

Committee on Juvenile Courts

Committee Minutes

Meeting Date: November 12, 2015

The meeting was called to order by
Judge McNally at 10:02am

Minutes taken by: Natalie Foster

Note: Several agenda items were taken out of order to accommodate speaker's schedule.

Roll Call

Present:

Butler, Jane (proxy for Honorable Kathleen Quigley; via phone); Elledge, Honorable Karl (via phone); Greene, Gregory (proxy for Honorable Samuel Vederman); Jackson, John (proxy for John Schow); Jantzen, Honorable Lee; Kelroy, Joe; Latham, Honorable Mike (via phone); Lutt-Owens, Caroline; Mabery, Scott (via phone); McCullough, Honorable Margaret; McNally, Honorable Colleen (Chair); Meaux, Eric; Reeves, Honorable Mark Wayne; Ruechel, Honorable Michala; Sanders, Honorable Corey (via phone); Stauffer, Honorable Monica; Wright, Honorable Timothy; Young, Honorable Anna.

Excused/Absent: Corsaro, Honorable Kimberly; Koch, Connie; Oldham, Honorable Brenda; Perez, Jr., Martin; Schow, John; Quigley, Honorable Kathleen; Tickle, Sheila; Vederman, Honorable Samuel.

Guests/Staff Present: Love, Amy; McKay, Greg; Markley, Dona Marie; Preston, Nina; Selover, Steve; Waters, Kathy; Withey, David.

Introductions were made around the room.

Adoption of Minutes:

Motion: To accept and adopt minutes from the September 10, 2015 meeting. **Action:** Approve;
Moved by: Honorable Lee Jantzen; **Seconded by:** Honorable Margaret McCullough.
Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: DCS Update

Speaker: Greg McKay, Director, DCS

Summary of Discussion:

Highlights:

- This year the hotline has received 135,709.
- The average call wait time is 45 seconds.
- More than 52,000 reports were received and 100% were assigned for investigation.
- Child Safety Specialist completed safety assessments and closed 49,000 reports this year.

- More than 28,000 children were cared for in kinship, out of home care over the year.
- Child Safety Specialists achieved permanency for 5,400 children who were reunified with their parents.
- 3,000 children received permanency through adoption.
- CFSR (published by the Children's Bureau) -AZ rate of substantiated abuse and out of home care is the fourth lowest in the US.
- The percentage of repeat substantiated within twelve months is better than the national percentages.
- AZ is in the top ten states for achieving permanency in care.
- The percentage of children who enter or reenter within twelve months of reunification or guardianship is lower than the national percentage.
- The rate of child placement changes per days in care is better than the national average.
- AZ is one of eight states that were a top five performer on more than one of the seven federal child outcome matrix.
- Currently there are 18,000 children in out of home care (approximately 46% of those children are with family members; 40% are in foster homes; 12% are in congregate care settings).
- The backlog, since February, has dropped 10%.
- The amount of reports the department would close, prior to January 2015, would be on average of 3,100 reports for investigation per month. Since February 2015, to date, the department is closing on average of 4,100 reports for investigation per month. That is a 25% increase in efficiency. That is also with a 7% gain in volume (reports to hotline) and less staff.
- Since February 2015, to date, almost every month and region is closing and completing more investigation then what is coming in, for the first time in five years.
- Main goals to strategic plan are handling the incoming volume, stopping attrition, and getting permanency for children faster.
- The wait list, which is a big driver in time to permanency, is being tracked and part of the DCS strategic plan. The wait lists have also been falling for three months straight.
- A concern is the loss of staff during holidays (due to vacation time that they will lose if not used). A possible solution being looked at is to possibly pass staff for vacation they may not use.
- GIS maps on every region will be sent out. The heat maps for Maricopa and Pima County show every zip code and the amount of reports in those zip codes.

Topic: ADJC Update

Speaker: Dona Marie Markley, Assistant Director, ADJC

Summary of Discussion:

Updates:

- ADJC has one secure care facility in North Phoenix
- Parole offices-physical presence in Bullhead City, Flagstaff, Phoenix, Mesa, Tucson, and Yuma. There is an Administrative office in Capitol area.

