

**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
COMMISSION ON MINORITIES
MINUTES**

Tuesday January 11, 2005
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
State Courts Building Conference Room 230
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gerald P. Richard, II, Chair
Hon. Francisca Cota (**Telephonic**), Vice
Chair
Helene Abrams (**Telephonic**)
Hon. John E. Davis (**Telephonic**)
Jesus Diaz
James C. Kitt
Lisa Loo
Kathlene Marie Rosier (**Telephonic**)
Hon. Ann A. Scott Timmer
Margarita Silva
Hon. Roxanne Song Ong
Cheryl Townsend

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Alex Arredondo
Mike Baumstark
Carole Coles Henry
Patricia L. Cordova
Wil R. Counts
Niccole L. Winship

GUEST:

Margaret Singleton, Pima Co. Juvenile
Court

STAFF:

Ted Wilson, AOC
Karen Kretschman, AOC
Maria Dennis, AOC
Elizabeth Portillo, AOC

1. **Call to Order:**

Gerald Richard, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

2. **Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:**

Gerald Richard reiterated the commission's decision to change the time so that meetings are held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and allow more time for travel. Gerald welcomed everyone and asked individuals present to introduce themselves.

Ted Wilson announced that a new AOC lunch policy has been implemented. He said that the AOC would absorb the cost of lunch that is above five dollars. Ted asked for member input to address having lunch in light of this policy and the meeting time change. The consensus was to have a working lunch with no change in the current time schedule.

Ted reminded members that the membership list included in the packet of handouts is confidential material and not for public distribution. He announced to the members who were attending via teleconference that the handouts would be mailed out to them today.

Ted pointed members to the handout about The 17th Annual National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, scheduled for April 13 – 16, 2005 in Atlanta, GA. and

reminded members of current budget constraints. Gerald Richard asked if there were any funds available to send a commission member to the conference and Ted said that he would double check. Gerald said that if any member is interested in attending they should contact Ted. Lisa Loo was the last commission member to attend the Consortium. Ted stated that the next four or five items in the packet were informational materials. He pointed to the strategic planning handout and noted that the document would be discussed later in the meeting.

The Chair asked Jesus Diaz to share information on the draft report entitled “Achieving a Culturally Competent and Linguistically Appropriate Human Service Delivery System”, this draft report was prepared by the Arizona Council of Human Service Providers, Diversity Committee and included representation from the courts, education, communities, network providers, and juvenile justice. It relates to the delivery of culturally competent and linguistically appropriate services. Gerald Richard stated that this subject is also being addressed by the Maricopa County Public Defender's office. Helene Abrams said that she would like to thank Gerald Richard for helping to develop initial steps for creating the diversity initiative.

Jesus has also received letters from several key stakeholders in support of the court's initiative and commitment to reducing DMC in Pima County.

3. Approval of the Minutes

**Motion: To approve the minutes of the November 9, 2004 minutes.
Seconded and approved. COM – 05 - 1**

4. Building Blocks Update

A handout that provides an update on the Arizona Building Blocks initiative was distributed. This program is part of a nationwide effort to address over-representation of minority youth in the Juvenile Justice System. The handout describes the Building Blocks Governing Board, comprised of cross representation of community members, faith based organizations and others. The System Analysis portion of the update identifies key decisions points in the system. This analysis will be used for discussions over the next six months aimed at developing projects to resolve problems at each point. These projects include: continuing the system analysis; determining how to better address truancy and education efforts; combining local, county, and state efforts to address crime prevention and other issues; and, developing a service delivery model for children, youth, and families. The flyer included contact information for Maria Dennis, Project Coordinator and the website address for the community assessment. The assessment is available in both English and Spanish.

The funding for the Building Blocks Initiative is provided through the Juvenile Crime Reduction Fund. Cheryl Townsend, who is a member of the Building Blocks Initiative, stated that a meeting was held at the end of December with workgroup chairs and other community representatives. They discussed how the system analysis would work with system partners to keep participants involved in the process and willing to address the tough questions. The decision from this meeting was that the research committee of Building Blocks would first meet with juvenile justice system agency representatives to make sure they

have a clear vision of the issues and to determine if more information is needed about the decision points of the system. The workgroups will then finalize reports and present them to the governing board so that the board is positioned to solicit from agencies recommendations on ways to address items that surface from the reports. As follow-up, agencies will then release findings and action plans for public viewing, in hopes of creating more accountability for action. She said that the primary goal is to engage in system change.

Margaret Singleton is a newly appointed person at the Pima Juvenile Court. She will have dual responsibilities as Public Information Officer for the Court, including media and court tours and as the DMC Coordinator. She will work with the executive committee of the Pima DMC initiative and with ad hoc committees. The goal of DMC initiative is to reduce the over representation of minorities in the Juvenile Justice System in Pima County.

5. **Workgroup Reports:**

Cultural Competency

James Kitt reported. The workgroup last met in November. He mentioned that an in-house survey related to their project of developing a Cultural Competency plan was conducted at the Pima County Juvenile Court. Once the data is compiled it will be made available for use throughout the state. He said that the data is being reviewed and the survey results will next be presented to the Pima County DMC Committee.

