

Performance Report



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The Sixth Judicial Circuit did exemplary work in 2017, not only by disposing of thousands of cases in the criminal and civil arena, by also by starting up yet another therapeutic court. A dependency drug court, or DDC, was established in Pinellas County, one year after one was initiated in Pasco, and it was funded by federal grant dollars. The target population are parents whose substance abuse is believed to be at the root of their inability to properly care for their



Trial Courts Administrator
Gay Lynne Inskeep

children. Also in 2017, the circuit's juvenile diversion program, which aims to stop youth accused of non-violent crimes from committing any more offenses, saw the addition of several impressive programs and services. One helps siblings of juveniles accused of crimes, to ensure they don't make the type of decisions their brother or sister did. And there are now counselors dealing with troubled children who speak Spanish. For more particulars on these efforts, and for general information about other departments within the circuit, read below.

Gay Lynne Inskeep

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS 2017

ADULT DRUG COURT OVERVIEW

The Sixth Judicial Circuit adult drug court is an 18- to 24-month, court-supervised, comprehensive treatment adult drug court for eligible non-violent felony offenders. The Pinellas County adult drug court was initiated in 2001, and Pasco County's in 2007. Both courts consist of a community partnership forged between the Sixth Judicial Circuit, the State Attorney's office, the Public Defender's Office, both sheriffs' offices, the Florida Dept. of Corrections, local law enforcement, community substance abuse providers, and the Pinellas county and Pasco County boards of county commissioners. Adult drug court is a voluntary program that involves regular court appearances before a drug court judge. It exists to provide drug court participants the



Judge Dee Anna Farnell Pinellas Drug Court

opportunity to become productive, drug free members of the community.

ADULT DRUG COURT OVERVIEW (cont'd)



Judge Shawn Crane Pasco Drug Court

In the sixth circuit, adult drug courts serve a blended combination of pre-plea (pretrial intervention), post-plea, post-adjudication, and probation violators. The treatment-based approach begins with an eligible defendant receiving a substance abuse assessment administered by a licensed treatment provider. Following the substance abuse evaluation and based on the result, the licensed and certified assessor will make a treatment recommendation to the court. Defendants opting out of the drug court are transferred to another felony division for prosecution. Defendants who voluntarily enter drug court are ordered to complete an appropriate outpatient or residential treatment level as determined by the court.

Frequent judicial review hearings enable the court to closely monitor a participant's progress in treatment and the results of frequent **random** drug testing. Participants report directly to the drug court judge at these hearings. Based on success or setbacks, the drug court judge either rewards compliance or sanctions non-compliance.

ADULT DRUG COURT OVERVIEW (cont'd)

For defendants entering adult drug court through pre-trial intervention-diversion (first-time, nonviolent, 3rd degree felons), successful completion and graduation from the program will result in a dismissal of the charge. For defendants entering the drug court as a condition of probation (post-plea drug court), successful completion will result in a withhold of adjudication, and/or a reduced length of probation.



Judge Farnell interacts with a defendant in her drug court at the County Justice Center in Clearwater.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT OVERVIEW

The Veterans Treatment Court, or VTC, was established in Pinellas and Pasco counties with state funding in 2013. A smaller VTC in Pinellas has been operating since 2011. The aim of this special court is to help veterans deal with their current criminal charges and stop them from getting into further trouble. It also is designed to help with substance abuse or mental health issues that may have caused or contributed to their legal problems. Only veterans charged with misdemeanors and certain felonies, such as drug-related charges, burglary, grand theft, and battery, may qualify and must submit an application through the State Attorney's Office. Among the criteria considered by the Sate Attorney's Office are the victim's point of view, the veteran's criminal history and the veteran's service record. The VTC partners with the Veterans Administration, treatment providers and employment specialists to help the veterans succeed.

POST ADJUDICATION PRISON DIVERSION DRUG COURT

Late in 2009, Pinellas received grant funding through the state of Florida to launch a new post-adjudicatory expansion Adult Drug Court pilot. The Legislature directed \$19 million in federal funds from the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant to expansion drug courts in nine counties for case management, treatment services and drug testing, data management, and project administration. This drug court, assigned to Pinellas Criminal Division "Z," is for defendants who are facing prison but whose sentencing scores do not exceed 60 points. Once the grant funding ended, the State of Florida continued to fund the project.

DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT OVERVIEW

The purpose of the Sixth Judicial Circuit's Dependency Drug Courts (DDC) is to provide substance-abusing parents with support, treatment, and access to services that will protect children; reunite families (as applicable); and expedite permanency. The target population of DDCs are adults (parents) who have had a dependency adjudication where a primary cause for the neglect or abuse is parental substance abuse and who have a history of substance abuse disorders with or without co-occurring mental health problems, and histories of trauma. Each county serves about 35 families per year. The Pasco DDC was initiated with SAMHSA grant funding in 2016, and the Pinellas DDC was implemented in 2017 with funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP).



