

Pima County Juvenile Court
Communication Bulletin
August 2014



Pima County continues to see decline in juvenile crime rate

In 1998, nearly 18,000 Pima County children were arrested and over 5,800 of them had formal charges filed against them. During that same year, Pima County Juvenile Court judges sent 315 children to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections. A significant decrease in crime rates nationally, philosophy shifts and the hard work of probation officers, detention officers and other child advocates has resulted in some major changes here in Pima County.

Check out amazing statistics on Page 18.



Inside This Month's Issue

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Cubicles a thing of the past for children awaiting placement

Take a minute and imagine a typical office. The cubicles, the ringing phones, the constant chatter, the beehive-like activity. Now throw in a crying baby, an active toddler and a bored teenager.

Up until recently, that last scenario was the reality for Department of Child Safety staff and the more than 25 children who are removed from their homes every week in Pima County. Case managers had no choice but to take children to their offices until new living arrangements could be made for them, be it relatives, foster parents or a group home.



Department of Child Safety executive staff assistant Andrea Birch shows off the nursery at the newly opened Madera Welcome Center.

Not happy with the situation, DCS Program Manager Pauline Machiche dreamed of a place where kids could relax and have all of their immediate needs met. On Aug. 7, her hope became a reality with the opening of the Madera Welcome Center.

When you walk into the 3,000 square foot center you find yourself in the main room with tons of toys, comfortable furniture, colorful murals and picture collages. Off to one side is a nursery, quiet room, laundry room and shower room. On the other side is a multiple-purpose room with a library, computers, TV and kitchen.

"The idea is that every child who is removed and is awaiting a placement will stay here. It might be for an hour, five hours or overnight," said Andrea Birch, Machiche's executive staff assistant. "It's not a shelter and it's not a group home. It's a waiting room."

(Contd. Page 3)

Children will no longer sleep in offices on blowup beds, overhear private conversations or be passed from adult after adult while their case manager follows up investigative leads, performs background checks and does site visits for prospective placements, Birch said.



"We are so excited about the center," Birch said. "This is one of the best things DCS can say has happened in the past few years. This is a positive step. We're listening to kids' hearts. We don't want to further traumatize kids and we're allowing our case managers to go out and do their work knowing the kids are safe."

Chris Swenson-Smith, division director for Pima County Juvenile Court's Children and Family Services, is thrilled to see the center up and running.



"Pima County Juvenile Court has committed to becoming a trauma-responsive court, and has long supported efforts to implement evidence-based practices that avoid re-traumatization of our court-involved children and families. The Madera Welcome Center aligns with this philosophy and will help children feel safer while they're transitioning to their

The Madera Welcome Center's main room (top) and multi-purpose room (below)

next home," Swenson-Smith said.

"As a former CPS investigator, I saw first-hand how children reacted to being separated from their families, and was always grateful when I was able to take them directly to a foster home where they were greeted with warmth and caring. Unfortunately, there were times I found myself feeding a baby in my office chair, or trying to find snacks for a sibling group while we waited. It's wonderful that children – and DCS workers – now have a much better option," Swenson-Smith said.

Comfort was a big consideration when creating the center. The furniture, which was designed by Arizona Correctional Industries, can fold out. Community partners, including, AVIVA, Gap Industries and Casey Family Services, donated household items and food to the center. Many of the nursery items were donated as well.

DCS is also excited because various behavioral health networks are expected to move on site by the end of the year, Birch said. The networks meet with the children to determine what services they are in need of. Having them on site will speed up that process.

Former probation officer helps kids deal with stress, anger

For years, Peter Lund hopped on his bike and made the trek to Pima County Juvenile Court to work with children and families in one capacity or another. He's been retired for years, but you can still find him here on Fridays.



Peter Lund offers encouragement to some of the teens who attended one of his yoga sessions recently.

Instead of having discussions about such things as restitution, community service and curfews, Lund talks about Tibetan tingshas, singing bowls and balance poses.

For the past five years, the former probation officer and Family Drug Court case manager has been teaching boys in the Pima County Detention Center yoga.

"I like it because I feel that I can empower my students," Lund said. "I can teach them something healthy, something they can do to relieve their stress in here or on the outside."

Lund, 70, became hooked on yoga 35 years ago. He has collected more than 100 books on the subject and although he teaches it, still considers himself a student.

