

### Summer 2005

### **Passing the Gavel**

Cari Gerchick, Director of Communications Administrative Office of the Courts

On Friday, June 10, retiring Chief Justice Charles E. Jones, "passed the gavel" to new Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor in a ceremony in the Supreme Court Courtroom at the Arizona State Courts Building. In turn, Chief Justice McGregor swore in Justice Rebecca White Berch as Vice

Chief Justice of the Court.

Chief Justice
McGregor is only the second
woman to serve as Chief
Justice of the Court.
Governor Jane Dee Hull
appointed McGregor to the
Arizona Supreme Court in
1998. Previously she served
on the Arizona Court of
Appeals, including two years
as that Court's Chief Judge.
Prior to her service on the
bench, McGregor was in pri-



vate law practice and was Justice Sandra Day O'Connor's first law clerk after being appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In her remarks at the ceremony, Chief Justice McGregor outlined the Court's goals for the next five years. The theme of the Court's Strategic Agenda for 2005-2010 comes from the book titled "Good to Great" by Jim Collins. In that book, the author examined a number of corporations to determine why some that were good remained just that - good - while others moved from good to great.

Chief Justice McGregor remarked that through "working together, the community and the courts can move the justice system from very good to truly great."

Chief Justice McGregor announced that, as one part of this process, the Court will visit areas around the state to hold a series of "Town Hall" meetings to obtain community input on how to better:

- "Provide Access to Swift, Fair Justice" including a special focus on the needs of crime victims and looking at ways to improve case processing, especially in the area of DUI;
- · "Protect Children, Families, and the Community" by finding better ways to process child abuse and neglect cases and protect victims of domestic violence;
- "Improve Communication and Cooperation with the Community, Other Branches of Government, and within the Judicial System" so that the public better understands court system operations;

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Activity Report

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- "Be Accountable"; and
- · "Serve the Public by Improving the Legal Profession."

Also in her remarks, Chief Justice McGregor noted that "the Court's strong foundation can be credited to the leadership of Arizona's past Chief Justices, particularly retiring Chief Justice Charles E. Jones." She paid tribute to the Justices who "played an essential role in guiding the courts through enormous changes, both in size and in responding to expectations very different from those that existed some years ago." She went on to say that "through calm, determined leadership, courts have weathered many challenges and has continued to move ahead." Under Chief Justice McGregor's tenure, with input from the general public, the legal community, and other branches of government, the Court will continue this progress.

### FCRB State Board Advocacy Committee: Adopt a District Legislator

Mitzi Pinsly, Chair, Advocacy Committee



The Advocacy Committee is beginning to work on an "Adopt a District Legislator" campaign, which is one of the State Foster Care Review Board goals for this year.

Advocacy

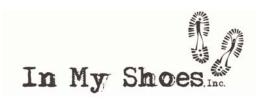
Committee members will be contacting all State Board members to further explain the process aimed at developing more one-on-one relationships with legislators.

We are presently matching State Board members to their assigned voting district representatives, and developing information sheets on how to contact assigned legislators, along with speaking points that can be used when meeting with legislators.

Our goal is for each State Board member to estab-

lish a meaningful relationship and become a trusted person to their district legislator, representing the FCRB and the needy children and families in our state.

We hope to get started on the outreach process at the State Board Meeting on September 10, 2005 with the goal of contacting legislators by November 12, 2005. We welcome all volunteers and encourage any local board members interested in participating in this campaign, to please contact their assigned program specialist staff.



In My Shoes, Inc., "Guiding Foster Youth to Independence," is a non-profit peer mentoring program. It was created to ease the difficult transition period teens are faced with as they exit out of foster care. Foster youth ages 16 ½ to 17 are matched with mentors who are alumni of foster care. Having successfully navigated through the system, alumni are able to share experiences with mentees about transitioning into adulthood in a positive way and listen to the teen's own experiences.

The purpose of the peer mentoring program is to have the mentor help guide the mentee through the foster care system into adulthood. The sole responsibility of the mentor is to meet the needs of the mentee, while working respectively with the mentee's team members. In My Shoes offers ongoing support for the alumni and the youth. In My Shoes also offers life skills classes, called "Skills for Success." The classes include financial literacy, advocacy, and leadership. The importances of interpersonal skills are also addressed. Above all, In My Shoes, Inc. staff, mentors, and volunteers are dedicated to having fun with fellow foster care alumni and youth while exploring the new and exciting challenges in life!