Judge Patrice Moore Presides

Over Cases in Dependency Drug

Court in Pinellas County

EARLY CHILDHOOD COURT OVERVIEW

Two dependency court divisions, one in Pasco County and one in Pinellas County, in collaboration with child welfare agencies, child and family advocates, community leaders, early child care and education providers, attorneys, and other dependency stakeholders, collectively called the Early Childhood Court Team, launched early childhood courts – Pasco in the fall of 2013 and Pinellas in May 2015. These ECCs used the Zero to Three (ZTT) Safe Babies Court model as well as modifications made to Florida's ECC model. The ECC, which addresses dependency cases countywide, helps infant and toddler victims of maltreatment by protecting them from further harm, addressing damage already done, and addressing the trauma suffered by parents to enable them to more effectively parent.



Circuit Judge

Kimberly Todd Presides

In Early Childhood

Court in Pinellas County

EARLY CHILDHOOD COURT OVERVIEW (cont'd)

The ZTT Early Childhood Court model was designed to keep children safe while attempting to address the underlying causes for the parenting failure. The ZTT model involves a family court judge partnering with a child development specialist to create a multidisciplinary team of child welfare and health professionals, child advocates and community leaders to provide services to abused and neglected infants and toddlers. The ZTT model's core components are 1) judicial leadership,

- 2) continuum of behavioral health services,
- 3) a collaborative court team, 4) a community coordinator, 5) cross agency training, 8) developmental supports for child well-being,
- 6) placement and concurrent planning,
- 7) monthly family team meetings to review open cases, 8) parent-child contact,



Judge Lynn Tepper

Presides Over Early Childhood

Court in Pasco County

9) evaluation, and 10) funding and sustainability. Florida has added to this mode the additional components of trauma lens, central role of infant mental health specialist and Child Parent Psychotherapy, parent education, and co-parenting.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Sixth Judicial Circuit's criminal adult drug court program is to provide eligible participants immediate, comprehensive and appropriate substance abuse treatment, aftercare and compliance monitoring in an effort to eliminate substance abuse and recidivism, thereby reducing crime, increasing community safety, and lowering costs of the criminal justice system.

The mission of the Sixth Judicial Circuit's dependency treatment court programs is to achieve permanent, stable homes for children by creating healthy, drug-free families through treatment, family supports and services, and enhanced judicial supervision.

GOALS

CRIMINAL ADULT DRUG COURT

- (1) TO REDUCE CRIMINAL RECIDIVISM
- (2) TO PROVIDE COST-EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION
- (3) TO PROVIDE TIMELY ACCESS TO SUPPORTIVE TREATMENT INTERVENTION
- (4) TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR TARGETED OFFENDERS AND THEIR FAMILIES
- (5) TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF ADDICTION AFFECTING DRUG COURT PARTICIPANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES
- (6) TO PROMOTE COMMUNITY SAFETY BY ADDRESSING SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO LOCAL CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

GOALS DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT

- (1) TO MAINTAIN/ENHANCE FAMILY BONDS.
- (2) TO TREAT ADDICTIONS TO ENABLE LONG-TERM, STABLE RECOVERY.
- (3) SAVE MONEY FOR COMMUNITY AND FAMILIES.
- (4) PROMOTE SAFETY FOR CHILD AND FOR COMMUNITY.
- (5) PREVENT NEGATIVE REPEAT PATTERNS.
- (6) DECREASE NUMBER OF FOSTER CHILDREN IN CARE.
- (7) PROVIDE FAMILIES OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS.
- (8) CREATE STABLE, SAFE FAMILIES.
- (9) PROVIDE INTENSIVE, SUPPORTIVE TREATMENT INTERVENTION.
- (10) MAKE FAMILIES AWARE OF RESOURCES, CONTACTS AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS.

GOALS EARLY CHILDHOOD COURT

- (1) PROTECT CHILDREN FROM ABUSE OR NEGLECT.
- (2) ENSURE CHILDREN REMAIN SAFELY IN THEIR HOMES WHENEVER POSSIBLE.
- (3) ENSURE CHILDREN'S LIVING CONDITIONS ARE PERMANENT AND STABLE
- (4) ENSURE CHILDREN'S RELATIONSHIPS TO FAMILY ARE PRESERVED
- (5) ENSURE FAMILIES HAVE ENHANCED CAPACITY TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR CHILDREN'S NEEDS
- (6) ENSURE CHILDREN RECEIVE APPROPROPIATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR EDUCATIONAL NEEDS
- (7) ENSURE CHILDREN RECEIVE ADEQUATE SERVICES TO MEET THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS.

DEVELOPMENTS PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

In 2017, the Pinellas Veterans Treatment Court was in its second year of a three-year \$975,000 grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to expand capacity and services for military veterans. The court partners with Solutions Behavioral Healthcare Consultants, Westcare Gulfcoast-Florida, and PERC. The veterans treatment courts in Pasco and Pinellas counties are also allocated \$150,000 each from the Florida Legislature toward its operational costs. A SAMHSA grant supporting the Veterans Treatment Court in Pasco ended in 2017.