Diversity

Judge Song Ong reported. At its last meeting the workgroup discussed ideas that came from the December meeting of the Commission. The workgroup decided that the issue of interpreter education would be left to the existing Supreme Court Committee on Interpreters. Judge Song Ong reported on the success of the judicial appointment workshop, held last April. The workgroup facilitated this program as part of the Minority Bar Convention. Support was also provided by the Arizona State Bar and the presentation was well received. It has been decided that the judicial appointment workshop will be presented every other year at the bar convention. Therefore, the workgroup will not be working on a session in 2005. The workgroup also discussed the student clerkship and received a report that the program was successful. Lisa Loo played a major role in developing the student clerkship program.

Judge Song Ong reported that during the strategic planning a question was posed that asked whether the State Judiciary received any education on cultural competency. Judge Song Ong presented the question to Agnes Felton, Director of Education Services for the Judicial Branch. The answer is that this subject is incorporated as part of the new judge orientation program and probation education of COJET. Agnes Felton was informed that commission members are available as additional resources for cultural competency. Judge Song Ong also reported on the workgroup's collaboration for the USA Patriots Act. This topic was used for the 2004 COJET annual broadcast. The audience for the broadcast was all state judicial staff.

Lisa Loo reported that the State Bar Committee on Minorities and Women in the Law is looking for help in sponsoring a program at its next convention. One idea being explored is "major Supreme Court cases with an Arizona Connection". A second idea is to develop a presentation on Civil Rights in Wartime - from the Japanese-American interment to

Guantanamo Bay. This subject also has a large Arizona involvement. Paula Bicket who is part of the Appellate Law Section of the Bar Association is working with Lisa on this program. The Appellate Law Section and The Committee on Women in the Law will co-sponsor the program for the Convention. In addition, the Arizona Asian American Bar Association has been asked to participate as a sponsor. The Friday morning primetime slot will feature Professor Jeffrey Stone, University of Chicago Law School, who will give an overview of civil rights during wartime. Chief Judge Mary Schroder, John Deteshe, Justice Hurwitz, Professor Kittry Orb, Chuck Blanchard, Ann Ching, Professor Jack Chin, and a representative from the United States Attorney's office will all be participating. She stated that the Patriot Act is an ongoing issue. There will be an afternoon session presented by "World Peace through Law". COJET is also planning to do a broadcast in the spring of 2005 on the Japanese Internment experience in Arizona. It was explained that the COJET audience is different from the State Bar audience. Additionally, the COJET broadcast will not be as expansive as the State Bar program. The commission members gave a positive response to collaborating with COJET on this project. A request was made for the commission to grant permission for the Diversity Workgroup to work on these programs.

As part of the discussion, there was a question raised about Guantanamo Bay was part of the presentation and how it relates to this commission's charge? Judge Song Ong responded that it was up to the Diversity Workgroup to define how broad or narrow the collaboration with COJET will be on this presentation. Advocacy is an issue with The State Bar Association but not a part of this Supreme Court commission. It was stated that this will only be informational. There was a question about the commission's responsibility as a co-sponsor in light of funding issues. The response was that the commission would possibly be responsible for a breakfast or lunch in Tucson with local government leaders. The breakfast or lunch would have to be funded from the budget, so further discussion will be necessary. Any commission members interested in working with The Diversity Group on these two projects should contact any member of the workgroup.

Motion: Permission to work with COJET on the Japanese Internment Broadcast. Seconded and approved.

Motion: To be a Co-Sponsor with the State Bar for its 2005 convention. Seconded and approved. COM – 05 – 2 & 3

Other Items: Judge Song Ong thanked Ted Wilson and Henrietta Williams for duplicating for committee members a CD that was presented as part of the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board Decision. The CD contained two Arizona desegregation cases decided before the Brown case.

Overrepresentation

Cheryl Townsend reported. The workgroup will soon finish the report card, however final details taking longer than expected. Gerald Richard observed that the statistics in the report still show that three times more African American Juveniles are referred to the justice system

and that information for the Phoenix Police Department shows the same figure. Gerald Richard will keep the committee updated on Phoenix Police Department activities.

6. **Group Discussion – Strategic Planning Follow-up**

Ted Wilson reminded members of five core charges from the administrative code, and that the commission decided earlier to divide up the overall responsibilities into workgroups. He reminded the commission that new members need to be assigned for involvement in one or more of the workgroups.

Ted then highlighted the items that surfaced from the strategic planning session. He reminded members that the issue of providing court interpreters continues and as mentioned earlier was discussed at the last Diversity Workgroup meeting. The AJC recognizes that the central problem regarding court interpreters is how to secure needed funding. Grants have been explored as a possible solution, in addition to inquiries of getting funds from the state's General Fund. It was stated that linguistics goes beyond interpreters and a more inclusive term is linguistically appropriate services. It was decided that the Cultural Competency Workgroup expand to include linguistics. Recognizing the issue of funding, members of the commission would like keep this as a strategic topic. The focus is that the commission should monitor what courts are doing in the area of linguistics, noting that professional treatment services for youth often relates to linguistics, which is a commission responsibility. Gerald Richard decided that the Cultural Competency Workgroup would lead this issue and that the Diversity Workgroup would lend support where needed.

