

Model Court Working Committee  
Minutes  
Date June 14, 2011

Call to order: 12:10pm

Attendance: Haley Horton, Rik Schmidt, Jesus Diaz, Rick Nunez, Bob Heslinga, Leslie Schaefer, Michelle Rios, Sandi MacDonald, Toni Marongelli, Kim Rainey, Leslie Bailey, Rachael Long, Ramona Panas, Sandy Guizzetti, Kim Chumley, Jane Butler, Cathleen Fitzgerald, Karen Adam, Kathleen Quigley, Susan Parnell, Susana Samborsky, Chris Swenson-Smith, Paul Guiffre, Joanne Karolzak, Francie Julien-Chinn, Sahar Gipson, Sandra Rowen, Lillian Downing, Barbara Magee, Elaine Wilder, Joan Wagener, Anizza Scott, Beverly Tobiason, Pat Canterbury, Edith Croxen.

Announcements: Hon. Karen Adam warmly thanked AVIVA for their volunteer services during the National Reunification Day and 10-year Anniversary Family Drug Court Event.

There will be no July meeting of the Model Court Working Committee.

New Business: AVIVA Children's Services – Ongoing Parental Support

Bob Heslinga introduced two of his staff, Leslie Schaefer, Peer Support Group Facilitator, and Michelle Rios, Volunteer Coordinator. AVIVA opened its new location on April 15, 2011. On February 22, 2011, the agency launched an ongoing parental support groups for parents in any stage of reunification with their children. This has been 15 months in the making and provides a safe environment for parents. Members are slowly starting to open up and share their feelings and have begun advocating for others to join the groups. There is one session for fathers (6 so far) and one for mothers (6 so far as well), and childcare is free for those who have had their children returned. Parents formerly involved in CPS cases are welcome to join the group as well, and two fathers have been hired as part-time facilitators. Bob thanked CPS for their collaboration on this project.

Collaborator Reports:

- CPS – Lillian Downing - - The Team Decision Making meetings will resume on June 20, 2011. The majority of the field staff has been trained on the TDM protocol.. Additional Facilitator positions have been funded. Another positive note is a second Program Improvement Specialist position has also been funded. Twenty-six new case managers are in core training, and CPS is again using “floaters,” CPS case managers who are not assigned to a specific unit.
- CPSA – Haley Horton - - Haley reported that CPSA expects a significant budget reduction. All Comprehensive Service Providers will see a 10% cut in budget, as will all other providers. Some “direct” services will be cut, including parenting classes, although the individual CSPs can contract out for these services. One level two group home (Intermountain) will close. Desert Hope Detox facility will be moving from the location of Dodge Blvd. to Ajo Way near the Public Defender's and County Attorney's building

# Model Court Working Committee

## Minutes

Date June 14, 2011

and will be opening on July 1, 2011. On August 15, 2011, the Crisis Response Center will be opening.

- CASA – Ramona Panas - - CASA State Office has posted the position for a trainer. Support Council awarded monies for CASA recruitment. For the first time in three years, Ramona has to submit a budget. Funds will no longer be awarded routinely as in the past.
- DEPENDENCY UNIT - Paul Guiffre - - The month of June has seen an increase in petitions being filed and will soon surpass last year's filings. Hon. John Larson and staff came to Tucson from Missoula, Montana for a site visit. They were primarily interested in Mediation and other alternative dispute resolution approaches in dependency cases. A small group from PCJCC went to Billings, Montana to explain the mediation process and issues with attorneys in dependency cases. Hand out shows a rise in reactivated cases (from 10% to 21%) and disrupted adoptions from (from 15% to 26%).
  
- FAMILY DRUG COURT - Anne Chamberlin - - Judge Adam announced there will be a record number of parents graduating on June 15, 2011: nine total, including three couples. The men's session time slot changed to 3:30pm from 4:00pm, to accommodate those who wish to participate in the "Celebrating Families" program at Compass on Wednesday evenings.
- MEDIATION – Susan Parnell - -Nothing new to report. Pat Peery and Terry Dalke went to the Annual Convention of the State Bar of Arizona at the Westin La Paloma in Tucson, AZ, June 15, 16, & 17. Susan requested that the FCRB ensure their reports are disclosed to the Mediation Unit when there is a recommendation for a Reunification at Risk session.
- FCRB –Sandy Guizzetti - - It has been difficult to maintain coverage – and to recruit volunteer board members - because of unplanned absences. Word is getting out through church newsletters and other means. Sandy will check on why mediation is not getting the FCRB reports.

### Current Goals:

- ✓ Engaging Fathers – Judge Adam thanked those on the juvenile justice side for their presence at MCWC as many dependency issues overlap with juvenile justice; this will strengthen collaboration with both sides.
- ✓ Back to Basics, Safety and Permanency Issues – Chris Swenson-Smith stated the court and CPS are making headway on data collection around safety factors.. Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law will host a seminar on the issue of Domestic Violence on September 9, 2011.

### Standing Committees and Continuing Goals:

Courts Catalyzing Change –

- ✓ Native American Committee – Lillian stated that based on the number of ICWA cases, there are plans to establish an ICWA Case Manager in each of the main CPS "field sections," There will also be a position opening for an ICWA Specialist at CPS.

Model Court Working Committee  
Minutes  
Date June 14, 2011

- ✓ Engaging Refugees – Judge Quigley was pleased to announce Terry Dalke, PCJCC Mediator, took this sub-committee and has recruited workgroup members. African American Committee – No report

Education –

- ✓ Cathleen Fitzgerald Announced that TUSD has reported three times as many court-involved children are attending summer school this year as in years past.

Passport to Adulthood –

- ✓ Judge Wagener is in the process of modifying the checklist she has been using. There is a section in the current plan not working. The next step will be an implementation plan.

Calendaring and Case Processing –

- ✓ Susan Parnell stated there would be a meeting on June 15, 2011.

Old Business:

- Judge Adam met with Isaias Noguez-Tinoco of the Mexican Consulate. He is very committed in working with the courts, CPS staff and families who want to adopt children born in Mexico, or are trying to find family members in Mexico. Judge Adam spoke with Gina Jackson of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. The National Council lost 2.3 million dollars in federal funding; juvenile justice will see the greatest impact.

Adjournment: 1:05pm

Next Meeting on **August 9, 2011**  
12:15pm to 1:30pm  
PCJCC Training Center

