

Model Court Working Committee
Minutes
Date: February 8, 2011

Call to order: 12:15pm

Attendance: Tamara Sargus, Ramona Panas, Carol Punske, Rachael Long, Patricia V. Peery, Lesley Bailey, Susana Samborsky, Pat Canterbury, Cathleen Fitzgerald, Lillian Downing, Vanessa Ponce-Maez, Karen Adam, Sally Simmons, Jane Butler, Veronica Granmo, Joellen Brown, Elaine Wilder, Anizza Scott, Anne Chamberlin, Terry Dalke, Kathleen Quigley, Nicole Stockett, Cheryl Russell, Sandy Guizzetti, Rik Schmidt, Michelle Nimmo, Kim Rainey, Edith Croxen, Haley Horton, Chris Swenson-Smith

Announcements: Judge Adam announced Judge Robert Brutinel's appointment to the Arizona Supreme Court by Governor Jan Brewer in November 2010. He is a NCJFCJ member and has served at the Yavapai County Superior Court since 1996 and was the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge there. He has been honored on behalf of his work with children and families and was the 2010 CASA Judge of the Year. Justice Brutinel will continue to chair the Court Improvement Advisory Committee.

New Business: Susan Parnell announced a new pilot, which will start in March 2011, once a month sessions, educating and licensing kinship caregivers and helping them become aware of resources available to them. This is a collaboration between CPS, Family Assistance Administration (DES), and KARE Family Center. The mediation unit at PJCCC will be referring clients. The flyer is attached for those who did not receive it.

Collaborator Reports:

- CPS- Lillian Downing discussed two areas of focus: Performance Measures concerning reunification within 12 months and Retention of Staff. In the first focus, an internal panel will be reviewing out of home care cases; over an eight to ten month period, to improve the percentage of children going to a permanent safe home. Regarding staff retention, a different panel will consider ways to provide support for new CPS Specialists in their first year of hire. This process will start in March 2011.
- CPSA – Haley Horton is in Jane Hedgpeth's place while she is on medical leave. Haley is now familiar with PCJCC and receives calls from staff on dependency and delinquency issues. . A matter of concern at this point is pending applications for AHCCCS are not being processed timely because of a major system update and this is mainly affecting dependency/delinquent cases with behavioral health issues.
- CASA – Ramona announced that CASA is fully staffed. The March for Children is coming up on April 1, 2011. People can access the web site through the main PCJCC site and click on March for Children or at this link: www.marchforchildren.webs.com. Nominations for the CAP awards can be made on-line, and agencies can register to have a table. A flyer will be emailed to staff. Judge Adam also announced that the NAMI walk, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, will be held on April 2, 2011. Dependency Unit – Anizza stated petitions for February have surpassed the month of January.
- Family Drug Court – Anne was happy to announce a new position in Family Drug Court: Alumni Coordinator. This person will be mentoring graduates of FDC and help clients to continue working on their goals after drug court is done. Judge Adam stated the quarterly

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Family Drug Court Stakeholders meeting held on January 27, 2011 at the PCJCC training center was well attended by various children's providers. Members were informed of goals FDC will be attaining under the SAMHSA grant. Patricia Palomera has transitioned from an adult FDC Case Specialist to a Child Case Specialist. She will be an active member in CFTs in dependency cases to monitor children while parents are involved in FDC.

- Mediation – Susan distributed mediation usage reports. Data from 2007 to 2010 show an increase in referrals. Facilitated Conferences have begun to address more custody matters. Facilitated Conferences continue to save courtroom hours, and Reunification at Risk sessions have increased.
- FCRB – Sandy updated committee on the Program Specialist vacancy, which will be filled on February 23, 2011. Next board member training is on March 13, 2011. Eight to twelve new volunteers joined FCRB, but there are still vacancies to fill. A recruitment project is under way to highlight long-term commitment by volunteers.

Current Goals:

- Engaging Fathers – Judge Adam mentioned an article she had written for the National Council Magazine to Kim Smith from the Arizona Daily Star on family law and the work on Engaging Fathers at PJCCC. This prompted Kim to write a positive article on a father who had success in gaining custody of his children. This sub-committee was looking at having a training for attorneys on the expanding opportunities for engaging fathers when the State Bar of AZ invited Judge Adam to present this live in Tucson and webcast throughout the state. This training is on May 24, 2011 at the training center at PCJCC. Carol Punske stated a video has been in the works – three fathers with their children who agreed to be interviewed. Once video is completed early April, it will be an asset for fathers and attorneys.
- Back to Basics, Permanency/Safety Issues – Chris stated this sub-committee is tracking data and setting goals to ensure the safety of children while under court jurisdiction and ensuring basic data is available and accurate. A collaboration of data between CPS and the courts is needed. Judge Adams added that at the Judicial Conference one of the sessions which will be presented by Judge Len Edwards and Justice Brutinel will be “Barriers to Permanency.”

Standing Committees and Continuing Goals:

- Courts Catalyzing Change – Judge Quigley
 - ❖ Native American Committee- Updates: *There will be ICWA training on April 12, in Scottsdale, AZ for CPS workers, CASAs, AGs, attorneys, tribal attorneys, Judges, and other stakeholders. *On April 8, 2011, sub-committee will visit Gila River Judges. *Judge Simmons was invited to attend an ICWA

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Conference in Alaska to discuss state courts and tribal courts working together. However, Judge Quigley will go on her behalf.* Judge Quigley was invited by Judge Thorn to attend a Tribal Leadership Council in Phoenix recently. She enjoyed meeting everyone and it was quite a learning experience. This was part of the National Council, Model Court.* State Bar Indian Council Section will be doing their own ICWA training this summer. *This sub-committee has been contemplating other avenues to reduce the number of children in care. There are families who are licensed ICWA compliant but are not Native American. ICWA is willing to place ICWA children with these families as guardians, not adoptive parents or a long-term placement. Children still need to be integrated in their culture. Information is sent out to these families so they can take the Native American child to these events.

- ❖ Family Supports – Judge Quigley will meet with Chris on status
- ❖ Engaging Refugees – No report

- Education – Cathleen announced Career Day at Pima Community College was a great success. One hundred and thirty students attended, much more than expected. Flyers were sent to many providers, to Open Inn and Sycamore Canyon. CPS sent out notices to group homes about event. Suzanna S. Miles, President of Pima Community College agreed to have event there next year. Education Forum had to be re-scheduled to March 31, 2011. Four speakers are scheduled to speak: a CPSA representative, TUSD Learning Support Coordinators, Kelly Nguyen on CFT's and Rik Schmidt, PCJCC Court Director, on Truancy.
- Passport to Adulthood – Judge Quigley explained this is an informal process done after a dependency review, trial or another time. She takes her robe off and sits with the youth along with caseworkers. Youth then feel they are part of the process and can be open. These informal meetings take place twice a year for about an hour.
- Case Management – Judge Cuneo, Laurie San Angelo – Co-Chairs – Susan Parnell stated sub-committee would meet on February 10, 2011 to re-group and discuss severance trial blocks and what barriers there are to using these. The shelter care hearings will start on February 9, 2011, held on Wednesdays at 8:30 am.

Old Business:

Adjournment: 1:25 pm

Next Meeting on March 8, 2011
12:15pm to 1:30pm
PCJCC Training Center