If you have any questions or would like any information regarding In My Shoes, Inc. please call (520) 323-0886 extension 227 for Jessica Kat or extension 234 for Christa Drake. Informationis also available on the internet at <a href="https://www.inmyshoesinc.org">www.inmyshoesinc.org</a>.

### Oh Deer...!"

Remember when you were in school, your homework wasn't done, and you tried to use the excuse 'the dog ate it." Well, it could have really happened.

Claudia Rutherford shared this real-life report eating situation.

"I received a court report from a CASA volunteer who drove from Havasu to visit her CASA children that had just been placed in a William's foster home.

The foster parents suggested she meet them at the Williams Deer Farm. The CASA introduced herself and gave the foster mom her CASA order of appointment.

The deer immediately grabbed the court order and ate it, amusing the preschool CASA girls."



# FCRB Thanks CPS for Reports

While the FCRB would like to thank all CPS caseworkers for their continued participation in FCRB reviews, the program would like to recognize the case-



workers in Apache (94%), Greenlee (100%), Mohave (89%) and Santa Cruz (100%) counties for submitting the highest percentage of reports (i.e. case plans, progress reports, initial reports) to the FCRB between January 1 and July 31 of this year. Thank you.

# Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation

### **Sibling Day Reunion**



This year marks the third year that the Arizona Friends of Foster Children Foundation (AFFCF) will host a Sibling Reunion Day.

This is a day in which sibling groups in dependent care who have had little or no contact with each other are given the opportunity to spend a day together. The day is set up as a fun day at the park that includes activities for

sibling groups to participate in a family atmosphere.

The Foster Care Review Board, CASA and Child Protective Services are again assisting AFFCF in coordinating this special day in the lives of sibling groups in foster care.

The third annual Sibling Reunion Day is scheduled for

Saturday, October 15 at Margaret T. Hance Park in downtown Phoenix from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Lunch and snacks will be provided to the children. Disposable cameras will be provided to each sibling group to take pictures throughout the day. The event organizers will coordinate getting these photographs developed and returned to each child so they can leave with cherished memories and images of them with their siblings.

For more information on how you can help with this event, please contact Connie Lopez, Community Outreach Specialist, at 602.542.9683 or email to CLopez@courts.az.gov.





## CASA Celebrates 20th Anniversary with Successful Conference

Kyle Davis, Resource Specialist Arizona CASA Program

More than 250 volunteers and staff attended the July 22-23 conference celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Arizona CASA Program. The day and half program was held at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel in Phoenix.

The celebration kicked off with a half day preconference program which focused on the older youth in transition program. Bonnie Marcus and Ken Pollock presented an overview of Maricopa's manual created to assist volunteers who are appointed to work with older youth. Participants also heard from Daniella Anderson Rin Hover, a young woman who was featured in the PBS documentary, "Aging Out."

On Saturday, July 23 the Arizona CASA Program continued it celebration with its 20th anniversary with a one-day conference including a staff recognition and volunteer banquet.

During the opening session, attendees heard from National CASA Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Carmela Welte, and Robert Emerick, our guest plenary speaker who addressed Empathy Fatigue. In addition to the plenary session, Emerick held a workshop on vicarious trauma for those working with sexual abuse victims. There were six concurrent workshops in the morning followed by an additional six different workshops in the afternoon.

During the luncheon program, county programs and staff were recognized for their years of service. The evening volunteer recognition banquet was quite lovely with Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice Ruth McGregor recognizing the volunteers for their commitment and dedication to Arizona's children. Other speakers honoring our volunteers included Randy Jones, immediate past president of the National CASA Association, and Mike Baumstark, assistant director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.



The conference was a success for everyone.

Pre-conference attendees listening attentively.





CASA staffers Kyle Davis, left, and Charli Mattson, center, hard at work welcoming attendees.