- ADJC is made up of two pieces; secure care and parole.
- Secure care (end of October stats):
 - New commits being sent by the counties to ADJC, year to date for FY16, is 65; down 45% from last year.
 - Average daily population, year to date, is about 273; down from last year.
 - Current population is 266; down 20% from the prior year. Of those, 237 are boys and 29 are girls. Over 90% male population.
 - Primary treatment-all youth receive a core treatment program, which focuses on substance dependency and conduct disorder.
 - Youth assessed with specific diagnosis, get additional, concentrated treatment.
 - All children receive substance treatment, as part of the core.
 - 60 youth currently in the specialty substance abuse treatment; 46 boys, 14 girls.
 - Mental health-all who need it receive it. Currently 31 have mental health as the primary diagnosis for treatment; 15 girls, 16 boys. Girls typically have mental health as the primary or dual diagnosis.
 - Sexual behavior treatment; 44 boys only.
 - Temporary Intervention placement which are youth that have excessive conduct disorder issues. It is a temporary placement where they receive accelerated interventions; 7 children. Typically, they are in there for 4-6 months.
 - Supervision staff to student ratio is 8:1.
 - In the last seven days there have been six incidents of violence. Over 63% of youth are never engaged in violent behavior.
 - Report both positive and negative behavior from youth; currently 13 positive to 1 negative.
 - ADJC is averaging 89% treatment progress. Which means 89% are progressing through the treatment appropriately.
 - Education-ADJC has issued 17 high school diplomas and 14 GEDs. Last year, they had 80 high school diplomas and 114 GEDs. ADJC graduation rate is approximately 80%. Youth that come to ADJC with at least 14 credits are eligible. The goal is to have the high school graduation increase; however, it is currently higher than the state average.
 - Community corrections-This fiscal year, from secure care to parole, they have released 54 youth. The current parole population is 207. That includes 95 ADJC youth; 83 boys in Arizona, 5 boys place through ICJ Compact, and 7 girls in Arizona on parole.
 - Interstate Compact population in Arizona is 112.
 - Parole officer case load averages 22.
 - In the last seven days, there have been zero new arrests and 15 technical violations.
 - 2016 year to date absolute discharges are 11. Absolute discharges is about 33%.
 - Last fiscal year, ADJC's recidivism rate was at 23%. That is a three year review.
 - Overall data for FY15 shows that most factors regarding ADJC children, in terms of percentages, are about the same; male to female about 90%. Race, ethnic, and age rates have stayed about the same. Going forward, youth will not be committed to ADJC unless they are at least 14 years old.
 - Commitments from the county have stayed consistent.

- Many youth are coming to ADJC with multiple adjudications; 70% have 2-5 and 20% have 6 or more.
- There has been a spike in crimes with persons, likely due to increasing gang affiliations (41%).
- 80-90% have significant substance abuse problems.
- 42% have been expelled from school at least once. 40% have had 3 or more suspensions from school.
- 45% have one or more parents with incarcerations histories.
- 30% have history of possession of a firearm.
- 40% have mental health diagnosis.
- 28% have special education needs.
- 26% are dually adjudicated
- 21% with zero high school credits
- ADJC is a mid-size agency with approximately 560 employees. They are working on some of the Governor's initiatives to create efficiencies and streamline, so they are looking at decreasing staff and reallocating resources.
- ADJC push for FY 16-17 is to increase treatment, both in secure care and in the community.
- ADJC is taking a different approach on how they look at parole technical violations.

Topic: Extended Court Jurisdiction; FCRB Continuation Draft; Probation; Adult; Juvenile Legislative Proposal – *Information Only* – Two handouts

Speaker: Amy Love, Legislative Liaison, AOC

Summary of Discussion:

Two handouts reviewed

Ms. Love spoke to the Juvenile proposal portion only.

Topic: 2015 Title II Awards - Handout

Speaker: Steve Selover, Juvenile Justice Specialist, Governor's Office

Summary of Discussion:

Reviewed handout-OJJDP Title II, Award Matrix: Year 1 2015-2016

Topic: ACJA 6-103 Victims Rights Requirements for Probation Personnel – **Action Item** - Handout

Speaker: Kathy Waters, Director, Adult Probation Services Division, AOC

Summary of Discussion:

Ms. Waters introduced Jane Price, new manager in Adult Probation.

Code handout (Section: 6-103) reviewed with the committee.

The code has gone to the Committee on Probation, the Committee on Superior Court, and the Commission on Victims. COJC last committee that will see this before it goes to Presiding Judges and AJC in December. All other committees supported the proposed changes to Section 6-103.

Motion: To support the proposed changes to Section 6-103: Victims' Rights Requirements for Probation Personnel. **Action:** Approve; **Moved by:** Honorable Monica Stauffer; **Seconded by:** Judge Lee Jantzen.

Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Executive Session

Speaker: David Withey, Legal Counsel, AOC

Summary of Discussion:

Motion: To move into Executive Session after lunch break, for purpose of hearing from David Withey, Legal Counsel. **Action:** Approve; **Moved by:** Eric Meaux; **Seconded by:** Honorable Monica Stauffer.

Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: New/Old Business

Speaker: Members

Summary of Discussion:

Judge Karl Elledge (Cochise) - January 20th will be an Attorney Dependency Training in Bisbee. They are also implementing brown bag lunches on a variety of topics with the local bar.

Judge Lee Jantzen (Mohave) - Thanks to Arizona Youth Partnership through the Governor's Office and some endowments in Mohave County, the new juvenile teen girl's center has opened. Mohave has not had one for 5-6 years. This will be beneficial for delinquency and dependency cases. Cross Over Youth has increased communication between DCS, probation officers, law enforcement and staff.