Ted stated the next issue is enhancing communication between the courts and minority communities. He said that one possible solution discussed at the planning session was to create a community outreach program. It was suggested that the Collaboration Workgroup take on the issue of enhancing communications between the courts and minority communities. Gerald Richard stated that the Collaboration Workgroup would now be working on this issue.

The next issue discussed was the commission's charge to increase the diversity of the judiciary at all levels to reflect the community it serves while maintaining the highest level of qualifications. Two items in this arena are the judicial appointment workshop and law clerk workshops. Gerald Richard said that Diversity Workgroup is assigned to continue work in this area.

In discussing how best to address the over-representation of minority youth in the justice system it was decided to assign this item to the Over-representation Workgroup. In addition Gerald agreed to actively participate with this work group in establishing a stronger link with the AZ Juvenile Justice Advisory Commission to collaborate on issues related to minority youth.

There were questions regarding the Cultural Competency Workgroup plan for training new judges. As referenced earlier in the meeting this responsibility falls to the AOC's Education Services Division and the limited commission resources might best be used in other areas. The commission requested that Ted get a copy of the curriculum to distribute to members for review. Gerald Richard stated that the Diversity Workgroup would work on this issue.

The commission received a brief summary of Project Restore. The project is fully developed, but additional forum are needed to deliver the program. Judge Davis stated that Marla Bradford would be a good contact for Project Restore. Judge Davis also stated that there is a lot of interest in this project at the community level. It was decided that this be assigned to the Collaboration Workgroup.

The commission reviewed current member assignments to workgroups and allowed new member to volunteer for assignments. Additionally, the commission decided that members for any special projects would be developed as needed.

6. Other Items

Jesus Dias reported on process in Pima County regarding a juvenile detention initiative. This initiative was started to monitor the demographics of who is referred to Juvenile Detention Center and to evaluate referrals, making sure that referrals remain an objective process. Jesus stated that data was examined over the last ten years and noted that while serious Juvenile crime decreased, the Juvenile Detention Center population showed a continuous increase. He said that reasons were not examined only the quantitative data. In an effort to explore alternatives to detention Casey Foundation funds are being used. The Casey Foundation invited a grant proposal from Pima County that was subsequently awarded. The funds will be used to hire Juvenile Detention Center coordinator. Thirty one applicants applied and at this point interviews have progressed down to four applicants. This is collaboration with the Burns Institute and Casey Foundation.

8. Future Meetings

Work Group Meeting	February 8, 2005
Next Commission Meeting	March 8, 2005

9. Call to the Public and adjourn at 1:30pm

**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
COMMISSION ON MINORITIES
MINUTES**

Tuesday March 08, 2005
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
State Courts Building Conference Room 230
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Helene Abrams
Hon. Francisca Cota, Vice Chair
Wil R. Counts
Jesus Diaz
Carole Coles Henry
Hon. Roxanne Song Ong
Margarita Silva
Hon. Ann A. Scott Timmer
Cheryl Townsend

EXCUSED

Patricia L. Cordova
James C. Kitt
Gerald P. Richard, II
Kathlene Marie Rosier
Niccole L. Winship

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Alex Arredondo
Mike Baumstark
Hon. John E. Davis
Lisa Loo

STAFF:

Maria Dennis, JJSD, AOC
Elizabeth Eells, JJSD, AOC
Sonya Pierce-Johnson JJSD, AOC
Ted Wilson, CSD, AOC

Guest:

Marcia Rincon-Gallardo, JDAI/DMC
Coordinator, Pima County Juvenile Court
Margaret Trujillo, Maricopa Superior Court
Nicole Yancy Governor's Office for Youth
& Families

1. Call to Order:

Judge Cota, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

2. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:

Judge Cota welcomed all and requested introductions from committee members and guests. Ted Wilson announced that staff is still seeking suggestions for a title for the spring, 2005 COJET broadcast. As discussed at the last meeting, the broadcast will focus on civil liberties in times of war. He also announced that Elizabeth Eells has accepted a position as Director of Research for Maricopa County Juvenile Court Services.

Ted informed the commission that a number of members are up for reappointment on June 30th. He mentioned that he would contact each member individually regarding their willingness to continue serving, but that each should understand that the ultimate appointment decision is made by the Chief Justice. He then briefly explained the reappointment decision-making process and timelines.

Ted reminded those present that the Georgia Commission on Access and Fairness in the Courts is hosting the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts' on April 13-16 in Atlanta. He announced that the AOC will pay the registration fee for any member who wishes to attend, but members would be responsible for their own travel. Anyone planning to attend should contact Ted following the meeting. He also mentioned that two judicial vacancies will soon occur in Maricopa County and that applications for these positions are now being accepted. Ted briefed members on the information packet for today's meeting.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes of the January 11, 2005 minutes. Seconded and approved. COM - 05 - 04.