# CASA 20th Anniversary Conference Highlights

2005 Advocates of the Year, Judy Sands (far left) from La Paz County, and Jim and Carol Huddleston (right) from Cochise.



Kyle Davis, honored for 15 years of service, is retiring from the State Office in September





Puth McCreary (left) and Bill Stanton (rich

Chief Justice Ruth McGregor (left) and Bill Stanton, (right) director, Dependent Children's Services Division



Bill Stanton and Kathy Meadows, Coconino County Coordinator, who was honored for her 19 years of service



Pre-conference speaker, Daniella Anderson Rin Hover and daughter



Volunteers were recognized at the evening banquet (above).



Waiting for evening festivities to begin.



The Fishbowl was a popular workshop (left).



### **Training Corner**

Continuing Education Committee FCRB State Board

This is the second installment as provided by the orientation program developed by the Children and Family Services Division of the Pima County Juvenile Court. This installment discusses acronyms, words, and terms commonly used in dependency cases.

**ACYF** Administration for Children, Youth and Families: a division of the Department of Economic Security (DES). Child Protective Services (CPS) is in this division.

**AHCCS** Arizona Heath Care Cost Containment System, the state's indigent health insurance program.

**ALTCS** Arizona Long Term Care System: part of AHCCS that provides long-term care for eligible people unable to care for themselves.

**ARS** Arizona Revised Statute: the collection of the State's laws.

**AZEIP** Arizona Early Intervention Program: provides services to young children identified with developmental challenges.

**AYAP** Arizona Young Adult Program: a CPS program that serves youth 15 and older in learning independent living skills to prepare them for living independently.

**BHS** Behavioral Health System: the Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) for Yuma and La Paz Counties. BHS establishes and oversees contracts with local behavioral health service providers.

**CASA** Court Appointed Special Advocate: trained volunteers who help the court determine what is in the best interest of a child who has come under the court's care.

**CMDP** Comprehensive Medical and Dental Plan: the medical and dental insurance plan that is provided for dependent children.

**CPSA** Community Partnership Southern Arizona: the RBHA for Pima, Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz, and

Cochise Counties. CPSA establishes and oversees contracts with local behavioral health service providers.

**CPS** Child Protective Services: the Division of DES that is responsible for the safety of children.

**DRCT** "direct" Disciplinary Review and Consultation Team: a meeting of professionals who are working with the child and family to attempt to put services in place that will be of the most help. This team can also be used to assist case managers with case planning for difficult cases or for clients that have repeatedly come into CPS care. Parents are interviewed for this process, too, and when everyone has been interviewed, the team provides the case manager with their recommendations.

**DSM-IV** Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition: a diagnostic tool used within the mental health system that establishes a classification system for diagnoses when discussing mental health illnesses and disorders.

**DV** Domestic Violence: this term is used for any incident of threatening behavior, violence, or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender. This term is often used in court when the attorneys and CPS are discussing the parent's history and previous police or court contact with the family.

**ESPDT** Early Screening Prognostic Diagnosis Test: All children who come into CPS custody have this exam within 72 hours of being placed in foster care. This exam is used by CPS to look for medical conditions that may require additional attention or further testing.

**FCRB** Foster Care Review Board: a citizen's review board that advises the juvenile court on progress toward achieving a permanent home for a child(ren) involved in a dependency action and in an out-of-home placement.

**GAL** Guardian ad Litem: A court appointed attorney whose job it is to represent the best interests of the person they are appointed to. A GAL can be appointed to adults

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or children whom the Court believes need additional support while going through the legal process. A GAL differs from an attorney because they represent what is in their client's best interests while an attorney represents the client's wishes to the Court.

**ICWA** Indian Child Welfare Act: a federal act that gives special federal and state rules for persons either registered or eligible to be registered with a tribe.

**IEP** Individualized Education Plan: a specific plan for a specific child to enable that child to meet his/her special education needs.

**NARBHA** Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority: the RBHA for Mohave, Coconino, Apache, Navajo, and Yavapai Counties. The NARBHA establishes and oversees contracts with local behavioral health service providers.

**PGBA** Pinal/Gila Behavioral Health Association: the RBHA for Pinal and Gila Counties. PGBA establishes and oversees contracts with local behavioral health service providers.