In 2017, the Pinellas County Adult Drug Court was in its second year of a three-year \$280,000, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant to provide behavioral/criminogenic focused treatment to participants that have completed substance abuse treatment but have compliance issues not related to continued drug use. This program is a collaborative effort with Solutions Behavioral Healthcare Consultants.

The Pinellas County Adult Drug Court was in its second year of a three-year \$1,275,000 BJA/SAMHSA grant to provide drug treatment to young adults (18-30) with substance use disorders, mild co-occurring mental illness and trauma. The Court partnered with Center for Rational Living and Westcare Gulfcoast-Florida to provide the treatment and required program evaluation.

DEVELOPMENTS PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS (cont'd)

The Pinellas Unified Family Court received a 3-year \$600,000 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) grant to launch a new Dependency Drug Court to provide treatment and family-support services to adult drug court clients who also have open dependency cases. The court launched early in 2017.

The Pasco Adult Drug Court entered its second year of a 3-year \$975,000 SAMHSA Grant to provide treatment and family-support services to adult drug court clients who also have open dependency cases. The program was expanded to start a new Dependency Drug Court for families who have a dependency adjudication where a primary cause for the neglect or abuse is parental substance abuse. The court partnered with WestCare to provide services under the project.

The Sixth Judicial Circuit entered into a new agreement with Social Solutions, vendor for its drug court database software, to expand its drug court database for use in Dependency Drug Court. The new functionality will become available early in 2018.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

CRIMINAL DRUG COURTS

(1) NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ACCEPTED:

PASCO ADC – 272

PINELLAS – 395

PASCO VTC – 27

PINELLAS VTC – 44

PINELLAS PRISON DIVERSION -44

CRIMINAL DRUG COURTS (cont'd)

(2) ACTIVE CASELOAD AS OF END OF DECEMBER

PASCO ADC – 354

PINELLAS ADC – 569

PASCO VTC - 35

PINELLAS VTC – 61

PINELLAS PRISON DIVERSION – 118

CRIMINAL DRUG COURTS (cont'd)

(3) RECIDIVISM RATES AS MEASURED AT 12 MONTHS AND 24 MONTHS FROM GRADUATION (PLEASE NOTE THAT VTC IS A SUBSET OF ADC PERCENTAGES)

PASCO ADC – 12 MONTHS: 5.4%; 24 MONTHS: 17.9%

PINELLAS ADC – 12 MONTHS: 7.5%; 24 MONTHS: 22.7 %

PASCO VTC – 12 MONTHS: 3.7 %; 24 MONTHS: 10%

PINELLAS VTC – 12 MONTHS: 3.3%; 24 MONTHS: 11.1%

PINELLAS PRISON DIVERSION – OF THE 6 GRADUATES IN 2015, 2 HAVE BEEN REARRESTED (33.3%). OF THE 14 GRADUATES IN 2016, 4 HAS BEEN REARRESTED (28.6 %).

CRIMINAL DRUG COURTS (cont'd)

(4) RE-ARREST RATES FOR ACTIVE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS (PLEASE NOTE THAT VTC IS A SUBSET OF ADC PERCENTAGES)

PASCO ADC - 5.1%

PINELLAS ADC – 10.5%

PASCO VTC - 4%

PINELLAS VTC – 13.4%

PINELLAS PRISON DIVERSION – 3.4%

CRIMINAL DRUG COURTS (cont'd)

(5) RETENTION RATE MEASURED BY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CURRENT ENROLLEES PLUS THE TOTAL NUMBER OF GRADUATES IN THE LAST THREE YEARS DIVIDED BY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS EVER ENROLLED IN THE LAST THREE YEARS (PLEASE NOTE THAT VTC IS A SUBSET OF ADC PERCENTAGES)

PASCO ADC - 66%

PINELLAS ADC – 74%

PASCO VTC - 74%

PINELLAS VTC - 77%

PINELLAS PRISON DIVERSION – 90%

CRIMINAL DRUG COURTS (cont'd)

- (6) NUMBER OF GRADUATES (PLEASE NOTE THAT VTC IS A SUBSET OF ADC)
 - I. NUMBER OF GRADUATES
 - II. % OF GRADUATES WHO RETAINED OR OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT
 - III. NUMBER OF GRADUATES WHO EARNED A GED OR ENROLLED IN A GED PROGRAM WHILE IN DRUG COURT
 - PASCO ADC 140 GRADUATES 49.8% OF ALL 2017 EXITS; 76.4% RETRAINED OR OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT; 17.9% WERE RETIRED, DISABLED OR A STUDENT EXIT; 9 EARNED OR ENROLLED IN A GED PROGRAM WHILE IN DRUG COURT.
 - PINELLAS ADC 309 GRADUATES 62.9% OF ALL 2017 EXITS; 83.5% RETRAINED OR OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT; 8.4% WERE RETIRED, DISABLED OR A STUDENT EXIT; 39 EARNED OR ENROLLED IN A GED PROGRAM WHILE IN DRUG COURT

CRIMINAL DRUG COURTS (cont'd)

