

**MODEL COURT WORKING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DATE DECEMBER 13, 2011**

Call to order: 12:15pm

Attendance:

Gus Aragon, Ramona Panas, Rebecca Manoleas, Tiffany Huffman-Spears, Karen Adam, Kathleen Quigley, June Willson, Carol Punske, Jane Butler, Terry Dalke, Elaine Wilder, Cheryl Russell, Rik Schmidt, Pat Beauchamp, John Gauger, Sandra Rohen, Joellen Brown, Chris Mautner, Sue Brandt, Pat Canterbury, Roxana Matiella, Anizza Scott, Susan Parnell, Brenda Flynn, Edith Croxen, Cathleen Fitzgerald, Bob Heslinga, Susana Samborsky.

Announcements: None

New Business: None

Collaborator Reports:

- ✓ CPS – Cheryl Russell reported there has been a recent loss of available foster homes and group homes in Pima and Maricopa counties. There is a current crisis for placement of teens and siblings to stay together. Siblings are being placed in separate homes as far away as Benson and Yuma. Two orientations on how to become a foster or adoptive parent will be conducted monthly. The person to contact for information is Angela Martinez, 795-1858 ext.242.
- ✓ CPSA – No Report
- ✓ CASA – Ramona Panas reported that a new coordinator would start on Monday, December 19, 2011. Post-it type ads for recruitment of CASAs will be on the front page of the newspaper on December 21, 2011 and January 4, 2012. The target zip codes are 85718 and 85714. Nine CASAs are scheduled for the February 2012 Academy. March for Children is scheduled for March 30, 2012. Nominations can be submitted for the following categories: Resilient Family of the Year, Keith Smith Foster Parent of the Year, Agency/Program/Business, and Individual. You can nominate by going to the website : www.marchforchildren.webs.com
- ✓ DEPENDENCY UNIT – Anizza Scott reported that the total amount of petitions for 2011 would fall short of 1000 for the first time in 3 years. The reactivated cases are higher this year, at nearly 15% versus the previous rate of 12%.
- ✓ FAMILY DRUG COURT – Judge Adam commented there will be a graduation from FDC on Wednesday, 12/14/2011. The referrals are up and the client contracts have been revised. Judge Adam stressed that the parent(s) have to observe one drug court session within 4 months of the removal if there are substance abuse allegations.
- ✓ MEDIATION – Rebecca Manoleas reported mediation continues to be well utilized. A protocol is being developed for custody and parenting time mediations. FCRB – No Report

Current Goals:

- ✓ Domestic Violence – Judge Adam had sign-up sheets available for three sub-committees: Education, Assessment, and Intervention. The committee members were encouraged to sign-up for one of the committees. With the guidance of the Chair, the committee members are to complete a logic model in order to define and narrow the focus and stay on task. .
- ✓ Back to Basics – Rebecca Manoleas commented on the information that each member has been provided. The minutes indicate the progress thus far and what goals the sub-committee will address next year. Next meeting is March 6, 2012.

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Standing Committees and Continuing Goals:

- ✓ Courts Catalyzing Change
 - Native American Committee – No report
 - Engaging Refugees – Terry Dalke announced that the Pima Bar will have a presentation in January and this sub-committee will present a brown bag in February.
 - African American Committee - No report
- ✓ Education – Cathleen Fitzgerald announced the next Career Day at Pima Community College is on February 7, 2012 from 3:30pm to 6:00pm and the youth can count five hours towards community service. A flyer will be sent out. On January 19, 2012, "Our Town" the movie will be shown at the next forum from 11:30am to 1:30pm at the PCJCC training center.
- ✓ Calendaring and Case Processing – Susan Parnell commented that the committee is now meeting quarterly. The severance blocks remain on the calendar; however, Anizza Scott commented that it is not known if the blocks are used exclusively for severances or if other trials are scheduled. Next meeting is in January.

Old Business: None

Additional Notes:

- Judge Adam commented on the tour the judges' went on at AVIVA Children's Services. They were very impressed of the work going on and took with them homemade stockings to fill for the children involved in this program.
- Bob Heslinga, Executive Director of AVIVA, reported there were 900 volunteers during the past year and 300 have volunteered during the holidays.
- From the Office of Children's Counsel, Edith Croxen announced three social workers and two attorneys have been hired. There are now ten attorneys and five social workers and they are looking for larger office space. .
- Judge Adam was recently a guest speaker at the "INNs of COURT", an association Judge Aragon is a member. The members had little or no knowledge of the work being done at Juvenile Court. This association assures civility of Bench & Bar and its existence in the United States began in the early 1980's and in England since the 1400's.

Adjournment: 12:53pm

Next Meeting on **January 10, 2012**
12:15pm to 1:30pm
PCJCC Training Center

