

**MODEL COURT WORKING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DATE NOVEMBER 8, 2011**

Call to order: 12:15pm

Attendance:

Julie Treinen, Brenda Flynn, Mary Anne Nelson, Dr. Beverly Tobiason, Toni Marongelli, John A. Gauger, Sara Wisdom, Kin Rainey, Edith Croxen, Bob Heslinga, Chris Swenson-Smith, Susana Samborsky, Jane Butler, Karen Adam, Catherine Woods, Connie Beck, Wendy Million, Joanne M. Karolzak, Rebecca Manoleas, Tiffany Huffman-Spears, Jesus Diaz, Rik Schmidt, Sue Brandt, Cary Steele Williams, Tamara Sargus Sahar Gipson, Pat Canterbury, Roxana Matiella, Lillian Downing Chris Mautner, Margueta Bledsoe, Cathleen Linn, Carol Punske, Joellen Brown Joan Wagener, Sandy Guizzetti, Kathleen Quigley, Michelle Nimmo, Anne Chamberlin, Laurie B. SanAngelo, Sharon Acevedo, Geri Yrigolla, Stephen Rubin, Lisa Abrams, Wayne Yehling, Kevin D. White, Anna C. Young, Craig Raymond.

Announcements:

Judge Adam welcomed Judge Catherine Woods to the Juvenile bench. She is currently in a dependency overview training along with five other judges: Lisa Abrams and Wayne Yehling from Superior Court; Kevin D. White Presiding Judge Juvenile Court, Pinal County; Craig Raymond Pinal County Superior Court; and Anna C. Young from Yavapai Superior Court. Judge Rubin is teaching the dependency overview training.

Collaborator Reports:

CPS

Lillian Downing announced that Francie Julie-Chin has been hired as her Deputy Director. She will be supervising the five "field" APMs starting December 1, 2011. Although Case Managers have been hired, vacancies continue to increase.

CPSA

Haley Horton reported that there has been an increased amount of requests from attorneys for judges to order a specific behavioral health service or level of care for their clients. Unfortunately, because all behavioral health services in the system are funded by Medicaid dollars, all services must medically necessary. A judge cannot certify medical necessity.

Haley is working with Sue Brandt in the dependency unit on a brown bag for February/March of 2012 on issues regarding children from birth to four-years old.

CASA

No Update at this time.

DEPENDENCY UNIT

Sue Brandt announced the following brown bags: ICE/Locate Parents, 11/9/11; Engaging Fathers by Conrad Lindo; 12/7/11, and An Overview of the Indian Child Welfare Act, 12/14/11.

The dependency unit continues to monitor and research all disrupted adoptions. From February to November of 2011, there have been 32 cases with 53 children involved.

FAMILY DRUG COURT

Anne Chamberlin appreciated the judges who filled in for Judge Adam the past month.

MEDIATION – Rebecca Manoleas reported that mediation continues to be well utilized. The Committee received handout that outlines the updated activity. Reunification at Risk sessions continue to increase.

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FCRB

Sandy reported all review boards have five members. FCRB will be closing one Pima board. The numbers in Pinal County are up and a board will be opening there.

Sandy attended a summit that addressed linking faith communities to promote licensing and foster care. It is hoped this will reduce the number of children awaiting adoptions.

Current Goals:

Domestic Violence

Judge Adam announced chairs for this sub-committee: Judge Adam, Brenda Flynn, and Lillian Downing. Discussion was opened up to group as to possible topics to pursue. It was suggested at this sub-committee address issues for perpetrators and victims. It was encouraged to have an inter-court relationship since DV will involve more than one court system and consistent documentation with stakeholders. The Stakeholders had many suggestions for topics and chairs for this sub-committee will choose which topics to pursue for this year's model court goal.

Back to Basics, Permanency and Safety Issues

Chris reported work group would meet on November 29, 2011 to wrap up data, move to permanency and address Timeliness and Due Process.

Standing Committees and Continuing Goals:

Courts Catalyzing Change

There is no report for the Native American Committee. Judge Quigley commented there is an ICWA conference in April.

Engaging Refugees meeting was canceled this month.

African American Committee is making progress.

Education

Cathleen reported that the next Career Day is at the Downtown Campus of Pima Community College on February 7, 2012. Next Education Forum is January 19, 2012, 11:30am to 1:30pm.

Calendaring and Case Processing

No update

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Old Business

Judge Adam reported that Adoption Day was held on November 5, 2011 at Udall Park. There were approximately 100 adoptions. The Sibling Picnic was also recently held and 53 children participated.

Adjournment: 1:10pm

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