4. Margaret Trujillo

Margaret Trujillo is currently the chair of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission and recently started a new job with the Trial Courts in Maricopa County in the position of Community Relations Director.

Ms. Trujillo provided some background on her career in the justice system. She then highlighted the mission and charge of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission, reporting on the commission's three-year plan and the plan's focus on the four core requirements of OJJDP - deinstitutionalization of status offenders; sight and sound separation of juveniles; jail removal; and, disproportionate minority contact.

Ms. Trujillo talked about her new position as Community Relations Director. She discussed several initiatives that the office plans to address. These include: 1) community oriented activities associated with getting out the message about what courts are doing; 2) sharing information about how to maneuver through the system; 3) establishing forums for open dialogue; and, 4) continue development of cultural trends and diversity initiatives. She said that she believes the key items for success are collaboration and information sharing with various committees and commissions whose goals are compatible with those of the new position so that resources are leveraged for greater impact.

5. Building Blocks Update

Maria Dennis distributed two handouts as part of her update on the Arizona Building Blocks initiative - Arizona Building Blocks Process Road Map and Systems Analysis: Building Blocks Research Advisory Committee Timeline of Events. She also briefed the commission on the activities from the February 10, 2005 meeting of the Building Blocks Governing Board.

Ms. Dennis summarized the material in the two handouts and mentioned that Building Blocks is part of a nationwide effort to better address overrepresentation of minority youth (DMC) in the Juvenile Justice System. She also talked about the revised structure of Building Blocks and the changes to form three workgroups: Education; Juvenile Justice; and Youth Families and Community and she talked about various findings of the Research Advisory Committee.

Cherie Townsend is a member of the Building Blocks Governing Board and she mentioned that other efforts, built on the Building Blocks model are underway, specifically plans for projects in Maricopa and Pima counties.

Jesus Diaz said that Pima County became an A. E. Casey Foundation Replication Site in October 2004. He said that the key objective of the Casey Replication Site initiative is to address the issue of overuse or misuse of the juvenile detention facility. He also said that since being selected, the Pima County Juvenile Court has established a work plan with the objective of reducing the DMC rate without jeopardizing public safety.

This work plan includes a variety of juvenile justice system intervention programs, which will be developed collaboratively with juvenile justice key stakeholders and community partnerships. Research, he said, shows that juvenile detention is one of the highest predictors of juvenile delinquency. He indicated that there might be a variety of reasons; however they do know that in the past 5 years the juvenile delinquency violent crime rate in Pima County has decreased by approximately 27%, yet the detention rate increased by about 50%.

Mr. Diaz introduced Marcia Rincon-Gallardo, the recently appointed Pima County Juvenile Court JDAI/DMC Coordinator. Ms. Rincon-Gallardo will take the lead determining what the court needs to do to address the two issues of DMC and overuse/misuse of detention. Jesus gave some information on Ms. Rincon-Gallardo's professional background and asked her to provide additional input about her anticipated work. She provided information on initiatives related to detention reform (JDAI – Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative) and how efforts in this arena have significantly reduced the number of in-custody youth in jurisdictions where these strategies have been implemented. She also provided information on DMC and the longer-term requirement, dictated by the focus on both the community and the justice system.

6. Workgroup Reports:

Overrepresentation

Cheryl Townsend distributed a recommended "introduction" letter for the report card and requested commission input, noting that it would be sent to Gerald Richard for approval and signature.

Motion: To approve the "Introduction" for the Report Card with suggested modifications. Seconded and approved. COM - 05 - 05.

7. Future Meetings

Work Group Meeting April 12, 2005

Next Commission Meeting May March 8, 2005

Call to the Public - No responses

Adjourned at 1:30pm

**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
COMMISSION ON MINORITIES
MINUTES**

Tuesday June 14, 2005

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

State Courts Building Conference Room 230

Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carole Coles Henry
Gerald P. Richard, II
Helene Abrams
Hon. Francisca Cota, Vice Chair
James C. Kitt
Jesus Diaz
Wil R. Counts

STAFF:

A. Teaunee Duran, CSD, AOC
Maria Dennis, JJSD, AOC
Sonya Pierce-Johnson JJSD, AOC
Theresa Barrett, CSC, AOC

Guest:

Bole Yancey, Governor's Office for
Cultural Affairs & Families

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cheryl Townsend
Hon. Ann A. Scott Timmer
Hon. John E. Davis
Hon. Roxanne Song Ong
Lisa Loo
Margarita Silva
Mike Baumstark
Patricia L. Cordova

1. **Call to Order:**

Gerald Richard, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:12 a.m.

2. **Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:**

Gerald welcomed everyone and acknowledged guests. All those present introduced themselves. Helene Abrams announced that since the Commission's last meeting she had been appointed to the bench for Maricopa County Superior Court. As a result of the amount of time her new position will require, Helene informed the Commission she had to step down from the Chair. Helene's efforts and dedication to the commission were acknowledged.

