

Pima County Juvenile Court
Communication Bulletin
August 2013



Program prepares kids for the working world

Pima County probation officer Jack Forrester is blunt with his kids. He straight out tells them their chances of becoming the next Jay Z or LeBron James are pretty slim. He doesn't end the discussion there though.

Forrester helps kids figure out what they want to be, what they need to get there and how to start down the right path.

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Check out these other stories in this month's bulletin:



School is always in session for those who work at the PCJCC.

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Families in recovery get a chance to dine, learn together in Celebrating Families program.

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Bet you didn't know the PCJCC is a place for children to show off their artistic talents.

Read more Page 2

Budding artists have a home in PCJCC's lobbies

Hanging out in a lobby waiting for your name to be called isn't any fun. Nor is looking at mass produced art lacking in imagination.

You don't have to worry about that at Pima County Juvenile Court because everywhere you look you will find art work created by children. Abstracts, landscapes, portraits – all can be found on the first and second floors of the courthouse.

Currently, the PCJCC has two art exhibits. The first exhibits works provided by Young Arts Arizona, a Phoenix-based non-profit organization that helps at-risk youth create and display art. The second exhibit is part of the annual River of Words contest, which is sponsored by the Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department and the Tucson Pima Arts Council.

Young Arts Arizona finds budding artists at schools, hospitals and detention centers, teaches them the basics and then displays their work at various locations in Tucson and Phoenix.

The work shown at the PCJCC is drawn by young people in Phoenix-area detention centers, said Judith Wolf, Young Arts Arizona president.

Young Arts Arizona wants to teach children there are positive ways to focus their energy, Wolf said. Showing the artwork is equally important, though.

"Knowing their work is going to be publically displayed in a professional manner makes them feel respected," Wolf said. "It really helps improve their self-esteem."

The River of Words' exhibit displays the winners of an annual contest sponsored by the county and the Tucson Pima Arts Council, said Wendy Burroughs, environmental education program coordinator.

Every year, students at 10 to 15 schools are taught how water moves through the landscape and how plants, animals and people are connected to water, Burroughs said.

Afterward, the kids are invited to share their observations by entering the River of Word's Youth Poetry and Art Contest along with other area children.

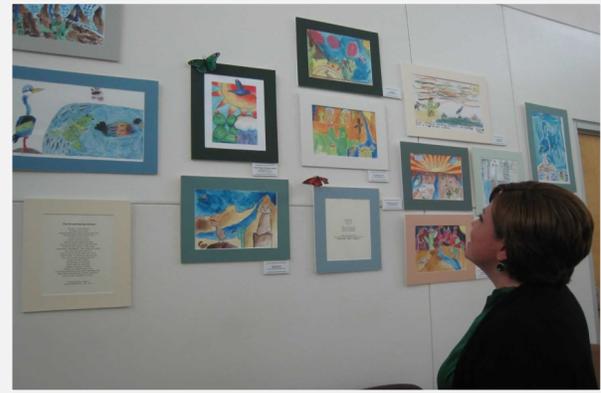
The top 50 works are exhibited on a rotating basis at the PCJCC, various libraries and community centers. Waterfalls, hummingbirds, coyotes, frogs and mountains abound.

This year, 1,000 kids entered the contest, Burroughs said.

Ray Wood, PCJCC facilities services manager, is always looking for young artists who would like to display their work.

He loves when new artwork arrives.

"They're done by kids," Wood said. "They show the innocence of the kids and I think it teaches us to step back and look back at our own innocence."



Roxana Matiella, juvenile justice services coordinator, checks out a new exhibit on the courthouse's second floor.

Parents get a chance to Celebrate Families in FDC program

When Sean and Larissa first entered Family Drug Court, their four children were sad and confused. They didn't understand why they couldn't live with their mommy and daddy.

Six months later and the kids aren't home yet, but they are much happier and they are sharing their feelings, something they never used to do.

Sean, 31, and Larissa, 28, credit FDC with the progress they've made, but point to one component of FDC in particular: Celebrating Families.

FDC was already a well-established program when program manager Anne Chamberlain heard about the Celebrating Families program at a national conference and just knew it needed to be implemented here.