"I had a lot of stress in my life back then and I just needed something," Lund recalled during a recent interview. "I took a few classes and I was hooked. It just relaxed me and made me feel more in balance."

During his one-hour detention center class, Lund mixes history and tradition in with the poses he teaches. He starts out with warming exercises before working them up to poses.

Yoga not only relieves stress and depression, but it helps people focus and get rid of their anger, Lund said. (Contd. Page 5)

“Many of the kids who come to my classes are hyperactive,” Lund said. “By the end of my class the kid who was fidgeting and wiggly, the kid who couldn’t stop moving isn’t moving at all. I’ll look over at staff and their eyes are huge. They’re amazed at the difference.”

Lund only has a few rules for the boys to follow. Rule Number One is that they respect their bodies by not hurting themselves. If something doesn’t feel comfortable or safe, don’t do it, he advises. Rule Number Two is that they respect one another. They must speak one at a time and they can’t laugh at each other.

His biggest hope is the kids will take with them what they’ve learned.

“Yoga can meet their needs and it’s not too expensive,” Lund said. “It’s something they can do on their own, with a friend or with a group.”

Kim Chumley, deputy director for Detention, said she loves having Lund come into the detention center because he shows the teens there are health substitutions for poor lifestyle choices.

“Peter has a lot of enthusiasm for life, learning and teaching,” Chumley said. “The youth enjoy Peter’s yoga classes and we are very grateful for his generosity and spirit!”



Many misconceptions exist about child welfare system

Whenever the media writes or airs a story about the child welfare system, viewers and readers take to the Comment Section to share their opinions. We thought we'd take this opportunity to share with you the truth behind some of the myths.

Myth No. 1 – Parents involved in the system choose drugs over their children

Truth: Most people addicted to drugs or alcohol have unresolved, underlying trauma issues and they began self-medicating. Those in the medical field consider drug and alcohol addiction an illness and like diabetes, it requires professional treatment. When a diabetic person eats a donut or fails to measure their blood sugar carefully, doctors continue to treat them in the hopes they will get back on the right track. When parents with substance abuse issues suffer setbacks, we can follow the medical model: help them get back on the right track. It is more correct to say an addiction can grow to the point it overwhelms the natural bonds of affection.



Judges are required, by law, to state within one year of a child's removal what the plan is for that child, whether it's reunification, adoption, a permanent guardianship or another permanent living arrangement. When the child is an infant or toddler, this decision must be made within six months of removal.

Myth No. 2 – Relapses are the main reason parents have their children removed a second time.

Truth – We don't know the main reason. Rather than speak about causation which is a complex question, it is more important to think of correlations. A sequence or a combination of factors can lead to reactivation. Relapse is one of several variables. For example, otherwise adequate parents find themselves unable to care for children who have emerging and serious medical or behavioral health needs. (Contd. Page 7)

Sometimes, children are removed because their mother or father has become involved in an abusive relationship and domestic violence charges have been filed. In some instances, families come to the attention of the child welfare system again after a child gets into trouble with the legal system as a teenager.



Before a judge will return children to their parents, they do their best to make sure the parents have completed their Department of Child Safety case plan and can show their children will be safe in the home.

Myth No. 3 – The child welfare system and the courts rush to reunite children with their parents.

Truth – On average, kids remain out of the home for almost a year before they are reunited with their parents. State and federal laws mandate that the courts must, within one year, determine and document where the child will live on a permanent basis. Reunification is fact intensive and case specific. It is a process more than a discrete event.

Myth No. 4 – Children are reunited with parents without considering whether the parents are ready to reunite.

Truth – Before judges decide whether parents can be reunited with their children, they must determine if the parents have substantially completed a case plan and if they can demonstrate the children will be safe in their care. Typically, parents must complete multiple assessments, including drug abuse and mental health assessments. Often, they are also required to undergo psychiatric and/or psychological evaluations. Parents

must also call a hotline every day to see if they must submit to a urinalysis test. If they don't make the call or if they don't test, there are consequences. Parents are required to attend between two and four substance abuse and/or mental health treatment sessions per week. Some parents must also attend domestic violence treatment or education classes. (Contd. Page 8)

Healthy relationships and support systems are monitored. All of these tests, sessions and classes are scheduled based upon the treatment providers' schedule and the parents' schedule. Lastly, the parents are expected to participate in court hearings, mediation sessions, Foster Care Review Board meetings, and, when applicable, Family Drug Court and criminal court hearings. Parents must also make sure they have safe housing and a stable, legal income. With return, the case is monitored typically an additional 90 days or more with the children in the home.



