection of Detention's conditions of confinement. The inspection results will provide Detention with quality improvement work in 2006.

Aurora Foundation Program (Gender Specific): Through this 12-week program, girls in the general girls living unit had a great opportunity to learn more about themselves as girls becoming young women and how they could have more healthy relationships through a twelve-week program.

Detention Officer of the Month and Appreciation of Staff: During 2005 detention leadership began exploring ways to recognize staff members for their above and beyond work. A Division Employee of the Month recognition was initiated. Detention leadership provides a Recognition Certificate and a small award for recognized staff.

Davis-Monthan Air Force Base (DMAFB) and Pima County Juvenile Court Center Mentoring Program: In August 2005, Detention and Probation staff joined with DMAFB leaders regarding a shared program of Air Force personnel mentoring troubled youth. The mentoring process begins while the youth is in Detention where their behavior is stabilized and they are recognizing how their life could be improved. At this time youth are very receptive and interested in having someone new come into his or her life and circumstances who could help them. Mentors are matched with youth who share a similar interest. Mentors and youth have their initial relationship visit in Detention. Mentors also work with their youth regarding their learning and practicing of their 5 Step-Up Life Skills in and out of Detention. When the youth leaves Detention, mentors and youth have weekly meetings in a variety of ways from participating in a shared interest to sharing a meal or just time together. Many youth have expressed sincere appreciation for their mentors saying that they have someone who is really interested in them who they can talk to and understand them. With mentoring a youth has more hope for a better life. By the end of the year, 70 youth had been matched with 45 DM troops.

Commitment of Detention Staff: The Detention Division staff have a great task of working with and developing skills in youth at one of the most troubled times of their lives. Staff have repeatedly risen to the challenge by renewing their commitment to care for our youth in the confined space of a detention facility by finding better programs and processes to help better our youth.

Looking Ahead to 2006: The keys to reach and teach our youth in Detention are our Staff having positive working relationships with youth and effective programs and processes to utilize in structured, caring, safe and secure, healthy, and learning environments. Detention's training will work to provide additional "how to do" trainings, Initial Juvenile Detention Officers Academies (40 hours)" that will help new staff's basic skill set and knowledge base and "Advance Academies" for more experienced staff. The JDAI Self Inspection and feedback from the Quarterly Youth Surveys will provide valuable information for continued self improvements as Detention continues to strive to improve its services for the youth and families we serve.



Children & Family Services Division

The growth of the Children & Family Services Division of the Juvenile Courts directly reflects the significant increases over the past 10 years in the number of dependency petitions filed (see graph). There are now over 40 Juvenile Court employees assigned to five units within the Division:

Dependency Unit

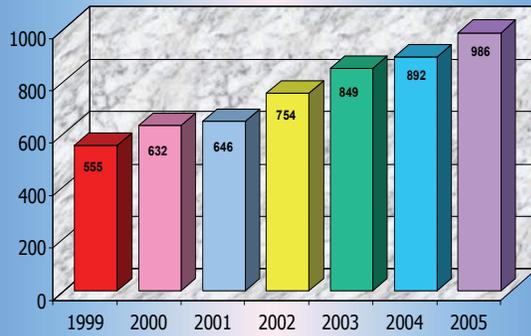
This unit is chiefly responsible for the Preliminary Protective Hearings, the first hearing in every dependency case, held just 5-7 days after children are removed from their homes. Dependency Intake Specialists respond to pages from Child Protective Services investigative case managers, set the hearings, assign attorneys for parents and children, and receive and distribute court reports. In Pre-Hearing Conferences, Dependency Facilitators meet with the families, CPS, attorneys and service providers before each Preliminary Protective Hearing to help the parties reach agreements on the placement of the children, plan for visitation, and services that will be put in place to help the parents reunify with their children. Dependency Data Specialists track extensive information about each Dependency case to ensure legal timelines are met, and to collect and report trends in dependency cases, demographics and other information that informs the Juvenile Court's efforts towards best practice. As 2005 ended, there were 1364 open dependency cases under Juvenile Court jurisdiction, involving 2408 children. A total of 986 dependency petitions were filed; Preliminary Protective Hearings were held within the legal timeframes on every case.

The Dependency Unit is closely involved with the Court Improvement Project, administered by the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Currently, Dependency and other Court staff are working with the AOC on a number of statewide initiatives, including an open-hearing pilot, managing severance jury trials, court procedures surrounding emancipation petitions and in-home intervention petitions, and the construction of a new data collection system, JOLTSaz.