On June 16, Pima County's version celebrated its third anniversary.

The program gives parents whose children have been removed from their home by CPS the opportunity to meet with their children an extra two hours a week for dinner and family activities, Chamberlain said.

"Many of the parents and children only know how to interact with each other when the parents are under the influence of some substance. Celebrating Families gives parents and their children opportunities to learn how to interact when the parents are sober, which can be a whole different dynamic than when substance abuse is involved," explained Family Drug Court Judge Susan Kettlewell. (Contd. Page 4)



Sean works with his three boys on a family activity, a key component of Family Drug Court's Celebrating Families program.

The children who participate must be at least 4 and their parents have to have been in recovery for 16 weeks.

The families are given rides to and from a Compass Healthcare location every Monday or Wednesday night. The families sit down and eat dinner together (the desserts are made by kids in our detention center's culinary program.)

The kids and their parents then go into separate areas to talk about various recovery-related topics before gathering back together for a group activity designed to build communication skills.



A mom and her daughter work on a project illustrating how families need to nurture themselves physically, psychologically, spiritually and socially.

about their feelings more now and they understand what we're doing to become better people and better as a family."

Their daughter is too young to participate, but their boys are thrilled to see them every Wednesday, Larissa said.

"They always say, 'Yay! We're going to do family activities!'" she said with a laugh.
(Contd. Page 5)

On a recent Wednesday night, four families discussed ways they could nurture themselves physically, psychologically, spiritually and socially. They then pasted pictures signifying those things on a big heart.

At first, Sean and Larissa were excited about Celebrating Families just because they were going to get to spend more time with their kids. They soon fell in love with the program because they found it taught the kids values and other important things.

"We're getting closer together," Larissa said.

"We used to play video games together and we'd go to the park once in a while, but we didn't really sit down together and talk," Sean explained. "The kids talk

When they graduate from Family Drug Court, Larissa said she is determined to continue doing the same sorts of family activities as those in Celebrating Families.

She hopes other parents will give Celebrating Families a chance.

“It does good things for you and your family,” Larissa said.

Judge Kettlewell wasn't surprised by Larissa's enthusiasm.

“Almost without exception the parents report that participating in Celebrating Families is a wonderful experience, and they recommend the program to other parents,” Kettlewell said.



There's more than one way to achieve a healthy heart.

By the Numbers:

- Ninety percent of people who graduate from Family Drug Court reunite with their children.
- Overall, 45 percent of all parents who start FDC graduate.
- Roughly 20 percent drop out because their dependency cases wrap up first or they develop scheduling conflicts. Of those who drop out voluntarily, 75 percent reunite with their children.

Family Drug Court

Vision Statement: All children will be raised in a nurturing and healthy environment with parents who are drug free.

Mission Statement: To break the cycle of child abuse and neglect due to parental substance abuse.

Family Drug Court is held each Wednesday at the PCJCC. Visitors are welcome. Please Call 243-2256 for more info.

Kids get a dose of reality in job readiness program

Pima County probation officer Jack Forrester is blunt with his kids. He straight out tells them their chances of becoming the next Jay Z or LeBron James are pretty slim. He doesn't end the discussion there though.

Forrester helps kids figure out what they want to be, what they need to get there and how to start down the right path.

After spending five years in the field, Forrester moved over to a new position created to help kids find jobs and the Employment Readiness Program was born as a result.

As the name suggests, the 3-year-old program helps kids learn the skills they need to find and secure jobs.

"Many of our kids have never had someone teach them the basics, how to fill out a job application, how to conduct themselves in an interview," Forrester said. "I really think employment pays a key role in rehabilitation and self-esteem. The program shows them they can do something besides be involved in criminal activity."

Several times a week, Forrester spends a couple of hours sitting down with a kid on probation to discuss the realities of life. He has each child take an online Department of Education test that identifies what careers best suit their personality. The Arizona Career Information System also tells the child what those careers require in terms of education, what they pay and the number of jobs available in that field.