- (6) NUMBER OF GRADUATES (cont'd)
 - PASCO VTC 29 GRADUATES 70.7% OF ALL 2017 EXITS; 48.3% WERE EMPLOYEDAND 48.3% WERE RETIRED, DISABLED OR A STUDENT EXIT; 3 EARNED A GED OR ENROLLED IN A GED PROGRAM WHILE IN DRUG COURT.
 - PINELLAS VTC 45 GRADUATES 61.6% OF ALL 2017 EXITS; 57.8% WERE EMPLOYED AND 31.1% WERE RETIRED, DISABLED OR A STUDENT EXIT; 1 EARNED A GED OR ENROLLED IN A GED PROGRAM WHILE IN DRUG COURT.
 - PINELLAS PRISON DIVERSION 19 GRADUATES, 73.7% RETAINED OR OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT, 2 ENROLLED IN A GED PROGRAM WHILE IN DRUG COURT.

CRIMINAL DRUG COURTS (cont'd)

(7) NUMBER OF DRUG-FREE BABIES BORN TO PARTICIPANTS

PASCO ADC – 1

PINELLAS ADC – 4

PASCO VTC - NO BIRTHS

PINELLAS VTC – NO BIRTHS

PINELLAS PRISON DIVERSION – NO BIRTHS

DEPENDENCY DRUG COURTS

THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HAS BEGUN COMPILING STATISTICS FOR NEW DEPENDENCY COURTS, AS IS OUTLINED LATER IN THIS REPORT. THE ONES AVAILABLE NOW ARE LISTED BELOW.

- (1) NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ACCEPTED (PASCO COUNTY ONLY):
 - (A) ADULT DRUG COURT WITH DEPENDENCY 21
 - (B) DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT 29
- (2) NUMBER OF CASES RESEARCHED FOR POSSIBLE REASSIGNMENT 357
- (3) NUMBER OF SHELTER, ARRAIGNMENT/DISPOSITION AND/OR TREATMENT HEARINGS ATTENDED 76
- (4) NUMBER OF ORDERS PREPARED 44

DEPENDENCY DRUG COURTS (cont'd)

DEPENDENCY DRUG COURTS (DATA COLLECTION TO BEGIN APRIL 2018 WITH NEW DATABASE ROLLOUT.)

- (1) NUMBER OF TPR (TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS) PETITIONS AMONG FAMILIES IN THE DDC.
- (2) PERCENTAGE OF CASES FOR WHICH SHERIFF REPORTS REPEAT ABUSE AND REMOVAL WITHIN ONE YEAR OF REUNIFICATION FOLLOWING SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF DDC.
- (3) AVERAGE TIME FROM DEPENDENCY ADJUDICATION TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION FOR DDC PARTICIPANTS WHO ACHIEVE REUNIFICATION.
- (4) AVERAGE TIME FROM DEPENDENCY ADJUDICATION TO PERMANENCY FOR DDC FAMILIES.
- (5) AVAILABILITY OF VARIOUS LEVELS OF SUBSIDIZED OUTPATIENT AND RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT OPTIONS.

DEPENDENCY DRUG COURTS (cont'd)

DEPENDENCY DRUG COURTS (DATA COLLECTION TO BEGIN APRIL 2018 WITH NEW DATABASE ROLLOUT.) (cont'd)

- (6) NUMBER OF FAMILIES WHO COMPLETED.
- (7) RETENTION RATES PROPORTION OF THOSE WHO ARE ACCEPTED IN THE PROGRAM THAT ARE CURRENTLY ACTIVE IN THE PROGRAM, WHO HAVE GRADUATED, WHO RECEIVED ADMINISTRATIVE TERMINATIONS, AND WHO HAVE TERMINATED UNSUCCESSFULLY.
- (8) POSITIVE CHANGES IN PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS (USING EVIDENCE-BASED MEASURES COLLECTED AT ENTRANCE AND LATER FOLLOW-UPS).
- (9) NUMBER OF DRUG-FREE BABIES BORN.

DEPENDENCY DRUG COURTS (cont'd)

EARLY CHILDHOOD COURTS (TO BE REPORTED STARTING 2018):

- (1) NUMBER AND PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN ECC THAT DID NOT RETURN TO CARE (AS MEASURED AT ONE-YEAR POST-REUNIFICATION).
- (2) PERCENT OF CHILDREN IN ECC WHO DID HAVE MORE THAN ONE PLACEMENT DURING PROGRAM PARTICIPATION
- (3) NUMBER AND PERCENT OF ECC CASES THAT ACHIEVED PERMANENCY WITHIN 12 MONTHS.
- (4) NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH THE FOSTER AND BIOLOGICAL PARENT PARTICIPATED IN AN ICE BREAKER.
- (5) PERCENT OF TIME THE BIOLOGICAL PARENT ATTENDED SCHEDULED SKYPE, TELEPHONE AND PERSON-TO-PERSON VISITS WITH CHILD (WHEN VISITATION ALLOWED).

