

Model Court Working Committee

Minutes

Date: March 8, 2011

Call to order: 12:15pm

Attendance: Ramona Panas, Sandra L. Leon, Rachael Long, Rik Schmidt, Jesus Diaz, Yesenia Campos, Andrea Dabdoub, Anne Chamberlin, Cathleen Fitzgerald, Roxana Matiella, Jane Butler, Michelle Nimmo, Sara S. Wisdom, Sandy Guizzetti, Lillian Downing, Edith Croxen, Sue Cuneo, Kathleen Quigley, Karen Adam, Sally Simmons, Joanne Karolzak, Lesley Bailey, Rick Nunez, Terry Dalke, Haley Horton, Elaine Wilder, Toni Marongelli, Sandi MacDonald, Paul Guiffre, Susana Samborsky, Francie Julien-Chin, Anizza Scott, Chris Swenson-Smith, Susan Parnell

Announcements:

- Judge Simmons reminded committee of next meeting's cancelation due to many stakeholders attending the ICWA conference in Phoenix. Next meeting date is at the end of the minutes.
- Judge Adam will be the next Juvenile Court Presiding Judge after Judge Simmons leaves sometime in May 2011.
- The Model Court Co-Lead Judges will be Judge Adam and Judge Quigley.
- Commissioner Susan Kettlewell has started hearing cases and Commissioner Geoff Ferlan will begin hearing cases in May .
- On April 4th Judge Christopher Staring will join the Juvenile Court Bench, transferring from Civil Court..
- Due to the number of crossover youth (dually involved in delinquency and dependency cases) Deputy Court Administrator, Jesus Diaz has asked Juvenile Detention Alternatives Coordinator, Roxana Matiella, to learn the dependency side of the court and how this affects youth. The detention report Judges receive daily now lists the number of cross-over youth. Judge Adam reminded committee of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk on April 2, 2011 to start at TEP Park at 9:00am. Web site is www.nami.org

New Business: Susan Parnell announced the Foster Care Licensing Training at the KARE center is in a pilot phase. This information session is for relative providers who are considering becoming licensed foster home providers. Families who are interested need to register with the KARE center. (See attachment)

Collaborator Reports:

- CPS – Lillian Downing - - The percent of children who are going home is improving. January report showed an increase from December. There are formal changes in notifying the courts of the change of placement of the children. The caseworker will notify the Information Placement Specialist of the change of service authorization who will then notify the CPS Court Liaison, Elaine Wilder. Elaine Wilder has been instrumental in getting the 515 hearings (review of children in shelter placement) started again and the

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process is working. Lastly, Lillian stated CPS has a new State Director, Clarence H. Carter.

CPSA – Haley Horton - - The full-time position held by Jane Hedgpeth cannot be filled at this time. Haley will continue working with the Probation/Dependency units as part time. The Behavioral Network Liaisons working at the Juvenile Court will have their duties increased to offset the load and the youth will not have to wait unnecessarily to get services. Haley will be meeting with the Behavioral Network Liaisons once a month to get updates.