Forrester also has the kids write down what kind of a lifestyle they hope to have when they've grown up. They're asked where they'd like to live, what kind of a car they'd like to have and what they anticipate spending on food and entertainment.

When the kids find out their expenses total \$75,000 a year and they'll only be making \$20,000 a year, Forrester said "It really gives them a wake-up call."

During the next phase Forrester talks to the kids about networking. He asks them to identify relatives, friends, teachers and other professionals in their (Contd. Page 7)



lives who might be able to give them job leads. He gets them to start thinking about where they might apply for work by asking them where they like to eat and shop.

The next step is helping the kids fill out applications, explaining to them that potential employers don't like to see applications filled in with pencils or those that have blank spaces and misspellings.



To get the point across, Forrester equates a job application to a text conversation with a potential date – no one is going to be overly impressed by sloppiness.

Lastly, Forrester helps kids prepare for job interviews. They discuss what to wear, how to act and interview techniques.

Once the kids start applying for jobs, Forrester requires them to keep a chart noting when the application was filled out, who the contact person is and the last time they spoke with the person. The charts help them know when to make follow-up

calls, but they also go over very well with judges, Forrester said.

Over the last two years, Forrester has had 500 kids come through the readiness program and more than 30 have ended up with full-time jobs. Others have gone on to participate in the two-year-old Employee Internship Program or helped them to realize the necessity of finishing high school and going to college.

Those hired for the internship program work 20 hours a week for three months at the juvenile court. They gain landscaping, custodial and warehouse experience; receive a certificate from the presiding judge and a letter of reference from Forrester and Ray Wood, PCJCC facilities services manager.

Wood loves the internship program, noting it has turned out several kids he would hire as full-time employees. Many of them exhibit an excellent work ethic, leadership skills and pride in a job well done.

The kids are treated as part-time employees and they thrive on that, Wood said.

“They like the comradery. They are working side-by-side with adults,” Wood said. “When they are having a problem, just like with any other employee, we teach them how to deal with it.”

The need for an education and job skills can't be overstated, Forrester said.

“I always tell the kids that if they were in the middle of Lake Powell, they would be taking everything out of their pockets so they can stay afloat and that they need to dump whatever it is in their life that is pulling them away from an education,” Forrester said.

Attorneys who represent children love kids and challenges

Little Jimmy is 6-years-old and a couple of days ago a policeman took his mommy away in a police car. His clothes were put in a duffel bag, he was driven far away and now he's sleeping in a strange house in a strange bed, he doesn't know what happened to his mommy or where his baby sister is. Lots of people keep asking him questions he doesn't understand and all he wants to do is cry.

Welcome to Edith Croxen's world.

Croxen is one of 12 attorneys who make up the Pima County Office of Children's Counsel. She and her colleagues are responsible for representing children who have been removed from their parents' homes because of abuse and neglect.

They are the ones who talk with the kids on their level, find out what they need and want, tell them what is feasible and represent them in court.

The attorneys meet with children within days of their removal. Despite their emotional state, the attorneys have to find out if their client feels safe where they've been placed, if they know of someone else who could take them in and whether or not they want to see their parents.

During subsequent meetings, the attorneys try to find out how the child is doing emotionally and physically, if someone is supporting and nurturing them, if they're sleeping and eating and how they're doing in school.

Whether the child is an infant, six like the fictional Jimmy, or 17, it's never an easy job, Croxen said.

How well they are able to articulate what went on in their homes and their feelings depends upon their age. The attorneys often have to figure out what's best despite the fact the littlest ones can't talk, the kids 6 to 11 can be easily swayed by others and often give inconsistent opinions and teenagers sound like they understand the system, but sometimes don't, Croxen said.

Most kids, no matter how much abuse they suffered, still love their parents and want to go home, Croxen said.

Sometimes, the attorneys believe that's in the child's best interest. Sometimes they don't. Croxen insists her attorneys tell the truth whether it's about reunification or anything else.

In one instance, she remembers an attorney having to tell a group of siblings their brother had died because of the abuse he suffered. No one had broken (Contd. Page 9)



Jillian Aja, an attorney with the Pima County Office of Children's Counsel.

the news to them yet.