It was also noted that two members elected not to be reappointed: Kathlene Marie Rosier and Alex Arredondo. Gerald suggested that due to the resignation of these two members, commission members should think about recommendations for candidates from counties

outside Maricopa in order to enhance the Commission's geographic diversity and help to ensure that more jurisdictions of the state are represented.

Judge Cota announced that she recently attended a meeting in Washington D.C. on behalf of the Hispanic Bar Association. The meeting was an American Bar Association sponsored event, which brought all of the different "bars of color" together to discuss similarities and differences among the different organizations. Judge Cota will keep the commission informed on future events.

Sonya Pierce-Johnson, from the Juvenile Justice Services Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts, announced an event sponsored by the Arizona Foundation and Council of Human Service Providers. This is the organizations sixth annual training conference titled "Making Cultural Competency a Way of Life". The event will be held July 10th – July 12th at the Esplendor Resort in Rio Rico, Arizona. For more information regarding this event, please see the brochure that is posted on their website: <http://www.azcouncil.com/2005%20SponsorBroch.pdf>

Jesus Diaz spoke about his involvement with the Cultural Competency Committee (a standing committee to the Board of Directors for the Arizona Foundation and Council of Human Service Providers). The Cultural Competency Committee recently spent a day and a half working on performance measures and objectives to each of the eight principals of establishing a culturally competent organization. The results will be published in approximately three months and Jesus advised the committee that he will share the results with the commission when they are published.

Jesus also announced that through the efforts of Judge Hector Campoy, the Pima County Juvenile Court Center hosted a one day workshop titled "Undoing Racism." The workshop was conducted by the Peoples Institute for Survival and Beyond (New Orleans, LA), together with the Casey Foundation. This was the first workshop to include the entire juvenile court bench. Jesus shared with the commission that this workshop was very informational and thought provoking. One of the outcomes of the workshop was a debriefing, at which it was unanimously agreed that a follow up workshop was needed. The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) hosts a workshop titled "Unlearning Racism", which will be the follow up workshop. For more information regarding both workshops, please visit their websites: <http://www.thepeoplesinstitute.org/> (The Peoples Institute for Survival and Beyond) and <http://www.ywca.org/> (The Young Women's Christian Association).

3. **Approval of the Minutes**

Because a quorum was not reached, the March 8, 2005 minutes will be placed on the next meeting agenda for approval.

4. **Building Blocks Update**

Maria Dennis briefed the commission on the activities from the June 9, 2005 meeting of the Building Blocks Governing Board. Maria reported that in 2004, the Building Blocks Research Advisory Committee (BBRAC) presented preliminary findings on physical referrals by police to detentions and state juvenile corrections to the Governing Board. Initial findings of BBRAC indicated that over-representation existed at key decision points. Specifically, over-representation of African American youth physically referred to detention was identified.

Also at the June Building Blocks meeting suggestions from the Governing Board for further research and analysis were identified for police departments, juvenile probation and the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC). Tasks highlighted for each group included:

5. **Police Department**

- a. Review data on police officers' attempts to contact each parent.
- b. Look at the impact of special units targeting special populations.
- c. Look at the feasibility of addressing how many youth are being questioned. Are more minorities being stopped / contacted / questioned? Does this explain why more minority youth are being arrested?
- d. Focus on the comparison population (the denominator) for the at-risk population.

Gerald added that he and Assistant Chief Jim Pina presented on the Phoenix Police Department's Racial Profiling Initiative. Topics discussed included: Racial Profiling Education; Racial Profiling: Issues and Law; Racial Profiling: Definition, Pretextual Traffic Stops, Department's Policy, Personnel Assessment System (PAS), and Effects; Upcoming Training; Juvenile Detention Procedures; and Disposition of Juveniles Policies. It was noted that the complete presentation is now available on the Building Blocks website.

6. **Juvenile Probation**

- a. Explore the ethnic composition of probation officers who file violations of probation (VOPs) – is there any difference in VOP filings?
- b. Explore for differences in “failure” rates by ethnicity of those juveniles who are released from detention at the initial hearing and for those who are released because they scored less than 12 points on the detention screening instrument; review the decision points for youth who had priors.
- c. Review the success/failure of youth involved in detention alternatives and other out-of-home placements.
- d. Explore other legal, social and community factors related to both probation officer discretionary decisions (VOPs and citations on a failed diversion).

Maria further reported that between 2000 and 2005 juvenile probation has focused primarily on the Governing Board's goals to address community development and decision points. As a result, diversion and early intervention success rates have increased consistently (i.e., 74.2 % of those juveniles who successfully complete diversion do not have a complaint a year later and 92.% of those juveniles do not have a felony a year

later). Individual program and diversion success ranges anywhere from 60 to 97.5 %, an indication that some of the programs are more successful than others.

7. **ADJC**

- a. Explore the race of the person(s) making the decisions compared to the race of the juvenile – Is there any difference in parole recommendations and violations?
- b. Test for differences in the geographical areas of the paroled youth by the revocations.
- c. Evaluate the impact of the *Readiness for Release* tool that is in development.
- d. Assess differences in key stages that juveniles go through in order to be eligible for parole.

Maria reported that ADJC is also involved with other departments with the implementation of Community Development Initiatives that will allow for parents' involvement with the agency's decision process. Currently, the agency has over sixty parents involved in this process and a summit will take place in two weeks.

In addition, ADJC held its first Cultural Competency Initiative meeting to determine what needs to be in place for the future. Dr. Kellie Warren, Medical and Behavioral Health Service Director for ADJC, is currently reviewing youth assessment instruments to ensure they are culturally competent. Finally, Maria reported that ADJC hired an interpreter to provide services to non-English speaking youth and their families and have implemented a stipend to all Spanish speaking staff. She indicated the Community Services Division is also reviewing the service providers' requirements to ensure they are meeting cultural competency components.

8. **Building Blocks Workgroups Update**

Under the auspices of the **Education Workgroup**, the Cartwright School District, applied for the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant and the U.S. Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Centers program grant. The Cartwright School District was awarded JCRF funding for 20 laptop computers and software for their assisted learning center.

The **Juvenile Justice Workgroup** continues working on programs such as the Education Success Program and the Gateway Project to prevent and reduce truancy. Christ Presbyterian Church and, with assistance from Helene Abrams, the Juvenile Law Section of the Arizona State Bar have donated funds towards Truancy reduction incentives.

The **Youth, Families and Community Workgroup** changed its name to the Maryvale Alliance. The workgroup is working on developing a community service delivery model to link families with services, to link agencies with each other, and to access funding for new and existing programs. The Maryvale Alliance recently developed a business plan with the assistance of a consultant provided by a technical assistance grant. The Maryvale Revitalization Corporation, a nonprofit entity that is affiliated with Maryvale United, has agreed to act as the Alliance's fiscal agent for local community fund-raising efforts.

For more information regarding the activities discussed in the Building Blocks update please refer to the Building Blocks website at www.supreme.state.az.us/jjsd/BB_Initiative.htm

9. **Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission Update**

Nicole Yancey distributed a memo from J. Robert Flores, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The memo outlined a review and analysis that OJJDP conducted on the disproportionate minority contact (DMC) portion of Arizona's FY 2005 Formula Grants Three-Year Plan Update. The review was conducted to determine compliance with Section 223(a)(22) and Section 223(a)(11), (12) and (13) of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act. The review determined that Arizona was in full compliance and therefore, eligible to receive the 20 percent portion of the 2006 Grant allocation related to compliance with Section 223(a)(22). Notice of Arizona's eligibility for the remaining 80 percent of the formula Grant was also given and this portion of the Grant was relating to compliance with Section 223(a)(11),(12) and (13) of the JJDP Act. The three jurisdictions that were submitted to OJJDP for compliance were Maricopa County, Pima County and Yuma County.

Judge Cota pointed out that the Glendale and Peoria areas are growing rapidly in terms of population and juveniles in the area. She expressed concern with the availability of juvenile programs in those specific areas, as well as the surrounding cities. She suggested implementing an invitation-type activity (similar to one done in Cochise County). The commission would send out invitations to the various cities informing them that there is money available to assist with such programs and making them aware that they can apply for these grants.

ACTION ITEM: The commission agreed that at the next meeting the agenda will include a brainstorming session on the various ways that the commission can "reach out" to communities and inform them of the grants available that may assist them with implementing juvenile services.

12:20 Lunch

12:45 Meeting Resumed

10. **Workgroup Reports:**

Cultural Competency Workgroup

Carole Coles Henry reported that the workgroup met on May 4, 2005 and had an organizational meeting. The workgroup went over their Action Plan which will be distributed at the next meeting and further discussed developing diversity and cultural competency resource materials for individuals who want to learn more about the subject. Some examples of resource materials to be developed include: a quick reference guide, program evaluation tools, a self assessment survey and a cultural competency checklist.

Ultimately this workgroup is still in the information gathering stage with the goal of developing a “Best Practices” Model.

There were no additional workgroup reports.

11. **Group Discussion: Follow-up of Strategic Planning Session**

Gerald reported that the Governor had spearheaded bringing together a taskforce to look at immigration issues facing the state. In July, law enforcement representatives from around the state will meet in Flagstaff to take a look at the impact of immigration on law enforcement agencies. It was noted that the Governor would not be participating in the event to allow for open discussion.

In order to provide input from the Commission, Gerald established an ad-hoc committee to be headed by Jesus Diaz. The ad-hoc committee will consist of six to nine people who will identify individuals to speak about immigration issues that are affecting Arizona’s communities and the impact these issues are having on the criminal justice system. The committee will report their findings to the Commission at the September 12, 2005 meeting.

In closing, Jesus Diaz provided a handout to members titled “Disproportionate Minority Contact – One Year Later.” This document was published by the Pima County Juvenile Court Center (PCJCC). On May 15, 2005 PCJCC, the Community Advisory Board and the Minority Overrepresentation Workgroup hosted the DMC Community Symposium – A Call to Action. At this symposium various presenters “examined issues of racial and ethnic identity, emphasized the need to collect and analyze relevant data on DMC, and encouraged the development of a community collaboration that acknowledges the existence of the problem and the need for change in both policy and practice across the juvenile justice system.” For the second year post-symposium the group plans to, among other things, focus on the establishment of communication strategies, develop specific community-based alternatives, participate in site-visits, and implement focus groups.

12. **Future Meetings**

Work Group Meetings	July 12 and August 9, 2005
Next Commission Meeting	September 13, 2005

13. **Call to the Public - No responses**

Adjourned at 1:35pm

**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
COMMISSION ON MINORITIES
MINUTES**

Tuesday September 13, 2005

10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

State Courts Building Conference Room 230

Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Gerald P. Richard, II, Chair
Hon. Francisca Cota, Vice Chair
Helene Abrams
Carole Coles Henry
Wil R. Counts
Jesus Diaz
James C. Kitt
Lisa Loo
Hon. Ann A. Scott Timmer
Margarita Silva
Hon. Roxanne Song Ong
Niccole Winship

STAFF:

A. Teaunee Duran, CSD, AOC
Theresa Barrett, CSC, AOC

Guest:

Maria Dennis, JJSD, AOC
Sonya Pierce-Johnson JJSD, AOC
Nicole Yancey, Governor's Office for
Youth & Families

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Hon. John E. Davis
Mike Baumstark
Patricia L. Cordova

1. **Call to Order:**

Gerald Richard, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

2. **Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:**

Gerald welcomed everyone and acknowledged Chief Justice Ruth McGregor, Cari Gerchick and Honorable Helene Abrams as guests for today's meeting.

Theresa Barrett introduced Ms. Susan Pickard, who will be staffing the Commission, commencing at the November 8th meeting.

3. **Approval of the Minutes**

Motion: To approve the minutes of the March 8, 2005 and June 14, 2005 meetings.

Seconded and approved. COM-05-06.

4. **Recognition of Service**

Gerald Richard, on behalf of the entire committee, recognized Honorable Helene Abrams and Cheryl Townsend for their hard work and dedication while serving as members of the Commission. Gerald also congratulated Judge Abrams for her recent appointment to the bench of the Maricopa County Superior Court.

5. **Strategic Agenda Initiatives**

Chief Justice McGregor briefed the committee on the concept of her strategic agenda plan “Good to Great”. The focus of the plan is for every entity of the court system to move from conducting “good” business toward “great” business. One area, which is directly relevant to the commission, includes increasing diversity in the justice system.

Cari Gerchick, Public Information Officer, Administrative Office of the Courts, presented the five main goals of the “Good to Great” plan.

- Access to swift, fair justice
- Protecting children, families and communities
- Accountability
- Improving communication and cooperation with the community, other branches of government and within the judicial branch
- Serving the public by improving the legal profession

Cari Gerchick asked the committee for ideas or suggestions on what the court can do to receive feedback from the community. One example of how the court currently receives feedback from the community about the judicial branch is through Judicial Performance Review (JPR) surveys.

The committee offered the following suggestions:

- Education about the judicial system so individuals can make informed recommendations.
- The public’s perception of the judicial branch is largely based on what one may see through the media (television, movies, etc.). The public’s perception of what judges should be rated on are, most likely, not parallel to criteria judges feel they should be rated on.
- Poll the judges on what they feel their job criteria should entail.
- Focus groups including people who have had contact with the court.
- Education for the public regarding what judges are rated on for merit selection.

6. **Building Blocks Update**

Lynn Wiletsky informed the committee of topics which were discussed in the last Building Blocks meeting. Over the summer the Maryvale Alliance, formerly the Youth, Family Community Workgroup, formed several sub-committees which include: public safety, youth and family services and workforce development.

The juvenile justice workgroup has a new chairperson, Michaella Heslin. Michaella is the division chief in the juvenile division of the Maricopa county attorney's office. Bilingual staff and the associated budgeting issues were the focus of the juvenile justice workgroups last meeting. The concept of having bilingual staff available is not limited to the court, but rather should include agencies such as the public defender's office, county attorney's office as well as the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC). The committee discussed the fact that lack of court interpreters transforms into hearing continuances and result in delay with regard to case management. Funding and lack of adequately trained interpreters are the main reasons for the shortage of interpreters in the courts; however, the committee also discussed the fact that various agencies are experiencing the same shortage of interpreter issues.

11:40 Lunch

12:15 Meeting Resumed

7. **Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission Update**

Governor Napolitano recently appointed Honorable Cecil Patterson to Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission. Janet Garcia has been appointed as director for the Division of Children.