Chris Swenson-Smith



Dependency Petitions 1999 - 2005



Source: Pima County Juvenile Court
Juvenile Online Tracking System (JOLTS)
June 19, 2006



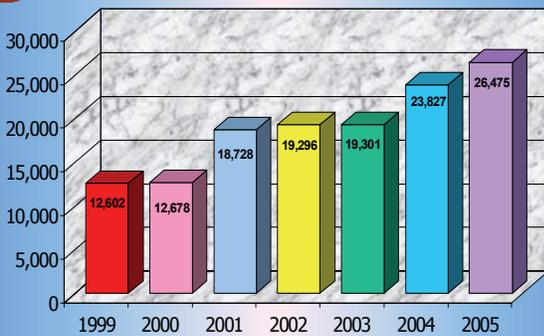
Dependency Petitions 1999 - 2005

↑83.0%

Source: Pima County Juvenile Court
Juvenile Online Tracking System (JOLTS)
June 19, 2006



Dependency Hearings 1999 - 2005



Source: Pima County Juvenile Court
Juvenile Online Tracking System (JOLTS)
June 19, 2006



Dependency Hearings 1999 - 2005

↑110.0%

Source: Pima County Juvenile Court
Juvenile Online Tracking System (JOLTS)
June 19, 2006



Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

The CASA Program's blueprint assists in the creation of a solid structure. The structure we create is a stable, successful future for dependent children in Pima County and the builders are our volunteers and community partners. Our energetic, dedicated staff consistently seeks creative means for achieving more results with fewer resources, increasing the use of technology to enhance productivity, and augmenting our volunteer base to help achieve our vision that *"Every child who needs a CASA has a CASA."* While the Arizona CASA Program provides operational funding and technical support, we also rely heavily on the CASA Support Council of Pima County (CSCPC) for its continued efforts in funding special needs for CASA children and reimbursement of volunteer-incurred expenses, as well as supporting volunteer recruitment and recognition efforts. This triad, a highly effective partnership between CSCPC, the Pima County CASA Program, and Arizona CASA, represents the solid foundation upon which additional components of the structure are built.

Our CASAs, a volunteer base of committed, concerned citizens, provide structure by partnering with biological parents and grandparents, foster and group homes, adoptive placements, schools, medical and mental health professionals, CPS, and our education consultants to advocate for dependent children and ensure delivery of appropriate services. CASAs establish relationships with their assigned children, interview all involved parties, and provide accurate, objective court reports to assist Judges in making informed decisions that reflect the best interests of the children for whom the CASAs advocate. Perhaps most importantly, CASAs remain with their cases until the dependency is dismissed and represent consistency and stability in a child's otherwise tumultuous life.

Aesthetics are achieved when CASA children attain permanency and receive what every child deserves: the opportunity to become a stable, educated, productive member of the community who possesses appropriate social, life, and decision-making skills.

The Gift of a CASA = The Success of a Child

“Mark” will age out of the system in June of 2006. If a child has been in the system long enough to “age out,” how is it possible to consider this a success story? It is possible because Mark received the gift of a CASA and his prospects are now equally as bright as those of any other eighteen-year-old, college-bound young man.

Mark’s family history provides the framework in which his story begins. Mark’s father was mentally ill, homeless, and previously incarcerated. His sister, five years his senior, was drug-involved and struggling for her own survival. Much of Mark’s young life was devoted to caring for his seriously ill mother. After his mother’s death, ten-year-old Mark entered the dependency system. Relatively quickly, guardianship was granted to Mark’s cousin; however, this placement was short-lived due to the cousin’s age and personal circumstances.

Mark re-entered the dependency system in 2002 at age 14 and was placed in a therapeutic group home. At this time, Mark was given the gift of a CASA, Vivian May, who began advocating for his best interests. Vivian’s first realization was that, although Mark was suffering from depression, a therapeutic group home was not the most appropriate placement for him and she facilitated his move to a family foster home. Mark’s school attendance had been intermittent and he was not receiving the necessary educational services, a situation also remedied through the efforts of his CASA. Further, due to a “lag” in the system, Mark had somehow become disenrolled from the Comprehensive Medical and Dental Program (CMDP) and had not been receiving appropriate health care services. Upon Vivian’s review of Mark’s medical records, she discovered that Mark was classified as morbidly obese, suffered from hypertension, and had diagnosed heart problems that had received no follow-up attention. Thus began Vivian’s relentless advocacy for Mark’s re-enrollment in CMDP and the provision of medical and mental health services.

