

Model Court Working Committee
Minutes
Date August 9, 2011

Call to order: 12:15pm

Attendance:

Cheryl Russell, Christie Kroger, Susana Samborsky, Elaine Wilder, Karen Adam, Kathleen Quigley, Jane Butler, Chris Staring, Ramona Panas, Rachael Long, Tamara Sargus, Sandi MacDonald, Beverly Tobiason, Anizza Scott, Sahar Gipson, Rebecca Manoleas, Joan Wagener, Sue Brandt, Francie Julien-Chin, Rick Nunez, Haley Horton, Lillian Downing, Kim Rainey, Toni Marongelli, John A. Gauger, Sue Cuneo, Carol Punske, June Willson, Terry Dalke, Anne Chamberlin, Stacey Brady, Chris Swenson-Smith, Julie Treinen.

Announcements:

- ✓ Hon. Karen Adam announced the sad news of Shirley Dobbin passing on August 8, 2011. Shirley was very active with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and involved with Pima County's Model Court from its inception.
- ✓ Hon. Karen Adam announced the appointment of Jane Butler as a new Hearing Officer/Judge Pro Tem.
- ✓ Judge Staring was warmly welcomed to the Model Court Working Committee. He is chair for the Infants and Toddlers workgroup getting underway.
- ✓ Chris Swenson-Smith announced three new additions to the Children and Family Services Division: Rebecca Manoleas, Assistant Director; Sue Brandt, Dependency Specialist; and John Gauger, Data Entry Specialist.

New Business: None

Collaborator Reports:

- ✚ CPS: Lillian reported that Pima County will have the new position of Deputy Program Manager. When filled, this position will oversee field APM's. Christie explained the handout Child and Family Services Review National Standards. Measures for reunification have not quite reached the federal standard. Measures for re-entries are higher than should be. The Timeliness of Adoptions standard was achieved as was the Youth in Care 24-months standard. Julie Treinen, the new Director at the KARE Center who collaborates with CPS, stated that families who need services do not always know how to communicate this so that placements can benefit. One such service is perishable food items. A representative from the Food Bank will be at the KARE Center to help those in need. Cheryl Russell added there is a full staff now at PALS (Placement Assessment Liaison and Support) Unit.
- ✚ CPSA: Haley reported on CPSA's continuing collaboration with juvenile justice and dependency side of the court to provide an efficient way for psychological evaluations, assessments and medication compliance to be disclosed to the court. Both Judges and Probations will be included in this new disclosure process. One significant change to the disclosure of the Monthly CPS Reports will go directly to the judges. Haley also reported that the MH Liaisons have better understanding of the dependency since their training and stand ready to be utilized in dependency cases. Haley appreciates any feedback regarding the liaisons or the system. Another big change to CPSA is the freeze to

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AHCCS enrollments. Funding to CPSA is based on a capitation rate; therefore, if enrollments to AHCCS are lower, funding will be significantly lower as well. Despite all budget cuts, all networks will be required to continue providing all services as outlined in the DBHS Covered Services Guide.

- ✦ CASA: Ramona reported that Pima County has one fewer CASA coordinator because of a state budget cut. Eleven new CASAs are to attend the Advocacy Academy this month. On a sad note, two CASAs passed away recently; Nancy Gruhl and Mimi Murphy.
- ✦ DEPENDENCY UNIT: Anizza stated there were 87 petitions last month and out of those 15 percent were re-activated cases. There is growing concern of the 30 reactivated cases since March of this year 12 are disrupted adoptions.
- ✦ FAMILY DRUG COURT: Anne commented that FDC is doing well. One change taking place is the Case Specialists will be attending the facilitated settlement conferences instead of the Preliminary Protective Hearings to educate parents on FDC and the services available to them. The National Drug Court Conference that took place in July in Washington, DC revealed that FDCs are being established nationwide and that more courts are active in evidence-based interventions to help stabilize families. Thirteen percent of US counties have an FDC.
- ✦ MEDIATION: Susan reported that Reunification at Risk case conferences are up and facilitated settlement cases is steady. During Facilitated Case Conferences, all parties work to get issues resolved in a timely fashion. Data sheet was handed out.
- ✦ FCRB: Sandy Guizetti was not able to attend but communicated to Judge Adam that Foster Care Review Board received 50 requests for applicants to fill vacancies on the Pima boards.

Current Goals:

- ✦ Engaging Fathers: Judge Adam stated there would be a mandatory training for the Contract Attorneys on Family Law protocols. This brown bag training will be held on October 5, 2011 at the Juvenile Court Training Center. Judge Adam added the National Council started a multi-court collaboration in which Pima County Juvenile Court is a model. Chris and Judge Adam will present a workshop on engaging fathers in Family Drug Court at the National Conference on Substance Abuse, Child Welfare and the Courts, to be held in Maryland on September 14 to the 16.
- ✦ Back to Basics, Permanency and Safety Issues: Chris reported that the sub-committee did not meet in July in order to have time for data reports and will meet on Wednesday, 8/13/11. The Domestic Violence workgroup met and will reconvene after the State Domestic Violence Seminar in Tempe on 9/9/11.

Standing Committees and Continuing Goals:

- ✦ Courts Catalyzing Change
 - Native American Committee: Judge Quigley reported sub-committee would meet next week.
 - Family Supports: Judge Quigley and Lillian commented on issues arising from the language used on the temporary custody paperwork with CPS-placed children after a TDM and before a Preliminary Hearing is held to give families more latitude in

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- temporary custody cases. Lillian added the Attorney General's Office in Phoenix is working on adjusting language on the temporary orders.
- Engaging Refugees: Terry stated this workgroup is meeting with refugee service providers to provide education regarding the juvenile court system. The workgroup is also working on collecting data. Terry is working with Jesus Diaz, Deputy Court Director, to have links on the Court web site on this subject. La Frontera is organizing a brown bag to spread awareness and date is yet to be decided. Eighteen hundred new refugees are expected to come to Tucson in October from Sudan, Iraq, and Butan.
 - African American Workgroup: No report.
- ✚ Education: Hand-out to committee; McKinney-Vento Act and Child Welfare sheet. Carol reported that the Department of Education in Arizona recently informed the Homeless Education Liaisons that children in foster care are not considered homeless and therefore transportation services for these children to their neighborhood schools would cease. CPS and the Homeless Liaisons are working closely to help children have the services and stability needed for the remainder of the school year.
 - ✚ Passport to Adulthood: Judge Wagener commented that the sub-committee took July off and will be meeting on August 24, 2011. Anizza is currently working on updating the Passport and Judge Wagener in analyzing data of youth involved over the age of 15 years of age.
 - ✚ Calendaring and Case Processing: Judge Cuneo stated there was no need for protocols for Severance Trials and the scheduling of Permanency Trials would be done at the Preliminary Hearings for children 3 years of age and under.

Old Business: No Report.

Adjournment: 1:30pm

Next Meeting on September 13, 2011
12:15pm to 1:30pm
PCJCC Training Center