Director Joe Kelroy (JJSD) - Director Kelroy gave a brief overview of the training he recently participated in. There were 50 states looking at reform. There is a fair amount of support through OJJDP and various other agencies that would support state reform. They are also working with specific counties across the country on juvenile justice reform. AOC just hosted the JDAI initiative and had over 1000 attendees in Phoenix for their national conference. JJSD needs to maintain the work that they continually do with probation and detention. This is critical to ensure the safety of kids and that service delivery is appropriate. They are targeting the needs and risk factors of kids, that the assessments are being done correctly and that they are able to

look at the data. JOLTSaz is in Pima and Yuma and the goal is to work over the next year to move forward and get JOLTSaz (except Maricopa) through the entire state of Arizona.

Director Caroline Lutt (DCSD) - Director Lutt discussed the FCRB Sunset Audit. Three new counties, Pinal, Pima and Santa Cruz, joined the Cross Over Youth Initiative. An update was given on Standards for Parent Representation. A rule petition is now under draft.

Judge Margaret McCullough (Coconino) – They just finished their sixth modification of their Step Up work. In Coconino County, there is something called CJCC, Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, which incorporates law enforcement, public defender, legal defender, and the courts. As a subcommittee of that, another subcommittee was formed; the Education Committee. Once a month speakers will come in to talk regarding continuing education. They will also bring in local artists, magicians, etc. They just put out a survey to see what the kids would like. February 26, 2016 will be an ICWA training. Location to be determined.

Judge Colleen McNally (Maricopa) – Judge McNally gave a brief overview of Maricopa County Justice Courts Training that was supposed to be given by Paul Julian.

Starting January 4, 2016, they have arranged for judges who are assigned on Maricopa's civil bench to hear severance trials to help get kids to permanency faster. Judge Patricia Clark, retired judge from Washington, was working with Casey Family Programs as a judicial liaison, passed away recently. Maricopa's National Adoption Day have over 290 kids scheduled to be adopted. Governor Ducey and Chief Justice Bales will be in attendance that day and participating in a press conference.

Mr. Eric Meaux (Juv. Court Director, Maricopa) - They have weaned off of the Sheriffs provided food service for all kids in detention. Maricopa has a new record number of kids in detention, they are below 130. They are feeding the youth themselves now. Family Involvement Center received a grant which will help families be better engaged, particularly those that find themselves and their kids in detention and on a path to out of home care. When kids fail to appear or reoffend, an average 60-70+ days pass from the point they are not detained, but then they have their first advisory hearing. Convened a work group to help increase the review time.

Judge Corey Sanders (Graham) – They have a new presiding judge. He attended a luncheon with dependency attorneys and DCS employees. They received approval to not renew federal contracts for their detention centers.

Judge Anna Young (Yavapai) – Yavapai launched Cross Over Youth Practice Model over a year ago, but they recently just held their launch lunch. Two cross over youths spoke at the launch. They received lots of positive feedback. They are also doing a launch lunch in the Verde next Monday. Judge Young holds brown bag lunches every other month with all the dependency attorneys in the county. In the latest brown bag lunch, Judge Young scheduled a presenter from Job Corp. She invited the kids from their in-house treatment program to attend. The speaker was late, so Judge Young asked the kids if they wouldn't mind talking a little bit about their experience in the A Step program and the transition school. The dependency attorney loved hearing from the kids about the A Step and transition school.

John Jackson, proxy for John Schow (Pima) – The Cross Over Youth Practice Model is underway. The leadership is being put together and starting their gap analysis. They received a Title II grant for an assessment center, inspired by Yuma County's Hope Center. Briefly spoke about the Cook County trip to look at their assessment center and several other programs the county is running.

Judge Mark Wayne Reeves (Yuma) – The Hope Assessment Center is working well, but it's also gained success and admiration through their local police department. Parents are also

becoming aware of the center and utilizing the center's resources. Yuma is starting a Success Court, which is in the planning stages right now. They will be using the Drug Court as a model. **Gregory Greene** (La Paz) - La Paz is a small, rural county that lacks in resources. Their hope is to get more energy and attention directed towards La Paz County.

Judge Butler (Pima) - November is National and State adoption month. For the last sixteen years, Pima County has had Adoption Day in the park. They had over 1000 people participate in last Saturday's event. 78 kids were adopted into 68 homes. It is purely a volunteer driven event.

Next COJC Meeting:

The next COJC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, 2016 at the Arizona Courts Building, Rooms 119A/B.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:45p.m.

Motion: To adjourn meeting **Action:** Adjourn; **Moved by:** Honorable Lee Jantzen; **Seconded by:** Honorable Michala Ruechel.
Motion passed unanimously.