The commission has spent most of the year increasing their coordinated approach toward court protections of the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Program (JJDP) aftermath, sex offenders, delinquent youth in adult jail lockups as well as the disproportionate minority contact initiative, which the commission is mandated to address. The commission has been supportive of Pima County's effort to better support the minority contact initiative at a local level, while continuing to maintain a state wide coordinated approach towards state wide efforts. The commission has also been supportive of Maricopa County's Building Blocks work with the Maryvale/Cartwright School District area.

The commission is currently focusing on the West Valley and what research is necessary to provide insight on awareness and availability of existing resources.

The commission is preparing to begin their fall strategic planning session, an annual event to focus on a cumulative overview of the past years initiatives and plan goals for the next year. They are also in the midst of planning a Juvenile Justice Conference to focus on system reform/integration. The conference is expected to take place in May 2006.

8. **Workgroup Reports:**

Ad hoc Immigration Workgroup

The workgroup met three times. In the past 20 years, there has been a dramatic increase in immigration. The biggest barrier to the workgroup is a clear understanding of what the immigration population is, specifically in Arizona. The reason for the lack of information can be attributed to lack of uniform data collection processes. For example, in juvenile court, there is not a category in the information management system to record such data, as well as the legal issues involved with collecting such data; the workgroup is faced with this challenge in proceeding with their work.

Diversity Workgroup

Judge Song Ong informed the commission about the Minority State Bar Convention. Every year (bi-annually), the commission in conjunction with the State Bar and the minority judge's caucus organizes the Chris Nakamura Judicial Appointments Workshop. The workshop is an informative session for those who wish to apply or who are curious about what applying for a judgeship entails.

Faith Klepper of the Minority Women's Task Force for the State Bar spoke to the commission about the convention programming, which will include:

- Panel on diversity sensitivity
- April 17th, three break out sessions
- Two sessions toward the judicial workshop
- Immigration
- Indian Law seminar
- Criminal law session (appellate law)

The commission will need to get materials to the State Bar as early as possible. Judge Song Ong asked for those who wished to participate in the planning of the workshop to indicate so and advised that she would be in touch with further information at a later date.

Action Item

Distribution of the COJET Broadcast video.

9. **Future Meetings**

Work Group Meetings	October 11, 2005
Next Commission Meeting	November 8, 2005

Call to the Public - No responses

Adjourned at 1:35pm

**ARIZONA SUPREME COURT
COMMISSION ON MINORITIES
MINUTES**

Tuesday November 8, 2005

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

State Courts Building Conference Room 230

Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carole Coles Henry
Hon. Francisca Cota, Vice Chair
Wil R. Counts
Jesus Diaz
Lisa Loo, Telephonic
Hon. Ann A. Scott Timmer
Margarita Silva

STAFF:

A. Teaunee Duran, CSD, AOC
Susan Pickard, CSD, AOC

Guest:

Alice Bustillo
Robert Ellis, JJSD, AOC
Sonya Pierce-Johnson, JJSD, AOC
Lynn Wiletsky, JJSD, AOC

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mike Baumstark
Patricia L. Cordova
Hon. John E. Davis
James C. Kitt
Gerald Richard, Chair, Excused
Hon. Roxanne Song Ong, Excused
Niccole L. Winship, Excused

1. **Call to Order:**

Honorable Francisca Cota, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

2. **Welcome, Introductions and Announcements:**

Alice Bustillo of the Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department announced that Cheri Townsend accepted a position in Las Vegas, NV and will start her new position at the beginning of the year.

3. **Building Blocks Update**

Lynn Wiletsky briefed Judge Cota and Susan Pickard regarding the Building Blocks update prior to the start of the meeting, then Susan presented the update to the committee when the item came up on the agenda.

Building Blocks, in collaboration with the Maryvale Revitalization Corporation, has received approval from the Phoenix Police Department to apply for the Weed and Seed grant program. The Weed portion of the program would take into account law enforcement, prosecutors, juvenile and adult probation, Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the U.S. Marshall's Office; it would also involve Block Watch programs and would encompass the areas from 43rd Ave. to 57th Ave. and Thomas to McDowell. The Seed portion of the program refers to neighborhood restoration and prevention/intervention/treatment programs. If they receive the grant (\$1.25M over 5 years), half would be applied toward the Weed portion of the program and half would be applied to the Seed portion of the program.

4. **Approval of the Minutes**

A quorum was not present, the motion will be postponed until the January 10th meeting.

5. **Proposed 2006 Meeting Schedule**

A quorum was not present, the motion will be postponed until the January 10th meeting.

Comments/concerns

- If the commission reduced the number of meetings, it would hinder the amount of work that would be accomplished.
- The number of meeting dates is an indication of the work the commission is doing and reducing the number of meetings may falsely convey that the amount of work produced is diminishing.

6. **Strategic Planning**

The committee viewed and discussed the strategic planning PowerPoint. The members present suggested that a meeting in December would be helpful to re-gain focus and re-evaluate previously set goals.

7. **Future Meetings**

Strategic Planning Session	December 13, 2005
Next Commission Meeting	January 10, 2005

Call to the Public - No responses

Adjourned at 1:30pm