**RBHA** Regional Behavioral Health Authority: the State of Arizona's Regional Behavioral Health Authority. The RBHA receives funding that is allocated to the State for behavioral health services and contracts with various agencies to provide behavioral health services.

**SMI** Seriously Mentally Ill: the designation given to people who have severe mental illnesses and therefore qualify for specific services from the mental health system.

**TANF** Temporary Aid for Needy Families: cash assistance for families; formerly known as AFDC or welfare.

**TCN** Temporary Custody Notice: a form given to the parent or caregiver when a child is removed from their custody. This form contains information about how to contact the case manager and may contain other important information.

**Abandonment** Failing to maintain contact with a child or to provide reasonable support (also used by CPS as grounds for severance).

**Adjudication** Adjudication occurs when the judge formally determines (finds) that the children are dependent children and are unable to remain in their parents' legal and/or physical custody. A dependent child is found to be dependent upon the State for the oversight of their safety and well being.

Child and Family Teams This is a group of formal supports (professionals such as therapists, probation officers, case managers) and natural supports (such as family members, friends, teachers, ministers) who are working with the family that has mental health issues as one of their challenges. The goal is to develop plans with the family that will assist in the present and also for the long term. Specially trained staff from the behavioral health field facilitates Child and Family Teams (CFT).

**Custody** Having control over the care of a minor (physical and legal). Physical custody includes the right to have physical placement of the child and the duty to provide for the child's normal daily needs. Legal custody is the right to make the major decisions for a child (medical, educational, etc.).

**Dependency Petition** The legal document asking the court to become involved. It contains statements of facts intended to support the allegations that a minor has no parent able or willing to adequately provide for his/her needs.

**Family Drug Court** A voluntary program through the Juvenile Court intended for parents who want a higher level of supervision and services in order to remain clean and sober. The Family Drug Court judge reviews these cases on a more frequent basis then the dependency judge.

Guardian, Legal A person other than a parent with the legal authority to make decisions for a child. Guardianships ordered through the Probate Court are sometimes called Title 14 guardianships or voluntary guardianships. Title 14 guardianships can be revoked by the parents in a special court proceeding.



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**Kids Care** Kids Care is a part of AHCCCS. This program provides health insurance to low-income families who earn too much to qualify for AHCCCS.

**Mediation** A process in which various parties work together in a case to make decisions and plans that they can all support as being in the best interests of the children. Topics for mediation can be visitation, placement, services, or other topics as identified by the parties. A trained mediator is present to assist the parties in their negotiations.

**Minute Entry** This is a summary of what happens at each court hearing. Minute entries also list all the decisions, ORDERS, and FINDINGS that the judge made at that hearing. They include the next court date and time as well.

**Neglect** Failing to provide proper or effective parenting for a child; failing to provide a child with necessities, including food, clothing, shelter, or health care; failing to provide a safe environment.

**Permanency** The overall goal for the child which involves a stable, permanent placement that provides for the child's safety and fundamental needs-physical, emotional, educational, medical, social, and so forth.

Psychological Evaluation This assessment is performed by a psychologist and is generally in two separate parts. The first part is a very long "fill in the blank" and "fill in the bubble" set of questions. There is no right or wrong answers to these questions. The psychologist uses the answers to determine what areas the client may need help in. The second half of this assessment is a meeting with the psychologist. This may take place once, or several times depending on the psychologist. Afterward, the psychologist prepares a report with recommendations for what services would be helpful to the client and his or her family

**Psychiatric Assessment** These assessments are performed by a psychiatrist and may be recommended if the psychologist believes there is a reason to suspect issues

such as severe depression, anxiety disorders or other psychiatric concerns. One major difference between a psychologist and a psychiatrist is that the psychiatrist is a medical doctor who can prescribe medications that address these problems.

**Reasonable Efforts** This is the term used by the judge and the attorneys when they are discussing whether or not CPS has made reasonable efforts to provide services to the family in an effort to help the family overcome the reasons the children were removed.

**Surrogate Parent** These are volunteers from the community that are called upon when a child needs any kind of special educational services in a school setting. Case managers are not able to sign any special education paperwork.