One of Croxen's attorneys, Jillian Aja, said it's difficult talking about sexual abuse and other sensitive things with such young clients, but she has to. She agrees that being truthful is crucial.

"These kids have lived it and they know when you are lying and that can really affect your relationship with them," Aja said. "When a child trusts you, it's a privilege."

When OCC attorneys suspect a judge is going to let parents and children reunify against their recommendation, they ask CPS to make sure a safety plan is in place and they talk to the children about what to do if anything goes wrong, Croxen said.

On occasion there have even been cases when the Arizona Attorney General's Office and

Child Protective Services have opted not to file a dependency case and the Office of Court Appointed Counsel has substituted in as the petitioner, Croxen said.

That's just one more reason Croxen thinks it's crucial her attorneys become just as versed on the particulars of a case as the AG's Office.

When the county created the OCC in July 2010 and Croxen was chosen to head the office, she insisted her attorneys be allowed to attend annual conferences and other trainings on child abuse and neglect.

Every year, the attorneys hear

the foremost experts speak about such things as sexual abuse, traumatic brain injuries and how to tell the difference between accidental and non-accidental bone fractures.

If the AG's Office doesn't follow through on a petition, her attorneys simply steps in and calls their own witnesses, Croxen said.

On the flip side, there are also plenty of times when Croxen and her attorneys side with defense attorneys who want the judge to dismiss the case, she said.

At any one time, her attorneys have a caseload of about 160 cases, with roughly have of them being less than 12 months old, Croxen said. Those cases take up much more time simply because of the number of hearings involved.

Sadly, many of the older cases involve kids whose parents' rights have been severed, but who haven't yet been adopted, Croxen said.

Her oldest case is six years old, Croxen said.

Sometimes, Croxen said, her attorneys will fight against having a parent's rights severed if there's no adoptive family on the horizon. They just don't believe it's in a child's best interests to be a legal orphan.

While Aja said there have been times when she's gone home and cried over a client, she tries to focus on what she *can* do for the child and the times she gets to play with them.

"I love my job," Aja said. "It's why I went to law school."



Attorney Jillian Aja sits in a special section of the Office of Children's Counsel that has been set aside for their clients.

Classes keep court employees in the know

When people think about the Arizona Supreme Court, they probably think about justices overturning convictions and deciding the constitutionality of new laws.

They probably don't think about customer service.

What they don't realize is the Administrative Office of the Courts created what is now known as the Committee on Judicial Education and Training in 1983.

COJET helps the Arizona Supreme Court develop educational policies and standards. One policy requires court employees to attend 16 hours of training annually. New employees must attend one eight-hour session.

"Our goal is to provide cutting edge, relevant training," said Pima County Juvenile Court Administrator Stephen Rubin. "Any training we provide will enhance the service we provide to the community."

Rafaela de Loera, Pima County Courts' director of training and education, and her staff are responsible for finding topics and instructors that will fill COJET requirements.

Every year, roughly 400 classes are scheduled for the 1,200 people who work in Pima County Superior Court, Juvenile Court and the Justice Courts.

de Loera and company find the topics and instructors, but they must also schedule the classes around other things going on at Superior Court and the court's training center at Juvenile Court.

Many of the classes are job specific -- defensive tactics, testifying in court, performance management and motivational interviewing to name a few examples.

Other classes are available to everyone and are designed not only to educate people about the work going on around them, but to make them mindful of whom they are serving.

"CPS 101" is currently being offered as a class, as is "Mental Health First Aid." In months past, the courses included "What is a Dependency?" "Understanding Childhood Trauma 101" and "Traumatic Brain Injuries, Learning Disabilities and ADHD in Juvenile Delinquents."

At any one time, employees can also find classes on diversity, ethics, sexual harassment, gender bias, communications and mental health.

For example, in recent months employees have been watching a PBS series on the occupation of Wounded Knee. Another diversity class talks about the Underground Railroad.

Any classes pertaining to Civil Rights tend to fill up quickly, as do classes having to do with gangs, drugs and human trafficking, de Loera said.

June is a particularly crazy month at the training center, de Loera said. Every year the judges go to a three-day conference, giving employees more time to attend class.

