

Committee on Juvenile Courts

Committee Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, May 14, 2015

The meeting was called to order by
Judge Cahill at 10:04am

Minutes taken by: Natalie Foster

Roll Call

Present:

Cahill, Honorable Peter (Chair); Contreras, Karla (proxy for Judge Samuel Vederman); Corsaro, Honorable Kimberly; Elledge, Honorable Karl (phone); Jantzen, Honorable Lee (phone); Kelroy, Joe; Koch, Connie;; Lutt, Caroline; McCullough, Honorable Margaret (phone); McNally, Honorable Colleen; Meaux, Eric; Oldham, Honorable Brenda; Quigley, Honorable Kathleen; Reeves, Honorable Mark Wayne (phone); Rugg, Dr. Kevin; Sanders, Honorable Corey (phone); Schow, John; Stauffer, Honorable Monica; Tickle, Sheila; Young, Honorable Anna; Withey, David (phone).

Excused/Absent: Latham, Honorable Mike, Mabery, Scott; Ruechel, Honorable Michala; Vederman, Honorable Samuel.

Guests/Staff Present: Bilskie, Jenny; Gilburd, Claudia; Hessinger, Mark; Hoffman, Maria; Kurth, Dr. Deborah; Love, Amy; Mattison, Tina; McKay, Greg; Preston, Nina; Redpath, David; Rosenburg, Beth; Selover, Steve.

Justice Brutinel made a special appearance to present a thank you letter and certificate to Judge Cahill. This is Judge Cahill's last meeting as COJC Chair.

Introductions were made around the room.

Adoption of Minutes:

Motion: To accept and adopt minutes from February 12, 2015 meeting. **Action:** Approve;
Moved by: Meaux, Eric; **Seconded by:** Stauffer, Honorable Monica.
Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: Department of Child Safety Update

Speaker: Director Greg McKay

Summary of Discussion:

Director McKay introduced himself and provided a brief overview of his background to the committee.

- 22 years in law enforcement

- 14 years investigating crimes against children
- Several years investigating homicides and child death
- Worked closely with physicians, behavioral health professions, DCS staff, therapists, police, foster families, etc.
- Was a foster parent for a one-time special situation. During that time, he experienced the challenges foster parents, children, and families face.
- Formed the Office of Child Welfare Investigations (formed from a task force). There are about 70 staff members currently, with an expectation that will eventually increase to 120.
- Was appointed by the Governor to his current position

Immediate challenges:

- Amount of children currently in the system (17,400 children)
- Amount of time to permanency
- Amount of reports coming in (expected to be around 50,000 this year)
- 16,000-17,000 backlogged cases accrued from the last five plus years

Director McKay is very optimistic about what he is seeing in terms of the momentum between the courts, law enforcement, physicians, DCS, education, and private and public partnerships. DCS cannot fix the current problems on their own.

DCS's obligation is to not only keep children safe, but also to give them the opportunity to thrive.

Staff Updates:

- Director McKay is concentrating on changing the culture within DCS and learn from previous mistakes.
- Significant staff moves have been made. Many were made on a regional level due to massive financial constraints.
- Focus on rebuilding their training unit, which were not prepared for the mass hiring and mass promotion of supervisors.
- The number one complaint from the staff is that they are not properly equipped. Many employees leave DCS between 1-3 years of employment.
- Focusing on staff retention and attrition rates.
- Director McKay feels front end supervisors are the most vital employees. DCS is instituting aggressive training for front end supervisors.

Recently met with Judge McNally regarding the Safe Reduction Workgroup.

The removal rate has been rising at the same rate it has been for the last several years. The problem is that children are not leaving the system.

Recent success:

- After children are removed from their home, there has been lack of available beds to place children. Due to this problem, the agency has partnered with the

City of Phoenix, ChildHelp, and DCS and located a building to house these kids. Private donors are helping renovate the building space. The center is going to be dedicated to nothing but placement of children. The target date to have this up and running is June 1. DCS's goal is to get children placed within 24 hours. This building will house children 10 years of age and under, with the exception of sibling groups. Eventually, they will have a building that will house all children (0-18 years of age) safely. Director McKay would like to have staff members that are just dedicated to placement of children.

- Arizona just acquired a talent science type of process for staff retention. DCS will be the first state agency to employ this. People who are recruited will take tests to measure job compatibility. It will have a June target date. The company conservatively reports a 25% reduction in attrition within the first year.

Director McKay seeks community and stakeholder involvement on how we manage these crisis situations.

Q&A followed.

Topic: Teen Law School Presentation

Speaker: Claudia Gilburd, Founder/CEO, Teen Law School & Mark Hessinger, Business & Legal Development Director, Teen Law School

Summary of Discussion:

Mark Hessinger provided a brief introduction of himself and introduced Claudia Gilburd.

Claudia Gilburd presented a PowerPoint presentation to the committee and a handout was provided (Teen Law School, Inc., Helping Arizona Teens Make Safer, Law Abiding Choices).

Topic: Title II Formula Grant RFP (Handout)

Speaker: Steve Selover, Compliance Monitor, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families

Summary of Discussion:

A handout (Fact Sheet-Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Title II Formula Grant) was provided and discussed with the committee.

To be noted:

Question 2 on the handout:

- The programs listed are examples of what the formula grant could support; however, the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission will decide which priorities they feel the state should focus on. They will choose 4-7 different priorities that will go into the RFGA once it is released.

Question 3 on the handout:

- Strike Region IV All Native American Tribes
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Topic: Commission on Minorities Report Card

Speaker: David Redpath, JJSD Program Manager, AOC

Summary of Discussion:

A PowerPoint (Disproportionate Minority Contact – DMC) was presented as an overview of the Equitable Treatment of Minority Youth-Fifth Statewide Report Card-2015 handout that was distributed to the committee.

Topic: ACJA 6-106 Personnel Practices-Action Item (Handout)

Speaker: David Redpath

Summary of Discussion:

Handout provided and discussed

6-106 has already been approved through COP and Committee on Superior Courts. There were no public comments.

Motion: To recommend AJC move to accept the code as written. **Action:** Approve;

Moved by: Schow, John; **Seconded by:** Young, Honorable Ana.

Motion passed unanimously.

Topic: New/Old Business

Speaker: Members/AOC staff

Summary of Discussion:

Amy Love - Request for proposals for next session have been sent. Contact Amy if you didn't get the request for proposals. Amy reminded the committee that she is a resource for all judges and to send any feedback to her.

Judge Colleen McNally (Maricopa) - In April, 2015, 435 petitions were filed in Maricopa County. This is an all-time record for petitions filed.

Judge Brenda Oldham (Pinal) – Pinal is trending to have a record year for petitions filed, based on first quarter statistics.

Judge Kathleen Quigley (Pima) – Pima is trending to have a record year for petitions filed.

Judge Peter Cahill (Gila) – Judge Cahill updated the committee on a discussion that took place at the Judicial Council regarding budget. It was encouraging to hear the Chief Justice say that if

money could be placed somewhere, he'd put it to juvenile court services. It is yet to be determined if COJC will be meeting in June at the Judicial Conference.

Judge Kim Corsaro (Santa Cruz) – June 12, Santa Cruz has an Unaccompanied Minors Program scheduled.

Judge Mo Portley - A memo (Proposed Process/Rule) was handed out and discussed.

Next COJC Meeting: