

Model Court Working Committee
Minutes
Date: December 14, 2010

Call to order: 12:20 p.m.

Attendance: Rachael Long, Ramona Panas, Tamara Sargus, Rebecca Curtiss, Edith Croxen, Cheryl Russell, Lillian Downing, Carol Punske, Sandi MacDonald, Susan Parnell, Paul Guiffre, Sally Simmons, Karen Adam, Kim Rainey, Sandy Guizzetti, Anizza Scott, Jane Hedgpeth, Michelle Ellis, Jane Zache, Kelly Nguyen, Cathleen Fitzgerald, Christie Kroger, Jane Butler, Susana Samborsky, Chris Swenson-Smith, Rik Schmidt, Barbara Magee, Pat Canterbury

Announcements: Judge Adam opened the meeting with introductions, and a request that members state their “biggest surprise” of 2010. Judge Adam announced to the committee her appointment by Governor Brewer as a Judge of the Superior Court.

The general theme of members’ remarks was that despite furloughs, layoffs, and the struggle to continue providing the needed services to the community, most staff have kept a “chin up” attitude.

Family Drug Court is the recipient of two SAMSHA grants. This will allow the program to continue to help clients with much needed behavioral health services. We look forward to a continued progressive collaboration in the new year.

New Business: Dr. Michelle Ellis spoke about The Marana Health Center. This is the oldest community health center in the state and has been around for sixty years. The behavioral health services have been there for thirty years. There are at present fourteen locations in Tucson. Dr. Ellis handed out flyers and a brochure for the committee to see the growth of staff and the services open to adults and children (attached). They have subcontracted with CPSA since early 2000 and in March of 2010, the Center became a Community Service Provider (CSP) for adults and children. A service that recently started is the Integration Program. A social worker placed within the medical environment assists the primary doctor with behavioral health issues the client may be experiencing in addition to physical health issues. The time spent is from five minutes up to twenty minutes and is not considered a therapy session. This relieves the primary doctor from spending time in areas for which he/she is not trained. Dr. Ellis stated this is a meshing of services in which a behavioral health diagnosis is needed in addition to a medical one. The Integration Program is currently at four clinic locations in Tucson. A long awaited grant came through to build a new facility across from the main building in Marana. It will provide space for additional behavioral health services and will include medical treatment, yoga, and services which are conducive to the needs of Native American clients. Dr. Ellis also mentioned continued future expansion for the greater Tucson area.

Collaborator Reports:

- CPS - Lillian Downing – Nothing to report
- CPSA – Jane Hedgpeth – Nothing to report in addition to new business above. Judge Adam stated she is very grateful to have Jenifer Regan, Adult Services Specialist from CPSA, participate in the Family Drug Court staffings. When there is a problem getting a report or services, Jenifer takes care of it and gets results quickly.

Model Court Working Committee

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Date: December 14, 2010

- CASA – Ramona Panas – The State just finished their Advocacy Academy Training for new CASA volunteers, two of whom will be Pima County CASAs . Ramona had the opportunity to meet the new state trainer’ Molly Greiner. The State is getting closer to hiring a new Public Relations person and the new Director, Leticia V. D’Amore, is enjoying her new position. The other important item Ramona mentioned is that the referrals are progressing forward. They are still short one Coordinator but the excellent efforts made by all are keeping them focused on the work at hand.
- Dependency Unit – Paul Guiffre –November had a large number of petitions filed. The Dependency Unit’s staff is anticipating finishing off the year with close to 1014 petitions and is looking forward to the new year.
- Family Drug Court – Anne Chamberlin – A second women’s session was added to accommodate the increasing number of observers and participants. The FDC schedule is now 10:30am and 2:00pm sessions for the women and a 4:00pm session for the men. Clients are encouraged to come fifteen minutes before each session. Thanks to the SAMHSA grant awarded recently, one of the Case Specialists, Patricia Palomera’ will be the Child Case Specialist and will track the children’s behavioral health and family functioning progress, and participate inChild and Family Team meetings. Pima County Juvenile Court Center is one of 12 courts in the nation awarded the Children Affected by Methamphetamine grant.
- Mediation – Susan Parnell – It has been a busy year. Data is not available for committee at present. It is apparent that we are seeing good results in that cases are being set for Reunification at Risk sessions when reunification is still possible. Some cases are still being set too late and so there continues to be a need for clarification of the procedures. Courtroom hours are saved when agreements between clients are set in mediation. Richard Nuñez is the new Office Supervisor and his contributions to the administrative part of mediation have been a boost. This will eventually free up more time for the mediators to focus on conducting sessions.
- FCRB – Sandy Guizzetti – They are in the process of hiring a staff member as one of their own goes to Adult Probation. On a positive note, the Outreach recognition article coming out in January will be highlighting the long-term volunteers.
- Back to CPS – Christie Kroger – Christie had some data to share from the Child and Family Services Review National Standards Data. The government sets high goals for the agency to reach and they have been able to reach or surpass some of them in the areas of Adoptions but work continues in the areas of Permanency and Reunification and children who exit to permanency. The Department will continue to strive to reach or maintain these goals and make the needed changes for the benefit of the children they serve.

Current Goals:

- Engaging Fathers – Carol Punske – The work continues and Carol is enthusiastic about how the fathers are reacting to the program. The video mentioned at last meeting is still a work in progress and she hoping that it will be ready by March of 2011. This video includes interviews of a few fathers who are asked how their relationship with their

Model Court Working Committee

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Date: December 14, 2010

children changed their lives before, during, and after CPS involvement. Young fathers are at first intimidated by the predominantly-female professional staff and within time get comfortable in speaking up about their cases. At CFTs, the question is always asked, “where is the father?” by the caseworker so that their voices will be heard. Judge Adam is still collaborating with Family Law Court in tracking data about the fathers’ in their cases. It is also interesting to note that more and more fathers are getting sole custody of their children. She stated that there is a rule in Family Law that “it is not in the best interests of the child to attend court.” Juvenile Court differs in this. Judge Adam presented a father-based-services flyer for distribution throughout the system including the Family Law Bench, specifically the two child support divisions.

- Back to Basics, Permanency and Safety Issues – Chris Swenson-Smith – This committee has agreed to form a workgroup to address domestic violence in dependency cases. Rebecca Curtiss from the Office of Children’s Council, will head this workgroup and is looking for members to help her with this project.

Standing Committees and Continuing Goals:

- Courts Catalyzing Change – Judge Quigley, Chair; Anizza Scott and Kristie Kroger, Co-Chairs –
 - Native American Committee
 - Family Supports
 - Engaging Refugees
 - ✚ Hon. Sally Simmons mentioned here that Judge Quigley will be attending a State Meeting on 12/15/2010 and 12/16/2010 that the National Council has put together with Tribal Courts. She believes this will enhance the projects that the Native American workgroup is working on.
 - ✚ Courts Catalyzing Change will meet on January 10, 2010, and will have a report for Model Court on January 11, 2010.
- Education – Cathleen Fitzgerald – Cathleen handed out flyers for the Youth Career Day happening on Thursday, January 27, 2010, from 3:30pm to 6:20pm. Dr. Suzanne Miles, President of the Pima Community College Downtown Campus, and Judge Suzanna S. Cuneo from Pima County Juvenile Court Center, will be the speakers for the event. There will be inter-active games for the youth. The next Education Forum is on Thursday, January 13, 2010. This will contain a full program with Kelly Nugent speaking on CFTs in schools, the TUSD Learning Support Coordinators, a new position formed to improve assessment of At Risk Youth in the school system and Rik Schmidt, Juvenile Court Administrator, will speak on truancy.
- Passport to Adulthood – Judge Joan Wagener – No report.
- Calendaring and Case Processing – Judge Cuneo, Chair; Laurie SanAngelo, Co-Chair – No report.

Old Business: None.

Adjournment: 1:30 p.m.

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Next Meeting on January 11, 2011
12:15pm to 1:30pm
PCJCC Training Center