Myth No. 5 –

Children are always reunited with their parents

Truth – In Pima County, roughly half of children reunited with their parents. Of those who reunite, 15 percent will be re-removed in the following years. Some parents are unable or unwilling to complete their case plan or are unable to clearly demonstrate they

Not all children are reunited with their parents. In Pima County, only half of children are returned to their parents.

benefitted from the services provided and their children will be safe in their care.

Myth No. 6 – Babies are more likely to be removed and adopted.

Truth – While babies are more likely to be removed than older children because they are more vulnerable, they are just as likely to be reunited with their parents as older children. While judges have one year to decide on the permanent placement plan for older children, they must identify a permanent placement plan for infants and toddlers within six months of the child's removal.

Myth No. 7 – Parents who have had children removed are not represented by attorneys in court.

Truth – Parents are appointed attorneys and assessed fees based upon their financial situation. Children are also appointed attorneys. The issues and choices are serious and require competent legal advice to the members of the family.

New presiding judge plans to focus on families and staff

When Gov. Jan Brewer appointed Kathleen Quigley to the bench in October 2012, Judge Quigley had already spent nine years making decisions affecting families at Pima County Juvenile Court. She had been a hearing officer for six years and a commissioner for three.

There is no place she'd rather be.

"I have always enjoyed children and working with them, but I also really like working with the committed professionals here," Judge Quigley said. "The probation officers, the attorneys, the mediators, everyone here has committed to working with families. They see the heartaches that come with their jobs, but they also see the benefits."

Every day, Judge Quigley is amazed at the lengths the folks who work in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems go to to help families.

For instance, she knows of attorneys who regularly go to Phoenix to take their clients who are in foster care to the movies.

"The people we work with are the best," Judge Quigley said.

Judge Quigley became Pima County Juvenile Court's presiding judge July 1. She moved to Tucson at two-months-old. Her father and uncle were attorneys so it wasn't a surprise when she decided to follow in their footsteps. She received her undergraduate degree at Northern Arizona University and graduated from University of Arizona's College of Law in 1986.

She interned and clerked at the Pima County Attorney's Office before becoming a prosecutor. Judge Quigley job shared with Danelle Liwski at the county attorney's office and years later, when they both became juvenile hearing officers. Gov. Brewer appointed Judge Liwski to the bench in April 2011.

She found being a prosecutor fulfilling, but being a judge is more so, Judge Quigley said.

"As a prosecutor, I had an opportunity to make a difference in people's lives, but I was responding to things that had already happened. Here, I can help change people's lives in a way you don't see anywhere else," the mother of four said.

As for what people can expect over the next few years, Judge Quigley said she intends to stay the course set by the previous presiding judges but would also "like to spend a lot of my time focusing not only on the families, but on the people who work here," Judge Quigley said. "I'd like to find out what's important to them in their professional lives. I want to know their ideas and suggestions. I want to know how we can help them do their jobs better. The people who work here are so committed they need to be recognized. We need to honor their commitment and support them as they strive to improve their service to the families and children of Pima County."

"I just hope that when I leave, the court is in a better place," Judge Quigley said. "The court isn't defined by who leads it, but by those who work here and support it day in and day out. Without them, the court wouldn't be where it is."

Veteran probation supervisor recalls 30 years with court

August 1984. Ronald Reagan was president. Movie goers were shelling out \$2.50 to see Ghostbusters and The Karate Kid and a gallon of gas was \$1.10. Magnum P.I. and Hill Street Blues were among the shows to watch on TV.

August 1984 is also when Bill Bahrychuk joined Pima County Juvenile Court. The probation unit supervisor has seen a ton of changes over the years and as his September retirement date rapidly approaches he has been spending more time reminiscing.

Bahrychuk was working construction in the mines 30 years ago when a series of lay-offs got him thinking about a career change. The father of two boys saw an ad in the paper looking for probation officers and an old college roommate suggested he apply.

At that time, the court required probation officers have at least two years' experience working with kids, so he started out volunteering as a juvenile detention officer.

Eventually, he was hired on. He spent several months as a JDO and probation officer aide before being sworn in as a probation officer in 1986.

