

Model Court Working Committee  
Minutes  
Date May 10, 2011

Call to order: 12:12pm

Attendance:

Rick Nunez, Jesus Diaz, Rik Schmidt, Susan Parnell, Toni Marongelli, Connie Beck, Elaine Wilder, Susana Samborsky, Sandi MacDonald, Veronica Granmo, Sandra L. Leon, Anizza Scott, Joan Wagener, Pat Canterbury, Roxana Matiella, Chris Swenson-Smith, Sally Simmons, Joellen Brown, Ramona Panas, Cheryl Russell, Christie Kroger, Carol Punske, Francie Julien-Chinn, Dean Coates, Kim Rainey, Dolores Lawrie-Higgins, Linda Koral, Paul Guiffre, Edith Croxen, Beverly Tobiason, Cathleen Fitzgerald, Jane Butler, Kathleen Quigley, Karen Adam, Sahar Gipson, Terry Dalke, Anne Chamberlin, Michelle Nimmo

Announcements:

- The Honorable Sally Simmons will be the Presiding Judge at Superior Court downtown starting May 16, 2011. The Honorable Karen Adam will be the Presiding Judge at the Juvenile Court starting May 16, 2011.

New Business:

- President of the CASA Support Council Dolores Lawrie-Higgins and Linda Koral, Vice President of Education for the Support Council, announced a Tutoring Program that started in September of 2010 available for CASA-assigned children, grades K to 12. They looked into the tutoring programs available in Arizona and two programs were chosen. CASAs fill out a form retrieved from the website of the Support Council. The children receive individual academic tutoring there is no charge to the parents and/or guardians.
- Dr. Beckman, U of A Professor, has been asked to work with Model Court and share her expertise on Family Law and Child Welfare as they relate to Domestic Violence.

Collaborator Reports:

- CPS – Lillian Downing - - Graphs were handed out showing percentages of permanency and reunification cases in Pima County and Statewide. Carol Punske stated the Team Decision Making process was suspended in January until June 20, 2011. In the meantime, CPS staff will receive training on new TDM protocols, and the TDM Facilitators are helping with investigations.
- CPSA – Haley Horton - - Haley was not present. Chris reported Haley had sent a tip sheet by email to users at PCJCC on accessing Behavioral Health services at court. She is now stationed on the second floor, but is available to anyone who has questions. At the next meeting, she will provide information on potential budget cuts at CPSA and updates.
- CASA – Ramona Panas - - Pascua-Yaqui Tribe invited State CASA office to meet with their attorneys, social services program manager, and court administrator to discuss possible CASA program on the reservation. The Pascua-Yaqui Tribe is in the process of writing a grant. Gila River Tribe is also in the beginning stages for a CASA program. - - A vacancy was filled and CASA is now fully staffed. - -The quarterly training forum for the CASAs is on May 11, 2011, with Judge Wagener discussing Passport to Adulthood.

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- Dependency Unit – Paul Guiffre - - Paul reported dependency petitions were down fourteen percent for the month of April. but there were already 23 petitions for May through the 6<sup>th</sup>. Last page of the graph handed out shows breakdown of dependency petitions reactivated. - -A group from Missoula, Montana are coming on May 23 and 24, 2011 for a site visit and are interested in the "What is a Dependency?" class, PHC's, and early mediation. Judge Cuneo, Terry Dalke, and Eileen Pales are going to Billings, Montana on May 31 through June 2, 2011 and will discuss PHC's, mediation, and engaging attorneys in the dependency cases.
- Family Drug Court – Anne Chamberlin - -A comprehensive recovery plan was developed, to assist clients in later stages of Family Drug Court. More information will be given next meeting. -- A home visit is now done before an intake with potential FDC clients to inform them of process with FDC. ---Judge Adam stated Reunification day and Ten-year anniversary for FDC will be combined on June 13, 2011 and will be held at the PCJCC Training Center from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. The National Reunification Day is June 16, 2011 but courts are encouraged to celebrate this between Mother's Day and Father's Day this year. Also, two guests from Children and Family Futures, the agency that provides training & technical assistance for FDC's SAMHSA grant, will be at the Reunification Day on June 13, 2011. It is hoped that the guest speaker will address "Men in Recovery." Mediation – Susan Parnell - -Reunification at Risk sessions are increasing. Susan will have an MSW Intern next academic year to help examine minute entries on cases where reunification at risk was participated in. Adoption & Guardianship training at the K.A.R.E Center has been beneficial to families in learning the differences in the process. - - Susan participated in three pilot sessions on foster care licensing for kinship placements at the KARE center and in conjunction with the licensing agencies. . The families involved were encouraged and want this to continue. One barrier to home studies has been getting families fingerprinted in a timely manner. The pilot sessions included fingerprinting on site.
- FCRB – Sandy Guizzetti – No report

