

**MODEL COURT WORKING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2012**

Call to order: 12:15pm

Attendance:

Dodie Ledbetter, John Jackson, Julie Treinen, Cheryl Russell, Carol Punske, Sue Brandt, Kathleen Quigley, Rik Schmidt, Joan Wagener, Karen Adam, Dale Cardy, Sandi McDonald, Brenda Flynn, Roxanna Matiella, Pat Canterbury, Sahar Gipson, Susana Samborsky, Toni Marongelli, Bob Heslinga, Tim Hart, Sandy Guizzetti, Susan Towne, Haley Horton, Chris Swenson-Smith, Gus Aragon, Joellen Brown, Cary Steele-Williams, Cathleen Fitzgerald, Melissa Young, Gary Alvarez, Francie Julien-Chinn, Anizza Scott, Chris Mautner, Michelle Nimmo, Terry Dalke, Cathleen Linn, Catherine Hicks, Ramona Panas, Geri Yrigolla, John Gauger, Elaine Wilder, Lisa Abrams, Maria Felix, Sue Cuneo, Rebecca Manoleas, Edie Croxen, Jane Butler.

New Business:

Judge Adam welcomed Stephen Rubin as Interim Court Director and Dodie Ledbetter as Interim Deputy Director.

Collaborator Reports:

- CPS – Francie Julien-Chinn announced a merger will take place with Cobblestone and County Club offices. The new office will be located at First and Wetmore. The move will take place by April 1, 2012. Melissa Young was introduced as a new APM. There continues to be a struggle for placements, especially for teen-age girls. They are currently being placed in outside counties.
- CPSA - Haley Horton reported on the first expanded collaborative meeting held on February 6, 2012. This meeting included staff from the Children & Family Services Division. The purpose of the meetings are to encourage communication and education between court staff and CPSA regarding services for children, youth and families involved in both systems. The first of a series of Brown Bags to address specific areas of the behavioral health system for took place on February 8, 2012 at the PCJCC training center. The next brown bag will be on March 7, 2012.
- CASA – Ramona Panas announced that CASA Pima County is celebrating 30 years as a program on February 16, 2012. There was a story in the Pima County's E-Scoop newsletter on the program. Judge Lillian Fisher, who was the Presiding Judge at the time, initiated the program at PCJCC. Ramona reported that a coordinator's position is vacant; Vanessa Ponce-Maez has accepted a position in Training and Development.
- Dependency Unit – Anizza Scott reported that there was a 67% increase since last year in petitions filed in January. In January of 2012, 97 petitions were filed; 22% were reactivated cases. At halfway through the month of February, 53 petitions have been filed. Judge Wagener interjected of the cases she had last Friday five involved domestic violence. Anizza reminded the committee that the March for Children Event is on Friday, March 30, 2012.
- Family Drug Court – Chris Swenson-Smith reported that site visitors from Maricopa observed Family Drug Court on Wednesday, February 8, 2012. Maricopa Juvenile Court has initiated a program called Cradle to Crayons to address the unique needs and statutory timelines for infants and toddlers in dependency cases. They are considering establishing a Family Drug Court for the parents in these cases, and plan to offer the parents trauma therapy.
- Mediation – Rebecca Manoleas referred to the ADR handouts. There were 1281 sessions held and 870 trial hours vacated in 2010. In 2011, sessions increased to 1425 and 949.5 trial hours were vacated. Terry Dalke stated she is finding that Reunification at Risk sessions are not being calendared within four months of the case initiation and parties involved are addressing this much later. The mediators are looking at

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the barriers causing this trend. Rebecca reported on the Pinal County site visit on February 1, 2012. The ADR Director, Billie Jo Garcia, and Judge White, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge, were impressed at the PHC/PPH process and the ADR program. They left the visit feeling energized and ready to implement change.

- FCRB – Sandy Guizzetti reported that the volunteer vacancy rate is going down and there are 16 new board members. There are 24 volunteer boards in Arizona and of particular interest is Pinal County. Their county has had the most increases of volunteers. There is a House Bill proposing discontinuation of Removal Review Boards due to their redundancy with TDMs and other processes.

Current Goals:

- Domestic Violence
 - Education – John Jackson reported that the workgroup met on February 3, 2012 and the next meeting is March 27, 2012. Their group brainstormed ideas, and discussed who else could be used as a resource for the group, and began to develop the logic model.
 - Assessment – Roxana Matiella reported that the workgroup did start using the logic model. They are focusing on where their results will take them on short-term and long-term process. Roxana stated a better understanding would help on how the children and youth travel through the juvenile justice system and the dependency process. The next meeting is March 8, 2012.
 - Intervention – Tim Hart reported their group met on February 9, 2012 and the next meeting is March 19, 2012. The group did not begin to develop the logic model. The group discussed what services are available for youth involved with juvenile justice.
 - Judge Adam stated there is a need to “come up with a consistent definition of domestic violence, a consistent way for all involved to be on the same page, and a consistent view of what the intervention should be.” She suggested that the workgroups delay recruitment of additional members, but instead invite guests to attend meetings to speak on specific issues.
 - Judge Adam reported that Judge Quigley would be presenting the “One Court Role” in April at the National Council of Child Welfare in Washington, DC. The National Council has a program “Project One-One Family One Court” and is encouraging the courts to put this into practice. Judge Quigley will have the opportunity to express at the conference this process has been working since 1996 at the Juvenile Court in Pima County.
- Back to Basics – Chris Swenson-Smith reported that the next meeting date is March 6, 2012. The group will be looking in depth at reactivated cases using spreadsheets, including looking at allegations on original petitions filed compared to the allegations on the present petitions.

Standing Committees and Continuing Goals:

- Courts Catalyzing Change
 - Native American – Judge Quigley reported that the next meeting is April 4, 2012. On April 20th, the National Council Model Court liaison will be coming to Tucson and will be visiting the Pascua Yaqui Tribe’s judges, attorneys and social workers. Some court personnel and CPS case managers will also be attending.
 - Engaging Refugees – Terry Dalke reported that the next meeting is February 29, 2012.
 - African American – Pat Canterbury reported that there is limited data for aged-out youth, but African-Americans are overrepresented in this category

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- Education – Cathleen Fitzgerald reported that Career Day went well and had great support from many agencies.
- Case Processing – Judge Cuneo reported this committee would stay on the agenda as Case Processing. The committee discussed protocols that would address issues concerning severance trials and reactivated cases.

Announcements: Judge Adam reported that Rik Schmidt's retirement date is February 29, 2012. Mr. Schmidt remarked that he has had forty years' experience working with youth in various capacities and nine years at Pima County Juvenile Court as the Court Director. He stated Pima County Juvenile Court has made significant strides toward collaboration with stakeholders to address the needs of children, youth and families in our community.

Adjournment: 1:15pm

Next Meeting on March 13, 2012
12:15pm to 1:30pm
PCJCC Training Center