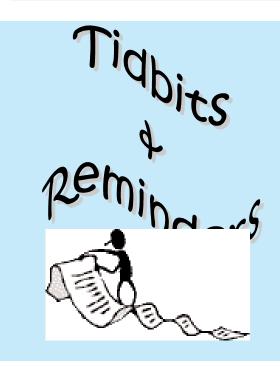
### Staff Changes

The Court Improvement Program (CIP) said goodbye to program coordinator, *Suzanne Matsumori*, who accepted a position with Make-A-Wish International. *Karen Gilreath* has joined as CIP Operational Review Specialist. Gilreath is originally from Detroit, Michigan and graduated from Michigan State University. She moved to Arizona in 1997. She has worked for Federal Probation, the Public Defender's Office and most recently for Maricopa County Adult Probation as a probation officer. She was previously employed with the FCRB in Phoenix from 2001-2003 as a program specialist.

The Foster Care Review Board said farewell to Phoenix program specialists *Brandie Gray* and *Stacy Molison*, support staff *Sarah Goodman*, and to program specialist Kathleen Montano in the Tucson office.

The Phoenix FCRB office welcomes *Steve Wiesenthal* as the new trainer. Wiesenthal recently relocated to Arizona from Los Angeles, California. He has spent more than ten years in the classroom as an educator, teaching grades 3-12, and Special Education. He graduated from UCLA in 1991 with a degree in Political Science. With a strong interest in public policy, government, and education, he found that working as a Training Specialist with the Foster Care Review Board suits him well.

**Porscha Davis** and **Lyndsay Morgan** join FCRB as program specialists. Morgan graduated from ASU in



## Have a story to submit for the newsletter?

Send your articles for the upcoming issues of *Advocates for Children* to:

Connie Lopez CLopez@courts.az.gov fax: 602.307-1277

or

Jenny Loya JLoya@courts.az.gov





# Training! Meetings! Deadlines! Important Dates to Remember - 2005

(dates are subject to change)

### September

FCRB State Board Meeting, Phoenix
 CASA Administrative Meeting, Phoenix
 CASA Orientation Training, Phoenix

### October

15 Sibling Day Reunion, Phoenix

21-22 FCRB New Board Member Orientation,

Phoenix

### November

CASA Administrative Meeting, Phoenix
 CASA Orientation Training, Phoenix
 National Adoption Day, Phoenix

### December

FCRB State Board Meeting, Phoenix



# Have a change in your email?

Don't forget ....
please contact your FCRB
program specialist or
CASA coordinator
regarding corrections or
changes to
your email address!

We want to keep you informed!



Staff Changes continued from page 8

2002 with a B.A. in Psychology. After graduation, she worked for Value Options as a SMI case manager. After leaving Value Options, Morgan worked for Southwest Behavioral Health Services for approximately a year and a half as a case manager before transfering to children's services and working as an intensive case manager with Child and Family Teams.

Davis is from Parker, Arizona and received her BS in Business Admin from Northern Arizona University. She previously worked for Southwest Leadership Foundation Group Homes for adolescent and teenage girls. Davis is excited about this new position with FCRB.

*Tiffany Dempsey* was promoted to a program specialist III.

**Desarae Baker** joins the FCRB in a support staff position. Baker, came to Phoenix in January from Montana. She was a program specialist for DirecTV and NEW before moving to Arizona. **Staci Richart** also joins FCRB as a part-time staff support. Richart is a native Arizonan who is attending ASU West.

In the Tucson office, *Sharon Dalbey* joins the staff as a program specialist. Dalbey, a graduate of Sonoma State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology, moved to Tucson in 2003. She worked with Division of Developmental Disabilities Foster Care Unit as a case manager, then as a case manager for the State of Arizona where she learned about the Foster Care Review Board.

The Arizona CASA Program welcomes new trainer, *Jeff Harrison*. Harrison fills the position vacated by *Ginger Bredemeier* who accepted a position with Child Protective Services. Harrison has spent the past two and half years at Value Options as a Rehabilitation Specialist. Prior to Value Options, he worked at Motorola for nineteen and half years and spent the last four and half years there as a trainer. Harrison is excited to be working with the CASA program and contributing towards making a positive difference in the lives' of Arizona's children.

*Celia Lara*, support staff for the state program office, has accepted a position with the Foster Care Review Board as a program specialist 1.