DEPENDENCY DRUG COURTS (cont'd)

EARLY CHILDHOOD COURTS (TO BE REPORTED STARTING 2018) (cont'd):

- (6) NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING PARENTS WHO WERE ABLE TO SAFELY PARENT THEIR CHILD IN UNSUPERVISED VISITATION SESSION WITHIN EIGHT MONTHS.
- (7) PERCENT OF CASES IN WHICH FOSTER PARENTS CONTINUED TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE BIOLOGICAL FAMILY FOR 90 DAYS POST-REUNIFICATION.
- (8) PERCENT OF PARENTS WHOE EXPERIENCED IMPROVED FEELINGS OF IDENTIFICATION AS PARENT FOLLOWING CPP (MEASURE YET *TBD*).
- (9) PERCENT OF CHILDREN WHO RECEIVED CPP WITH THEIR PARENT THAT HAVE IMPROVEMENTS SINCE THE START OF THE PROGRAM IN THE AREAS OF DEMONSTRATED DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY AND DEFICITS, AS WELL AS OBSERVED LEVELS OF STRESS AND ANXIETY (MEASURE YET TBD).

DEPENDENCY DRUG COURTS (cont'd)

EARLY CHILDHOOD COURTS (TO BE REPORTED STARTING 2018) (cont'd):

- (10) PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN ECC WHO HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR EDUCATION READINESS OR QUALITY DAY CARE.
- (11) PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN ECC WHO HAD THEIR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS ADDRESSED.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

BEHAVIORAL EVALUATIONS 2017

OVERVIEW

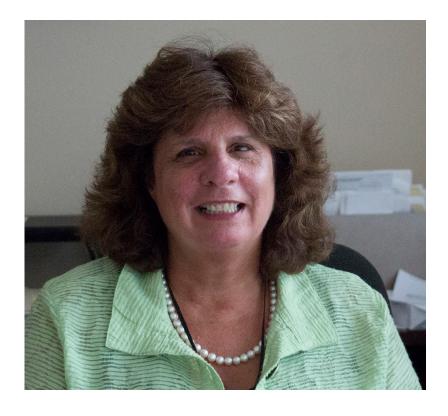
PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED FOR JUVENILES BY THE BEHAVIORAL EVALUATION PROGRAM AND FOR ADULTS BY THE COURT PSYCHOLOGIST

JUVENILE BEHAVIORAL EVALUATION PROGRAM

The Juvenile Behavioral Evaluation program supports the Unified Family Court in its decision-making process by providing the court with psychological evaluations of youthful offenders and truants and their families. Information is obtained from youth and parent interviews, school and mental health records, contacts with collateral sources, including the Department of Juvenile Justice, treatment agencies, the Guardian ad Litem, and the Department of Children and Families. Reports include information regarding the social, emotional, behavioral, and cognitive functioning of the youth; overall functioning of the family; violence risk; the youth's competence to proceed, if needed; and recommended sanctions based on treatment needs.

OVERVIEW (cont'd)

Information is provided by report and through court testimony. The program seeks to identify unaddressed mental health, substance abuse, and family problems and works actively to link youth and their families to appropriate community resources. The staff is active in mobilizing alternatives to incarceration, assisting with placements of very difficult youth, advocating for the needs of a particular youth among involved agencies, and in working with court committees to encourage and develop alternatives to incarceration. The staff works with Truancy Court and the Truancy Magistrate Program.



Dr. Adele Solazzo

Behavioural Evaluations Program Director

OVERVIEW (cont'd)

The behavioral evaluation program serves delinquent, truant and/or dependent youth ages 7-18 and their families, appearing before the Unified Family Court. All youth have been charged in Pinellas County and are referred by court order. Services are provided at the County Justice Center, with some youth being seen in the Juvenile Detention Center in Clearwater.

COURT PSYCHOLOGIST – ADULT CRIMINAL

The court psychologist provides competency to proceed to trial evaluations and expert witness testimony for defendants appearing in criminal court. The court psychologist also provides mental status and placement evaluations of adults in criminal court, making recommendations regarding necessary treatment needs. Many evaluations are provided on an immediate basis, thereby enhancing the efficiency and productivity of the court.

MISSION STATEMENTS

The Juvenile Behavioral Evaluation Program supports the Unified Family Court in its decision-making process by providing information regarding the social, emotional, behavioral, and cognitive abilities of the child; the overall functioning of the family; information regarding the child's competency to understand court proceedings; and recommended sanctions based on treatment needs. The program also enhances the well being of the individual, family and community by linking clients with community agencies for treatment as needed.

The court psychologist supports the criminal court in its decision-making process by providing competency-to-proceed-to-trial evaluations, mental status and treatment placement evaluations, and expert witness testimony for defendants appearing in criminal court.