Thirty-three classes were offered during this year's so called "June Jam" and de Loera's staff collected 1,093 signatures (with some people attending multiple classes.)



Rafaela de Loera

Teamwork results in successful JOLTSaz rollout

The folks at the Pima County Juvenile Court have a new way to keep track of kids who come through the system.

The Legacy Juvenile Online Tracking System was replaced by JOLTSaz/AGAVE on June 30 thanks to a huge collaborative effort between Pima County Juvenile Court, Superior Court, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Pima County Attorney's Office and the Pima County Clerk of the Court's Office.



The JOLTSaz team was comprised of folks from Juvenile Court, Superior Court, AOC, the Pima County Clerk of the Court's Office and the County Attorney's Office.

JOLTSaz/AGAVE is where everything about a child involved in the dependency or delinquency system is stored. Clerks, probation officers, Children & Family Services, detention officers, school staff and judicial staff all use JOLTSaz/AGAVE to enter or retrieve biographical information, probation reports, judicial decisions, financial assessments, case manager's reports, detention information, school records, and court dates.

As you might imagine, updating a 20-year-old system and transferring all of that data is quite an endeavor.

The IT staff worked "tirelessly" on the roll-out and she is enormously grateful to them, said Ro-

na Newton, director of PCJCC's Information Technology and Research division.

Court staff members spent countless hours helping design, test and implement the new system in addition to performing their normal, full-time duties, Newton said. They also helped train colleagues on the new system.

"We also couldn't have done it without the cooperation of the five agencies and the collaboration between them was phenomenal. It was as good a transition as I could have hoped for."

There are major benefits to the new system, Newton said.

The Juvenile and Superior Courts now share the same calendaring system, which is easier to use because it's more intuitive and it has better report capabilities. This will help when developing programs and applying for grants.

Judges are also able to log into the system from anywhere and electronically sign minute entries. The entries then go into the imaging system and can be e-mailed to the parties as early as the same day.

Odds & Ends

Did you know?

On July 25, 10 young ladies from all over Europe came to tour the court as part of Lions International's C. Kirby Smithe Youth Exchange program. The girls were 16 to 20-years-old and came to the U.S. from Finland, Turkey, France, Austria, Poland, Germany, Denmark, Belgium, Italy and Mongolia.

In addition to attending a delinquency hearing in Judge K.C. Stanford's courtroom and checking out the holding cells, the girls spent 90 minutes with the Judge learning about the U.S. Constitution and the juvenile criminal justice system.

FYI

Last year, PCJCC's interpreters provided services to Spanish-speaking clients during more than 2,200 hearings. English and Spanish aren't the only languages spoken here, however. Last year, interpreters were used during 230-plus hearings using a combined 19 languages. The other languages were, in order of frequency: American Sign Language, Somalian, French, Swahili, Jamaican, Kirundi, Russian, Ukrainian, Bosnian, Navajo, Quiche, Arabic, Vietnamese, Dinka, Croatian, May May, Nepalese, Romanian and Italian.

Quick Facts on 2013 Legislation & Budget:

- \$12.9 million added for 150 FCPS caseworkers and related staff.
- \$13 million added for shelters and group home placements.
- \$9 million added for child care for children in CPS system.
- \$1 million added to provide a \$75/month stipend for qualified grandparents who are raising their grandkids.
- SB 1208 waives tuition payments for former foster kids enrolled in college after available tuition assistance grants are applied.
- SB 1108 prohibits the licensing of foster homes from being based on whether the foster family's kids have been immunized.
- HB 2074 allows foster homes to be renewed every two years instead of every year. Also allows foster homes to exceed their occupancy level if a licensed child welfare agency agrees and if the child previously lived in the home, has a sibling in the home or has a kinship relationship with the foster family.



This month, the Bravo Team awarded two Gems, five U Roc and three team awards.

Elaine Felix from detention was given a Gem for helping out while C Central Shift was in between supervisors.

Ramona Panas from CASA received a Gem for holding a July 4th cook-out for staff.