Back then, Bahrychuk said staff members took handwritten telephone messages, kept track of restitution payments on index cards and typed up reports using typewriters and carbon paper. There were only two judges and at one point, the detention center had 60 beds and 110 kids. Many of the kids were sleeping on mats on the gym floor.

The court may have computers, 14 judges and only 40 kids in detention nowadays, but there is one thing that hasn't changed – Bahrychuk's philosophy when it comes to helping kids find the right path.

"We can't do it for them, but we can give them the tools they need," Bahrychuk said.

From the get-go, Bahrychuk said he was always straight-forward with the kids on his caseload. He told them what he expected from them and what would happen if they didn't do what was required of them.

"I always said that the conditions of probation are what every other high school kid is doing, it's not hard," Bahrychuk said.

Over the years, some of the kids he supervised went to the Juvenile Department of Corrections or ended up in prison as adults, but Bahrychuk likes to focus on the success stories. (Contd. Page 13)



Bill Bahrychuk

“Seventy percent of the kids never come back,” Bahrychuk said. “They are arrested once and they learn from their mistakes.”

Bahrychuk has held many positions within the probation department. He spent years in the field, but he also spent time as an investigator, in the SAFE School Program and in diversion. He became a supervisor in 1999. He has served on numerous committees, including the one that brought the first computers to the court and the one that helped develop the risk assessment instrument now being used in detention. He is most proud of working with fellow probation supervisor Dave Stadle to create the Restitution Accountability and the Community Renewal and Enrichment through Work programs.

There were times over the years where he admits he got a little burned out, Bahrychuk said. Probation officers have to wear a lot of hats and often find themselves being pulled in many different directions at the same time.

“Probation officers need to be persistent and have the strength of their convictions,” Bahrychuk said.

Not only do probation officers monitor their kids, but they spend a lot of their time coaxing them and battling to get them services, Bahrychuk said.

The comradery of his fellow probation officers always saw him through the frustrating times though, he said.

There was always something new to intrigue him, too, Bahrychuk said.

“One of the best things about this job is that there’s always something new, every day,” Bahrychuk said. “You can be here 30 years and learn something new. You’ve got to be sharp to do this job. It’s a challenge.”

Bahrychuk’s last day is Sept. 12. After that he plans to spend more time with his family, which includes his wife, sons and three grandchildren. He also hopes to take in more NASCAR races.

John Jackson, Assistant Division Director for Probation, said Bahrychuk will be missed.

“I would like to express my gratitude for his 30 years of service and for his often dry, but pointed sense of humor. He always brought a unique perspective and was unwaveringly supportive of the probation division,” Jackson said.

John Schow, director of Juvenile Court Services and chief probation officer, said Bahrychuk has always been an important part of the probation team.

“With Bill’s retirement we will lose a valuable piece of institutional knowledge. I have relied on him for several years for his experience and wisdom,” Schow said. “Bill will be missed by all of those he mentored and supervised. He always had a reputation of taking care of his people.”

Odds & Ends

Milestones

Debra Bowton-Hughes, Children & Family Services, 5 years

Melissa Silva, Children & Family Services, 5 years

Georgette Stromenger, Probation, 15 years

Melissa Reiber, Probation, 15 years

William Bahrychuk, Probation, 30 years

**“If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion,”
Dalai Lama**

Detention Employee of the Month

Javier Martinez is an all-around “Team Player” who comes into work with a positive attitude and gets along with all his peers. Javier volunteers to complete tasks whenever he is available and has assisted across all teams by working overtime. Javier adheres to detention philosophy of therapeutic engagement by mentoring the youth and establishing positive rapport with them. Javier is self-motivated and works towards being knowledgeable in all areas in detention.

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



Upcoming Events

Sept. 1 — Labor Day

Sept. 11 — Kids at Hope

Sept. 18 — Arizona Chief Probation Officers' Association Banquet

Voices

Since the PCJCC is here to help strengthen kids and families, it seems only appropriate 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 unedited answers here.

Who is the most important person in your life and how have they influenced you?

The most important person is my older sister because she is always on me about doing the right thing. Whenever I get in trouble I use to not like that. I would get super mad about it but now that I'm in here about what I did I actually regret not listening to her. – Jonathan P.