GOALS

- (1) TO PROVIDE THE COURT WITH INFORMATION THROUGH A REPORT AND/OR TESTIMONY THAT WILL HELP THE COURT UNDERSTAND THE UNIQUE PROBLEMS OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY AND INCLUDES IDENTIFICATION OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING: MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS, MENTAL RETARDATION, ACADEMIC AND VOCATIONAL ISSUES, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, VIOLENCE HISTORY AND BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS.
- (2) TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COURT REGARDING DISPOSITION AND NEEDED TREATMENT INTERVENTIONS.
- (3) TO PROVIDE THE COURT WITH EVALUATIONS OF THE CHILD OR ADULT DEFENDANT'S COMPETENCY TO UNDERSTAND COURT PROCEEDINGS AND ASSIST IN THEIR DEFENSE.
- (4) TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY TO THE COURT WHEN NEEDED

GOALS (cont'd)

- (5) TO PROVIDE CONSULTATION TO FAMILIES REGARDING TEST RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS, TO LINK FAMILIES TO APPROPRIATE RESOURCES, TO ASSIST WITH PLACEMENT OR ADVOCACY AS NEEDED, OR TO PROVIDE CRISIS INTERVENTION.
- (6) TO PROVIDE TRAINING, CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION TO COURT PERSONNEL, INCLUDING JUDGES, ATTORNEYS, JUVENILE JUSTICE PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, AND COMMUNITY PROVIDERS AND AGENCIES WORKING WITH YOUTH

ACHIEVEMENTS

JUVENILE BEHAVIORAL EVALUATION PROGRAM*

NUMBER OF JUVENILE EVALUATIONS 549

NUMBER OF TRUANCY EVALUATIONS 15

NUMBER OF JUVENILE COMPETENCY EVALUATIONS 78

NUMBER OF FAMILY INTERVIEWS 341

(*BASED ON FISCAL YEAR 10/1/2016-9/30/2017)

ADULT CRIMINAL COURT PSYCHOLOGIST*

NUMBER OF ADULT COMPETENCY EVALUATIONS COMPLETED 717

NUMBER OF WRITTEN REPORTS PROVIDED TO COURT 118

NUMBER OF BAKER ACT SCREENINGS PERFORMED 16

NUMBER OF CASES FOR WHICH EXPERT TESTIMONY WAS PROVIDED 660

(BASED ON DATA FROM 1/1/2017 TO 12/31/2017)

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

CASE MANAGEMENT 2017

OVERVIEW

The Supreme Court Committee on Trial Court Performance and Accountability Case defined case management as "the systematic administration and allocation of resources, including judicial attention and leadership, time, court staff, court technology, and the resources of parties and communities, directed to enhancement of the quality, timeliness, and efficiency of the judicial system. Case management develops and maintains reasonable and achievable policies and practices, identifies, collects and organizes critical case information, responds appropriately to characteristics of cases and parties, organizes movement of cases, ensures that necessary activities and events occur, marshals and prioritizes court and community resources, promotes reasonable and consistent expectations, provides critical information to judicial leaders and court managers, and promotes accountability and ongoing improvement."

COMPONENTS

FAMILY

Case managers assist judges by facilitating the flow of cases through the family law system, particularly dissolution of marriage cases, family law cases involving pro se litigants, and domestic violence. Work involves reviewing and monitoring cases, providing procedural and informational assistance to litigants, making referrals to legal assistance programs for persons seeking legal advice, noticing parties of missing items prior to hearings, checking service, setting case management conferences and other hearings, attending hearings as required, and preparing draft orders.



Jessica Tilbury

Case Manager, Family Law Division

COMPONENTS (cont'd)

UNIFIED FAMILY COURT

A team of case managers assists the court to help ensure a single judge hears all family law matters involving one family when at least one of the cases is a dependency or delinquency case. Related family matters include child support, domestic relations, domestic violence, delinquency and dependency. Key elements of the sixth circuit's procedures include an integrated information system for providing necessary case tracking and calendaring, the case management team which serves as a central intake unit, coordinated family mediation, community social service and self-help referrals, facilitated inter-agency communication to avoid duplication of services, and swift identification and handling of cases where persons may be at risk of family violence. Staff also assist judges by facilitating the flow of cases through the juvenile system, particularly regarding juvenile release requests, adoptions stemming from termination of parental rights, and dependency actions.

COMPONENTS (cont'd)

UNIFIED FAMILY COURT (cont'd)

Work involves reviewing and monitoring cases, contacting parties regarding missing items prior to hearings, checking service, setting hearings, preparing draft orders, coordinating with other agencies, and reviewing pending caseloads for dispositional problems. An alternative sanctions coordinator assists in case flow management of delinquency and related cases, serves as liaison between judiciary and delinquency-related agencies, and recommends alternative sanctions to incarceration as requested by the judiciary.



Gina Camerano-Jeffrey

Case Manager, Unified Family Court

COMPONENTS (cont'd)

CRIMINAL ADMINISTRATION

The staff assigned to criminal administration processes divisional reassignments, informs each judge of mandates from the second district court of appeal, codes the mainframe to reflect available calendar dates, and maintains a list of capital case assignments among the felony divisions. Additionally, the staff processes all appointments and reporting of doctors in cases where the mental capacity of the defendant is in question. The staff also undertakes other criminal-related projects assigned to them by court administration.