The CASA Program says good-bye to several county staff: *Larry Binkley*, Pinal County coordinator; *Liz Zach*, coordinator in the Yavapai County office in

Prescott; *Hilary Eshelman* and *Letha Grady*, coordinators in Pima County; and *Pat Loveless*, Yavapai County (Cottonwod) support staff.

Mohave County CASA Program welcomes *Nancy McBride* to their Kingman office. McBride, a native New Yorker, graduated with a BA in Psychology from Keane University in New Jersey. She has lived in Arizona for 30 years. McBride has been an English and Title One teacher. She also taught in the juvenile detention center in Kingman. She saw the advertisement for the CASA coordinator position and decided to give it a try. So far she has enjoyed every day and has not looked back.

Kelly Pettit is the new coordinator in the Yuma County. Pettit has been with the Juvenile Court for over three years. She has been an administrative assistant for Detention as well as data entry for Probation before being-promoted to a detention officer. She is looking forward to working with and learning from all of the CASA staff and is excited about being here.

*Eileen Smith* joins the Yavapai County office in Cottonwood office as support staff. Smith previously worked for the Village of Oak Creek Association handling payroll and administrative duties. Smith is a native of Michigan, gradutated from the University of Connecticut with a bachelor's in human resources. Most of her career has been in human resources management.

Greenlee County welcomes *Stacey Armstrong* as the new coordinator. Armstrong, her husband John and their two children moved to Greenlee County three years ago. Her husband is the chief probation office. She began work as a Lay Legal Domestic Violence advocate in 2000, and recently accepted the position as coordinator for th CASA program.

Leesa Page, new support staff in Prescott is delighted to be a part of the Yavapai CASA staff and would like to thank everyone for making me feel so welcome! She switched from social work to the legal field and just getting started at Yavapai College in the Paralegal Certificate Program.

The Coconino County CASA Program welcomes new support staff, *Jane Scholes*. Scholes, a native Californian, and her husband, Tom moved to Flagstaff in September 2004. Besides working at the Juvenile Court as support staff for the CASA and Teen Court programs, Sholes also volunteer two hours per week at the Museum of Northern Arizona.

### **CASA Activity Report**

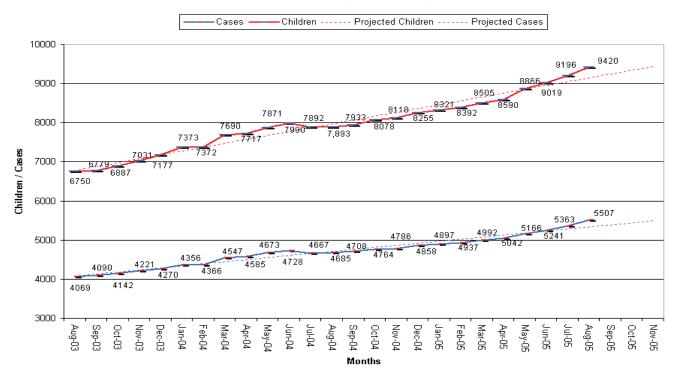
(as of July, 2005)

Volunteers		Cases/Children (continued)	
Volunteers currently in program	811	Cases assigned this month	16
All volunteers accepted to date	3,661	Children assigned this month	37
		Cases assigned to date in FY	39
Volunteers trained this month	0	Children in cases assigned to date in FY	64
Volunteers trained to date in FY	49	-	
Volunteers trained to date in calendar year	190	All cases assigned to date	6,717
		All children served to date	11,834
Hours/Miles Donated			
Volunteer hours	648,644	Cases temporarily unassigned	27
Volunteer miles	5,684,547	Children in temporarilty unassigned cases	108
Cases/Children		Cases closed this month	27
Cases currently assigned	836	Children closed this month	39
Children in assigned cases	1,499	Cases closed to date in FY	60
		Children in closed cases to date in FY	93
		All closed cases to date	3,727
* Activity figures based on counties submitting data		All children in closed cases to date	6,631

### FCRB Case/Child Activity Report (as August, 2005)

The activity report figures are statewide.

### Case / Child Activity - 2 Year Range



This newsletter is published by the Administrative Office of the Courts
Dependent Children's Services Division

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