### Current Goals:

- Engaging Fathers - -Judge Adam and a panel of eight will be presenting a webinar on engaging fathers for the State Bar. They'll use a scenario of a typical case involving an actual family. This will help explain the process of engaging fathers in dependency cases. This will take place on May 24, 2011. - -Carol Punske added there is a Father friendly brochure for the case workers to hand out to fathers involved in dependency cases.
- Back to Basics - -Chris stated good progress has been made discussing Safety and Permanency Measures. Sub Committee has been divided into work groups and will start meeting quarterly due to data taking time to collect. Domestic Violence is also being addressed as one of the work groups Rebecca Curtis, Office of Children's Counsel, is chairing this workgroup, and stated there will be a symposium, "Connecting the Dots, Domestic Violence – Child Welfare: One State, One System" presented by AOC on September 9, 2011 at ASU's downtown campus in Phoenix. Next meeting date for Sub-Committee is August 10, 2011, conference room 1, at 12:15pm.

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Standing Committees and Continuing Goals:

- Courts Catalyzing Change
  - ❖ Native American sub-committee – Judge Quigley: Progress is ongoing.
  - ❖ Family Supports – Chris: Monies are available for a training.
  - ❖ Engaging Refugees – Terry Dalke: Organizational Meeting was held on May 4, 2011. Next meeting will be held on May 27, 2011 at 1:00 pm to begin discussing issues. A Refugee has been identified and may be willing to participate in sub-committee. Issues needed to be addressed are: what is considered proper and improper view of discipline, neglect, and domestic violence in the United States. Women will need to be educated in English. Judge Adam added that Sandi MacDonald(IT) generates daily data on youth detained and CPS involved. Sandi agreed to include these youth in a more detailed weekly reports. This will help CCC to see data by race, ethnicity, and where and what kind of offenses took place.
  - ❖ African American sub-committee – Paul Guiffre: Held meetings on April 8, and 29, 2011, and members of the sub-committee have been reviewing legal files in the Clerk’s Office.
  
- Education – Cathleen – TUSD is offering free summer high school for the month of June for neglected youth. Most Charter schools will offer this free or for a low cost. At the middle schools, TUSD is offering tutoring for the delinquent youth.
- Passport to Adulthood – Judge Wagener – This was in the pilot phase last year and received feedback in October 2010. Workgroups will make suggestions or adjustments. Next meeting is May 16, 2011 at the PCJCC training center. Judge Wagener mentioned a youth was recognized in the community as an outstanding student leader. She had been in foster care, but had solid placements and skilled CPS workers who aided her success. She is involved in community programs and has mentored youth in their homes. The youth has plans to go to college to major in Psychology.
- Calendaring and Case Processing – Susan Parnell – The pilot to calendar trial blocks has not worked because it hasn’t been consistently calendared in all courtrooms. The sub-committee is working to improve this.

Old Business: None.

Adjournment: 1:15pm

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Next Meeting on June 14, 2011  
12:15pm to 1:30pm  
PCJCC Training Center