Court Operations Manager Stephanie Lorich, seated, with assistant Christie Bracciano

MISSION STATEMENT

Case managers in the sixth judicial circuit will screen and manage cases to promote timely disposition and maximize the efficient use of court resources to help deliver a high-quality litigation process. Case managers will ensure equal access to the courts by providing procedural and other information to the litigants and the public.

GOALS

- (1) ASSIST THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT TO MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT USE OF JUDGE AND GENERAL MASTER TIME.
- (2) HELP ENSURE EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF ALL LITIGANTS.
- (3) FOSTER THE TIMELY DISPOSITION OF CASES.
- (4) PROVIDE PROCEDURAL AND OTHER INFORMATION TO LITIGANTS, THE PUBLIC, AND ATTORNEYS.
- (5) ENABLE HIGHER DEGREES OF PREDICTABILITY AND CERTAINTY IN SCHEDULING.
- (6) MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF LIMITED RESOURCES, MINIMIZING COSTS TO LITIGANTS, THE COURT AND THE PUBLIC.

GOALS (cont'd)

- (7) DIRECT LITIGANTS/PARTIES TO APPROPRIATE COURT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES AND MONITOR PROGRESS AS APPROPRIATE.
- (8) IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF COURT AND COURT-RELATED SERVICES THROUGH GOOD INTERAGENCY COMMUNICATIONS.
- (9) PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ALL FAMILY LAW JUDGES WITH PERIODIC REVIEW OF QUARTERLY TIME STANDARDS REPORTS.

ACHIEVEMENTS

FAMILY

- (1) NUMBER OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS CASES REVIEWED FOR HEARING READINESS
 - IN PASCO, 2,571 CASES WERE REVIEWED AND, OF THIS NUMBER, 2,186 WERE SCHEDULED FOR CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE AND 385 WERE SCHEDULED FOR FINAL HEARING.
 - IN PINELLAS, 2,550 CASES WERE REVIEWED FOR HEARING BEFORE A GENERAL MAGISTRATE, AND, OF THESE, 1,602 WERE SET AND AND 948 WERE DEEMED NOT READY TO PROCEED.
- (2) NUMBER OF TELEPHONE CALLS FIELDED REGARDING PROCEDURAL INFORMATION

IN PASCO, 313

IN PINELLAS, 12,421 TELEPHONE CALLS AND CORRESPONDENCE SEEKING INFORMATION WERE ANSWERED

- (3) NUMBER OF CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES CALENDARED AND HEARD, AND NUMBER PROCEEDING TO FINAL HEARING AT CONFERENCE.
 - IN PASCO, 2,186 CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES WERE CALENDARED, 2,811 DRAFT ORDERS WERE PREPARED, 370 CASES WERE REFERRED TO THE CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT FOR LACK OF PROSECUTION, 717 CASES WERE REFERRED TO THE CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT FOR REMOVAL OF PENDING STATUS, AND 173 CASES WERE SENT TO FAMILY LAW JUDGES FOR FURTHER PROCEDURAL DIRECTIVE.
 - IN PINELLAS, 1,644 CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES WERE CALENDARED. FINAL JUDGEMENT WAS ENTERED IN 652 CASES, 85 WERE RESOLVED PRIOR TO HEARING, AND 44 WERE DISMISSED, FOR A TOTAL CLEARANCE OF 781 CASES.

- (4) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RETURN HEARING STATISTICS FOR PINELLAS ONLY.
 - (1) TOTAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES 2,247
 - (a) FINAL JUDGMENT OF INJUNCTION GRANTED 848
 - (b) REFERRALS TO GENERAL MAGISTRATE 189
 - (c) FIRST COMPLIANCE HEARINGS SET 440

- (2) TOTAL DATING VIOLENCE INJUNCTIONS (PINELLAS ONLY) 212
 - (a) FINAL JUDGMENT OF INJUNCTION GRANTED 75
 - (b) REFERRALS TO GENERAL MAGISTRATE 0
 - (c) FIRST COMPLIANCE HEARINGS SET 34
- (3) TOTAL SEXUAL VIOLENCE INJUNCTIONS (PINELLAS ONLY) 57
 - (a) FINAL JUDGMENT OF INJUNCTION GRANTED 34
 - (b) REFERRALS TO GENERAL MAGISTRATE 0
 - (c) FIRST COMPLIANCE HEARINGS SET 12

- (4) TOTAL REPEAT VIOLENCE INJUNCTIONS (PINELLAS ONLY) 203
 - (a) FINAL JUDGMENT OF INJUNCTION GRANTED 70
 - (b) REFERRALS TO GENERAL MAGISTRATE 0
 - (c) FIRST COMPLIANCE HEARINGS SET 39
- (5) TOTAL STALKING INJUNCTIONS (PINELLAS ONLY) 1,027
 - (a) FINAL JUDGMENT OF INJUNCTION GRANTED 348
 - (b) REFERRALS TO GENERAL MAGISTRATE 0
 - (c) FIRST COMPLIANCE HEARINGS SET 136

FAMILY (cont'd)

PASCO – WHILE THERE ARE NO CASE MANAGERS SPECIFICALLY ASSIGNED TO CIVIL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN PASCO COUNTY, STAFF ASSISTED IN SETTING 87 ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE HEARINGS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE COURT'S ORDER AND STAFF ATTENDED 6 HEARINGS ON CASES IDENTIFIED FOR POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT TO THE UNIFIED FAMILY COURT IN WEST PASCO.

