

MODEL COURT WORKING COMMITTEE MINUTES MARCH 13, 2012

Call to order: 12:15pm

Attendance:

Ramona Panas, Rick Nunez, Sue Brandt, Julie Treinen, Dodie Ledbetter, Brenda Flynn, Carol Punske, Sahar Gipson, Kathleen Quigley, Susan Towne, Tim Hart, Susana Samborsky, Toni Marongelli, John Gauger, Joellen Brown, Chris Swenson-Smith, Nicholas Knauer, Joan Wagener, Roxanne Matiella, Wendy Million, Anizza Scott, John Schow, Lillian Downing, Chris Mautner, Connie Beck, Terry Dalke, Sara Wisdom, Deborah Abby, Bob Heslinga, Jane Butler, Zelda Harris, John Schow, Joan Wagener

Collaborator Reports:

- CPS – Lillian Downing commented that the agency is waiting anxiously for the results of the Legislative Session regarding bills pertaining to CPS procedures and budget. Pima is one of three counties piloting a new Child Safety and Risk Assessment (CSRA), which is shorter and streamlines documentation. It has a more narrative format than the previous instrument, and builds in increased clinical supervision. This should help reduce the number of open cases.
- CPSA – No report
- CASA – Ramona Panas reported that the Coordinator interviews are scheduled for March 14, 2012. Additionally, there is some funding to hire a volunteer recruiter on a temporary basis; this position will be posted soon. The National CASA Regional Director, Michael Heaton, will be visiting Pima County next week to assist with the planned recruitment effort. Ramona reminded committee of the March for Children event on Friday, March 30, 2012.
- DEPENDENCY UNIT – Anizza Scott reported that the previous record for new dependency petitions (107) was surpassed in February with 121 new cases. The Dependency Unit was able to schedule 75% of these PPHs within the 5 to 7 day statutory timeframe. For the month of March, the numbers of petitions are not slowing down. So far, there have been 42 petitions filed. Lillian Downing interjected that the placements for children in Pima County remain short and Case Managers are having to place some children in other counties. Julie Treinen from the KARE Center interjected that attendance at the Kinship Information sessions is increasing, and many kinship placements now understand the licensing process and are able to have their fingerprints done at the KARE center.

Anizza and Rebecca Manoleas are working with a professional media production company to create an educational video on the Pima County dependency process. It's hoped that this will be accessible through the PCJCC website when completed. This will assist families who are entering the dependency system for the first time to understand and better participate in the court process.

- FAMILY DRUG COURT – Chris Swenson-Smith reported there would be four parents graduating on Wednesday, March 14. Two Child and Family Futures representatives will be attending the Family Drug Court sessions during their site visit on March 14 & 15. Child and Family Futures provides the technical assistance for the federal FDC grant.
- MEDIATION – Rick Nunez reported two Mediation Support Specialists will be hired; one will replace Jo Kesler who will be leaving on March 23. The unit continues to be very busy; all three Mediators have 12-15 sessions each week. In addition, Terry Dalke is teaching once a month "What is a Dependency?" in FDC sessions.
- FCRB – No report

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Current Goals:

- Domestic Violence – Lillian Downing reported that the three workgroups are deciding how best to approach their individual areas, and researching best practice. Lillian and Judge Adam are going to Reno for a Train the Trainer workshop. Lillian mentioned Judge Adam may be contacting the National Council to seek technical assistance on strategic planning.
 - Education – John Jackson commented the next meeting would be in two weeks.
 - Assessment – Jane Butler reported their group is working on a logic model, collecting data and defining court terminology. Next meeting is in April.
 - Intervention – Tim Hart reported next meeting is March 19 and group will discuss setting goals
- Back to Basics – Chris Swenson-Smith reported sub-committee had their quarterly meeting on March 6. The sub-committee discussed placement stability and reactivated cases. The Dependency Unit is analyzing data on reactivated cases and disrupted adoptions. Two data charts were distributed to the committee on reactivated cases: “Years Original Petition was Open per Child” and “Months between Closure and Reactivation.” See attached.

Standing Committees and Continuing Goals:

- Courts Catalyzing Change – Judge Quigley reported next meeting is in April, at which time new data will be presented. Sub-committee is looking into new data and issues affecting Native Americans. Judge Quigley along with Foster Care Licensing Agencies will visit the Pascua Yaqui Tribe on April 20, 2012.
 - Native American – No report
 - Refugee Families – Terry Dalke commented the brown bag training on Engaging Refugees will take place on 4/25/12. The speakers were themselves once refugees.
 - African American – Anizza Scott reported the workgroup is collecting and analyzing data in dependency cases.
- Education – No report
- Case Processing – Anizza Scott reported sub-committee met on March 8, 2012. They are looking at contested severances held during the month of March in 2011, 2010 and 2009 to compare the amount of calendar time used and outcomes.

Adjournment: 1:05pm

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