The most important person in my life is me. My mom is very important to me, but she isn't a influence me any more. My dad isn't in the pic. No one really influences me. I'm too old for that. I influence myself to wanna do good most of the time. – Anthony A.

The person I look up to is my mom cause she positive always encourage. She always bringing me up. Always on my side. And encourage me to do better on every situation. – Francisco F.

My mom is a good influence on me because even thoe she didn't graduat high school she got a GED and became a doctor and buys whatever she wants. – Louie

My sister. They influence me by doing positive things that get them money and is not illegal and she always try to help me better my behavior. – Ricardo

The most important person in my life is my mom. Almost everything I know I learned from her. She teaches me a lot of values. – Joe C

Adam Sandler because he is funny and he makes alot of movies. He is my idle. He's really awesome. I would like to be like him someday. If not, I would at least like to be able to meet him. He is hilarious. When I'm older I would like to be an actor or comedian like Adam Sandler. -- Isaiah C.

My friend got me into DC Superhouers and told me what the sorngest one is it was Aquaman because he is the king of the sea and he has talepuathe so he can talk to sea anamil's so they could hlep him but on my side I thouth the Falsh was the sorngest because he punched villin's so fast it was as fast as linghting and he run's as fast linghting he is my favireate. – Austin S.

To me I have more than one so to start with, it would be my mom. Mostly because she has always gave me good advice. Like my mom is my best friend. I could tell her any thing from the smalist thing like I dislike someone to I killed someone JUST AN EXAMPLE!! My mother has never ever givin me any advice that would put me or my life at jeperty. And that is vary grate to know that my mother would never do that to me. – Natasha J.

Month in Photos

A dozen University of Arizona doctoral and Master's level students recently visited us to learn more about such things as trauma responsive courts, evidence based practices, alternatives to detention and disproportionate minority contact.

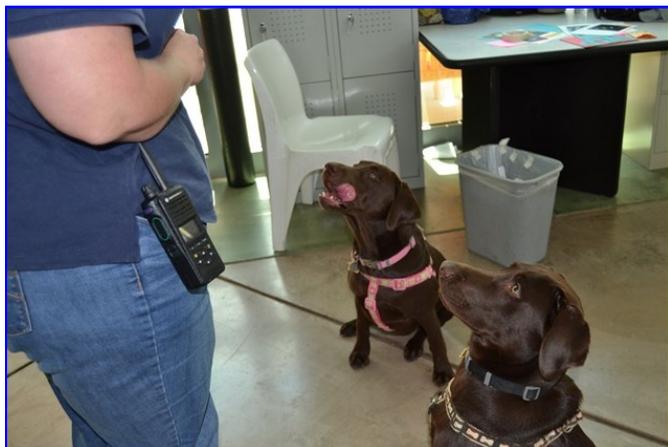


Judge Michael Butler and Judge Susan Kettlewell took some time out of their busy day to talk about their work with roughly 30 first-year University of Arizona law school students. The students also toured Detention.

Our latest group of CASA volunteers were sworn in Aug. 22 and boy, are we pleased to have them. There are more than 4,000 children living in foster care in Pima County right now and only 3% of them have a Court Appointed Special Advocate. Please call 724-2060 if you are interested in becoming "that someone."



Bring Your Pet to Work Day



Family Drug Court Graduations

On Aug. 20, Pima County Juvenile Court Judge Susan Kettlewell presided over the graduations of six Family Drug Court participants, which included two couples. Those couples, Larry & Silviya and Samantha & Paul, also had their open dependency cases closed, meaning their children are no longer wards of the state. Ninety percent of parents who graduate from Family Drug Court have their children returned to them. Less than half of other parents are reunited with their children.





During every Family Drug Court graduation, everyone who was part of the graduates' team, from family members to Recovery Support Specialists, Department of Child Safety case managers, behavioral health providers, fellow Drug Court participants and the judge have an opportunity to talk about how far the graduates have come. The graduates also have an opportunity to speak. Without fail, it's an emotional event as everyone remembers the way things used to be and how things are now that they are living a sober life and have been or are close to be reunited with their children.

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

By the Numbers	1998	2013	% Change
Juvenile Justice			
Referrals	17,938	8,519	-53
Petitions Filed	5,807	2,464	-58
Kids screened for Detention	5,609	1,394	-75
Kids Detained	2,715	671	-75
Kids sent to ADOJC	315	23	-93