Robyn Beale and **Shannon Kinne** from detention received a U Roc award for creating instructional manuals that helped with the JOLTSaz conversion and for working with IT on glitches.

Anizza Alvarez from Child and Family Services was presented a U Roc award for all of the help she provided during the JOLTSaz conversion. She worked on holidays and weekends to ensure a smooth conversion and to minimize any effects on court hearings.

Ramiro Alviar from Court Calendaring Services received a U Roc award for recognizing the need to translate the PCJCC's monthly community bulletin into Spanish and taking that task on in addition to his other duties.

Marisela Martinez received a U Roc award for voluntarily making sure the bulletin is widely distributed so that as many Spanish-speaking families as possible can read about our programs.

Gabriel Aguilera, Rebekah Sinkula, Stan Rome, Robert Perez, Shana Huber, Shayla Campos, Adesina Folu Oni and **Terrance Hopkins** from detention were given a Team award for pulling and re-sorting more than 850 files that needed to be re-labeled as part of the JOLTSaz conversion.

Teresa Lebel and **Jane Tapia** from detention were given a Team award for their work during the night of the JOLTSaz roll out. While working in Master Control, the pair gathered information for IT, created instructional sheets for staff and were able to get paperwork out correctly and in a timely manner.

Jacob Beltran, Carl Bignall, Steven Chang, Alejandra De La Torre, Gilbert Delgado, Michael Klinicki, Sandra MacDonald, Mark McConnell, Richard Myer, Kim Rainey, Martin Silvas, Michael Valverde, Mary Roberts, Sheldon Rong and **Bill Whited** from IT received a Team award for all of their hardwork in achieving the roll-out of JOLTSaz.

Voices

Since everyone at the PCJCC is here to help strengthen kids and families, it seems only appropriate that the kids in our Detention Center have a platform from which to speak. We'll be asking them questions periodically and printing some of their answers here.

What is your favorite program in detention and why?

We have group with this guy Al and he talks to us about the heart and soul medication skills. The reason why I guess I like it is probably because he is a really nice and kind hearted man and he hears you out if you have something to say — Alejandro

I like when we get to play basketball tournaments with other Pods and I also liked the Blues singer — Jose

I liked the career fair because I got to learn about different jobs — Lukas

My favorite program is when all of us get together with Dr. Lewis and talk about how we can stay sober when we leave here — Fernando

I like poetry because it helps me express myself — Jazmin

I like when we are able to watch movies that are related to drugs because it gives people a better idea of what the affects are and you don't get bored and you stay interested — Richard

One of my favorite programming was when the Zoo came. We got to touch the animals and learn about them. They taught some interesting facts about animals. — Desiree

I think the dog people that come in are pretty cool. We all have dogs and it's cool to see one in here — Esteban

I have not been in detention long enough to do a lot of programs but I enjoyed the vision boards. It helped me present my goals. Having a family is an important goal to me — Zachary

I thought the career fair was cool because it gave me an idea of what I want to do with my life — Aliyah

Milestones

Anthony Pernesiglio, judicial, 5 years

Brenda Gill, probation, 10 years

Chris Vogler, probation, 15 years

Don't forget to check us out on these social media sites:



By the numbers - YTD	June 2012	June 2013	% Change
Juvenile Justice			
Total complaints filed:	3883	3486	-10.2
Petitions filed	1585	1340	-15.5
Kids screened for detention	929	798	-14.1
Kids detained	529	361	-31.8
Average daily population	59	43	-27.5
Child Welfare			
Dependency petitions filed	825	803	-2.7

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For more information about the court, visit our website: <http://www.pcjcc.pima.gov/>

The Month in Pictures



This month we were honored to teach several visitors about the Pima County Juvenile Court and the many programs we have to help the families who come through our doors. Sangmi Park, Cham Jung, Youngho Ju & Seonwoong Kim (in pictures above) are students from Kookmin University in Seoul, South Korea. Below, Joel Odimba, Judge Hollis Hill & Teresa Koza of King County, Wash. spent two days with us to learn about how we are becoming trauma responsive. As an added bonus, Judge Hill met Sam, a therapy dog from Gabriel's Angels and his human, Cary Marmis.