From the time Vivian entered his life in 2002, Mark has been in 8 different placements, has had 5 case managers, and has had 2 attorneys. As noted by Vivian, Mark's "services were fragmented and he regressed with every change." Through Vivian's advocacy, Mark has progressed from special education classes to mainstream classes where he is a familiar name on the Honor Roll. After high school graduation this May, Mark intends to work toward his general education requirements at Pima Community College. Although he has considered majoring in education at UA, vocational and career testing results have identified Mark's numerous interests and abilities. Under Vivian's guidance, Mark will be investigating a variety of educational and career options before finalizing his decision.

Mark also meets regularly with his nutritionist and cardiologist. Through exercise and healthier lifestyle choices, he has lost over 30 pounds in 18 months. Additionally, Mark has gotten a job, begun a savings account, completed life skills classes, and is beginning the transition to independent living. Fortunately, Vivian's persistent advocacy has resulted in many of Mark's services being extended through age 21 to help him fully transition to independent living.

As Mark's CASA, Vivian says, "I have learned a valuable lesson: with the appropriate support and commitment over time, the resiliency of a child may exceed even the brightest expectations. A critical factor is the stability, predictability and consistency of a relationship with a significant other. Such a relationship can bring back trust for a child, so as to dare to engage once again with others. The CASA serves as a resource in basic and critical life areas including self-respect, personal growth, education, and relationship to others. As a CASA, I have had a variety of roles: cheerleader, teacher, mediator, critic, mentor, active listener, investigator, and guide."

Since September of 2002, Vivian has invested over 1,400 hours in advocating for Mark's best interest, a number estimated to surpass 1,700 hours by the time Mark ages out in June, yet she is modest about her involvement and insists that Mark's progress is due to his own ambition to succeed. Perhaps the most telling statement comes from Vivian herself when she states, "My relationship with [Mark] will continue after he ages out. We have both learned and grown together. He tells me that he feels grateful to have me in his life, but I know the blessing is mine."

2005 CASA Statistics

- 192 CASA's served on 227 cases advocating for 360 dependent children in Pima County
- As a group, they volunteered 24,532 hours
- Drove 195,754 miles
- Accrued 4,028 training hours

Pima County Juvenile Court offers its sincere and heartfelt appreciation to the CASA volunteers. Their efforts provide a respected voice for hundreds of at risk children in Pima County



Jury Trial Information

HB2024 was passed on December 18, 2003, allowing parents in dependency cases to request a jury trial if Child Protective Services files a motion to sever their parental rights. Jury severance trials are held at Superior Court. In 2005, Pima County Juvenile Court continued to experience a high number of jury trial requests as compared to other jurisdictions in the State. However, as the chart below illustrates, few cases actually proceeded to a jury trial.

In most cases, the severance matters were returned to the Juvenile Court for disposition in a bench hearing after parents failed to appear for a required hearing, relinquished their parental rights before the jury was impaneled, or rescinded their request for a jury trial.

HB2024 continues to strain the resources of the Juvenile Court, Office of Court Appointed Counsel, Department of Economic Security and other agencies involved in the Dependency process, even though most cases don't proceed to trial. Juvenile and Superior Court calendars must be juggled, hearings must be continued in other matters, and attorneys and case managers expend significant preparation time.



Jury Trial Statistics



Number of Trials completed	7
Number still pending	6
Severed	4
Not Severed	1
Relinquished during trial	1
Severed/Not severed	1

set of twins case assigned in Sept '04 /
decision in Jan. '05

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number Assigned</u>	<u>Jury Trials</u>
Jan	4	1
Feb	8	0
Mar	3	1
April	4	1 pending
May	7	1
June	7	0
July	5	1
Aug	5	0
Sept	9	1 + 1 pending
Oct	10	1 pending
Nov	10	1 + 2 pending
Dec	4	1 + 1 pending
<u>Total =</u>	<u>76</u>	



Model Dependency Court

Tucson was designated as a dependency "Model Court" site by the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges in October 1996. As such, a stakeholder collaborative meets regularly to set annual goals for the Court, to monitor the progress on each goal, to discuss system barriers, and to enhance the collaborative process through regular and open communication. The collaborative includes the Bench, contract attorneys, Child Protective Services, Community Partnership of Southern Arizona, the Attorney General's office, the Court Appointed Special Advocate program, the Foster Care Review Board, and many others.