- CASA – Ramona Panas - - The CASA program is getting ready for the two representatives coming from AOC on March 14, 2011 to review CASA files as part of the Operational Review. Ramona and Anizza spoke on March for Children event coming up on Friday April 1, 2011. Flyers have been sent out and information is available on the March for Children website: www.marchforchildren.webs.com
Nominations are needed for resilient families, businesses and foster families.
- Dependency Unit – Paul Guiffre - - There are two site visits in March: Judge Colleen McNally from Maricopa will visit on March 15, 2011 to observe the dependency process and meet with Cathleen Fitzgerald, Educational Consultant. Nine guests from the Gila River Tribe Model Court will come on March 16, 2011 to observe Family Drug Court and be look at our dependency process. AOC is coming down on March 14, 2011 for the Operational Review, reviewing 130 dependency legal files and observing some 200 cases over the next two weeks. Dependency Petitions are down seven percent to date in 2011. (Attachments)
- Family Drug Court –Anne Chamberlin - - Anne introduced new employees to Model Court: Andrea Dabdoub, Support Specialist and Yesenia Campos, Recovery Support Specialist. Interviews are under way for another position in FDC, Alumni Coordinator. Rob Shelley from the Arizona Administrative Office of the Courts will be here to observe the process of FDC on March 16, 2011. - - Mediation –Susan Parnell introduced Richard Nunez, the new Office Supervisor for the Mediation Support Staff. He has been a great asset to the program and relieves the mediators of certain cases that have agreements already in place, and making needed adjustments to orders. Rick is working with the three Mediators make their workloads equitable. Susan reminded the committee that the Reunification at Risk sessions can be helpful in addressing barriers in a timely manner.
- FCRB –Sandy Guizzetti - -Sandy announced FCRB is fully staffed. New Volunteer Orientation Starts on Monday, March 14, 2011. There is still a twenty-five percent volunteer vacancy rate in Pima County. Two volunteers have been with FCRB for thirty years. Sandy stated she would work with the Mediation Unit on the Reunification at Risk cases.. Sandy expressed her appreciation to the Judges in Pima County for reading the reports from FCRB.

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Current Goals:

- Engaging Fathers –Judge Adam - - May 24, 2011 is the date scheduled for a webinar statewide discussing Engaging Fathers and early in dependency cases. The State Bar of Arizona is presenting this and including brochures, materials, and refreshments. Anyone interested in attending can contact Judge Adam by email. People can attend in person or register on computer. - - Lillian Downing added that Carol Punske has been asked to lead a workshop on the topic Engaging Fathers for CPS Supervisors across the state.
- Back to Basics –Chris Swenson-Smith - - Sandy Guizzetti has agreed to join the sub-committee; FCRB does a great job of collecting and sharing. This sub-committee is concentrating first on collection of the vital data and reporting Safety and Permanency outcomes accurately. Once this is accomplished, we will use the data to promote system change as needed. Lillian Downing, Andy Weller, and Kim Rainey are working on an Ad hoc report through the state regarding child abuse or neglect, which occurs while a child is under court jurisdiction.

Standing Committees and Continuing Goals:

- Courts Catalyzing Change –
 - ❖ Native American Committee - Judge Quigley spoke on the ICWA seminar coming up on April 12, 2011, in Phoenix. The majority of the Model Court stakeholders will be there.
 - ❖ Family Supports - This workgroup was considered to be brought to a successful conclusion, but Judge Quigley stated it may be reinstated because the procedures are not being implemented with every case as thought. Family Supports involves family and kinship become more involved with the life of the child.
 - ❖ Engaging Refugees – This sub-committee is on the back burner for now.
- Education –Cathleen Fitzgerald - - Cathleen reminded committee of Education Forum is coming up on March 31, 2011. The four speakers scheduled will address at Risk Youth and students being assessed fairly.—Judge Simmons and AG Jane Butler spoke on the “Green Case,” which was taken to the Supreme Court concerning children and youth being interviewed at school by a CPS caseworker without the parents’ permission. The Justices were focusing on neglect and/or abuse and not on the caseworker.
- Passport to Adulthood – No report

- Calendaring and Case Processing –Judge Cuneo - - . The pilot to set severance trials in the designated blocks has not been strictly followed. A two fold proposal was agreed upon: 1) Bench would be encouraged to honor blocks set for that purpose and 2) Set blocks for a thirty day period each time. Other items discussed were to look back on one year of having these blocks, check data, and check if court’s time is used in a worthwhile

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manner. Anizza Scott, Toni Marongelli, and Kim Rainey will take on this project. At the Bench and Bar Meeting, the issue of Calendaring crossover youth was addressed. Each side, delinquency and dependency, should communicate with each other as soon as the child or youth crosses over onto their cases.

Old Business: None

Adjournment: 1:15pm

Next Meeting on **May 10, 2011**

12:15pm to 1:30pm

PCJCC Training Center