The stakeholder collaborative, called the Model Dependency Court Working Committee, set three goals for 2005:

- ◆ Goal #1: Improve quantity and quality of visitation
- ◆ Goal #2: Retain Child Protective Services Staff
- ◆ Goal #3: Improve accessibility and quality of adult and child mental health and substance abuse services

Pima County Juvenile Court was honored to learn that Judge Stephen M. Rubin, our lead Model Court judge, had been named President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges for 2005-06. Many court staff traveled to Pittsburgh to attend Judge Rubin's swearing-in ceremony in July, 2005.

In the early fall of 2005, a team traveled to Park City, Utah, to the All-Sites meeting for Dependency Model Courts across the nation. There, we reported on the previous year's goals, and set new goals for 2005-2006. These included:

- ◆ Develop and implement cross-systems strategies for addressing the impact of methamphetamine abuse on children and families by July 1, 2006.
- ◆ Develop and implement strategies to achieve permanency for children in care more than two years by July 1, 2006.
- ◆ Involve parents, extended family and other community and natural support persons in the development, expedited implementation and ongoing monitoring of case plans for parents and children by July 1, 2006.



Family Drug Court (FDC) Statistics

Family Drug Court is a voluntary program for Child Protective Services clients who have substance abuse issues. The program lasts for at least eight months, and it provides extra support and accountability through intensive case management and frequent court hearings.

A total of 162 clients have joined FDC (including 48 in 2005). Forty-eight clients have graduated (including 26 in 2005). There have been 15 drug-free babies born to FDC clients (including 6 in 2005). Forty-six of our graduates (96%) have had their children returned to them. This has involved 83 children.

The Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW) of the University of Arizona has been conducting research on FDC. Outcomes have shown increased engagement in substance abuse treatment, decreased use of alcohol and drugs, increased enrollment in school or job-training, increased employment and increased stable housing after clients have joined FDC.





Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution

Mediation, facilitated settlement conferences, and facilitated case conferences are all ADR processes offered to our court-involved families. Calendar year 2005 showed a continuing trend in the increase of usage of ADR services. Indeed, we hired a second full-time court mediator in August to handle the increased demand for such services. The addition of this new position has not only increased the availability of services but has facilitated the setting of sessions in a timely manner. This second mediator was not fully trained and functioning at full capacity until October 2005, and yet the increase in ADR sessions from 2004 to 2005 was 50% (see chart below). While settlement rates are only one measure of the usefulness of an ADR program, the 2005 outcome data were reflective of the averages for prior years showing a 73% rate of agreement on all issues referred, 6% reaching a partial agreement, and 21% reaching no agreement on any issue.

Other statistics of note: 277 hours of contested dependency trial time were vacated when the issue of the dependency was resolved in facilitated settlement conferences; 93 hours of contested severance trial time were vacated as a result of facilitated case conferences or mediation, and 13 hours of contested guardianship were vacated as a result of mediation. Fifty-two percent of mediations sent to address change of custody matters resolve in a full agreement thereby reducing the need for contested custody matters to be handled in court.

**Chris Swenson-Smith, M.S.W.
Division Director
Children & Family Services**

Number of Cases Referred to Court-Based ADR

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
220	230	256	358	537



Adoptions/Guardianships

Families in the community can seek adoption services through the Pima County Juvenile Court Center. For related families, a sliding scale fee is assessed. Non-related families whose income exceeds \$50,000 must contract services through a private attorney or agency to process their adoption. Achieving permanency for children and families is our goal, and money should not be a barrier to accomplishing an adoption.

The most common adoption is a stepparent who wishes to adopt their spouse's children or relatives who want to adopt the children they have been caring for. Certifications for adoptions are also a service the Pima County Juvenile Court Center provides. Certifications allow for those wishing to adopt a child at some future point, to be ready for an adoptions process. Guardianship reviews and home studies are conducted on cases where the Pima County Juvenile Court desires to assess and review placement of children."

Statistics

	2002	2003	2004	2005
Adoptions	127	136	113	142
Certifications	11	17	10	9
Guardianships	26	36	35	30
Total	164	189	158	181



Key Community Partnerships 2005

The Pima County Juvenile Court Center could not help the children and families of this community without strong collaboration. Our sincere appreciation goes out to those governmental and community organizations whose partnerships are key to our success:

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Juvenile Justice Services & Dependent Children's Services	Arizona's Children Association (ACA)
Anne E. Casey Foundation (AECF)	Arizona Department of Education (ADOE) Pima County Public Schools
Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC)	Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission
Attorney General's Office	Ashford Disbrow, Inc.
AVIVA	Cactus Counseling Services
CAPE for Educational Services / Superintendent of Education, Pima County	Chicanos Por La Causa
Child & Family Resources	Child Protective Services (CPS)
Children's Action Alliance	Center for Juvenile Alternatives (CJA)
Centered Spirit Pascua Yaqui Tribe	CODAC
Community Food Bank	Community Justice Boards - in cooperation with Pima County Attorney's Office
Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA)	Compass
COPE	Community Partnership of Southern Arizona (CPSA)
Crime Reduction Task Force	First Correctional Medical
Governor's Division for Children	Governor's Community Policy Office
Graffiti Abatement Program in Tucson (GAPIT)	Habitat for Humanity
JDAI/DMC Executive Committee	La Frontera
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)	National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)
New Beginnings	Old Pueblo Community Foundation
The Partnership (formerly known as Pima Prevention Partnership)	Pima Community College
Pima County Administrator	Pima County Attorney's Office (PCAO)
Pima County Board of Supervisors (BOS)	Pima County Clerk of the Court
Pima County Facilities Management	Pima County Fleet Services
Pima County Juvenile Court Community Advisory Board (CAB)	Pima County Parks and Recreation Dept
Pima County Public Library	Pima County Sheriff's Office (PCSO)
Pima County Youth Opportunity (Project YO)	Pima Foundation for Youth
Primavera Foundation	Providence
Public Defender's Office	Superior Court Adult Probation
Superior Court Administrator's Office	SMART Programs - School, County Attorney, Law Enforcement, Probation collaborations
Substance Abuse Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA)	Sunnyside Unified School District
Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities (TASC)	Tucson Police Department (TPD)
Tucson Indian Center (TIC)	Tucson Metropolitan Ministries (TMM)
Tucson Urban League (TUL)	Tucson Unified School District (TUSD)
University of Arizona	University of Phoenix
Victim Offender Mediation Program (VOMP)	W. Haywood Burns Institute
World Care	Zuni Bike Club



Employee Recognition

The Pima County Juvenile Court Center (PCJCC) has a total of almost 600 employees who every day - and in so many ways - perform outstanding work on behalf of the community that we all serve. Without these daily and often unrecognized efforts, the PCJCC could not fulfill its function and community obligations to the same standards of excellence; a standard created by the employees of the PCJCC. Therefore, the employees listed below are representative of the exceptional PCJCC staff and were award recipients for the year 2005:

Marsha Bennett

Thom Watson

David Quan

Maureen Accurso

Louis Estrella

Darlene Abril

Brett Ames & Lisa Hage

Stacey Draves

Arizona Chief Probation Officers' Association (ACPOA)

The following PCJCC staff members were nominated for ACPOA statewide recognition

- ◆ **Line Officer of the Year - Keith Brunson**
Probation Training Officer, Probation Services
- ◆ **Employee of the Year - Steven Chang**
Senior Systems Analyst, ITSD
- ◆ **Detention Officer of the Year - Gale Greene**
Detention Services
- ◆ **Supervisor/Manager of the Year - Suzette Williams**
Detention Supervisor, Detention Services



Community Advisory Board

The purpose of the (CAB) is to enhance the effectiveness of the Court by communicating the community's needs, providing feedback on the effectiveness of programs and policies, and advocating on behalf of the court. This is accomplished by educating the community on the importance of prevention and intervention in addressing juvenile crime and by promoting the creation of community partnerships.

<p>Anna Burke Director of Youth Services Luz Southside Coalition</p>	<p>Frank Carmen, Retired Director Juvenile Justice Services Division Administrative Offices of the Court</p>
<p>Lt. Deanna Coultas Pima County Sheriff's Office</p>	<p>Richard Fimbres Governor's Office of Highway Safety</p>
<p>Elaine Flaherty Board President CASA Support Council for Pima County</p>	<p>Larry Haynes, Director, African American Studies Tucson Unified School District</p>
<p>Pete Hochuli, Supervising Attorney Pima County Attorney's Office</p>	<p>Judy Holgate Retired Deputy Director/Volunteer</p>
<p>Arnold Palacios Pima County One Stop Adult/Youth Services</p>	<p>Gayle Siegel Consultant</p>
<p>Esther Sharif Community Organizer/Activist</p>	<p>Clint Stinson Private Attorney</p>