UNIFIED FAMILY COURT (PINELLAS AND WEST PASCO ONLY)

(1) NUMBER OF SHELTER HEARINGS ATTENDED AT WHICH SERVICE REFERRALS WERE PROVIDED

PASCO - 37

PINELLAS – 165

(2) NUMBER OF FAMILIES LINKED TO COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES

PASCO – 254 REFERRALS

PINELLAS – 500+ REFERRALS

UNIFIED FAMILY COURT (cont'd) (PINELLAS AND WEST PASCO ONLY)

(3) NUMBER OF CASES RESEARCHED FOR POSSIBLE CROSSOVER

PASCO - 4,771

PINELLAS - 6,000+

(4) NUMBER OF MASTER CASES CREATED

PASCO – 71 FAMILIES WITH 186 CASES REASSIGNED

PINELLAS – NUMBER NOT AVAILABLE

UNIFIED FAMILY COURT (cont'd) (PINELLAS AND WEST PASCO ONLY)

(5) NUMBER OF JUVENILE ALTERNATIVE SANCTIONS RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

PASCO – N/A

PINELLAS – 90 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AND 401 JUDICIAL REFERRALS WITH 432 ISSUES

(6) NUMBER OF JUVENILE RELEASE REQUESTS REVIEWED

PASCO - N/A

PINELLAS - 121

UNIFIED FAMILY COURT (cont'd) (PINELLAS AND WEST PASCO ONLY)

(7) UFC ADOPTIONS REVIEWED AND PREPARED BY PROGRAM ATTORNEY

PASCO - N/A

PINELLAS – 225 ADOPTION CASES WITH 246 CHILDREN ADOPTED

CRIMINAL CALENDARING

(1) NUMBER OF FELONY DIVISION REASSIGNMENTS MADE

PASCO – 790 (INCLUDES DRUG COURT REASSIGNMENTS)

PINELLAS - 946

(2) NUMBER OF MISDEMEANOR DIVISION REASSIGNMENTS MADE

PASCO – 220 (INCLUDES CRIMINAL TRAFFIC)

PINELLAS – 766

CRIMINAL CALENDARING (cont'd)

(3) NUMBER OF SANITY/COMPETENCY DOCTORS APPOINTED

PASCO - 194

PINELLAS – 150

(4) NUMBER OF DOCTOR REPORTS SEALED AND FILED

PASCO – N/A

PINELLAS – 444

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

GENERAL MAGISTRATES AND HEARING OFFICERS 2017

OVERVIEW

The Sixth Judicial Circuit utilizes general magistrates and hearing officers in multiple court divisions, including family, child support enforcement, dependency, probate/guardianship, and civil Traffic to assist the courts in efficiently and effectively administering justice. These quasi-judicial officers provide invaluable assistance in speeding up the timeliness of case processing. The circuit also utilizes contract general magistrates to hear truancy matters in Pinellas middle schools.

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT HEARING OFFICERS

Child support enforcement hearing officers are attorneys appointed by the chief judge to conduct proceedings where the department of revenue is a party in a child support action. The child support hearing officers hear establishment of support, enforcement of child support matters and other post-judgment matters. The hearing officers have authority to issue process, administer oaths, require the production of documents and conduct hearings for the purpose of taking evidence. The hearing officer takes testimony and establishes a record. The hearing officer evaluates the evidence and promptly makes a recommended order to the court setting forth findings of fact. Upon receipt of a recommended order the court generally enters the order promptly.



Child Support Hearing Officer Joseph Flannery

PROBATE MAGISTRATES

Probate magistrates assist the probate judges by conducting incapacity hearings, restoration hearings, and reviewing the mandatory annual reports submitted by guardians. The court also employs general magistrates to hear all petitions for involuntary placement under florida's mental health act, commonly known as the baker act. Hearings are conducted weekly at six receiving facilities in pinellas and three in pasco. Magistrates in both counties hear involuntary placement hearings under chapter 397 (drug or alcohol abuse). Staff to the probate magistrates includes a nonattorney guardianship monitor in each county. Monitors investigate the well-being of the ward and the responsible distribution of the ward's assets upon order of the court.



Probate Magistrate Bama Tearney

FAMILY GENERAL MAGISTRATES

Family general magistrates conduct any proceeding referred to them by a family law judge. The general magistrate is empowered to administer oaths and conduct hearings, which may include the taking of evidence. The majority of the referrals involve pro se (self represented) litigants who are seeking dissolution of marriage. The general magistrates also hear issues relating to modification and enforcement, parenting time, equitable distribution, alimony, child support, and paternity. Since many of these hearings involve pro se litigants, a greater expenditure of time is required to explain court procedure. After conducting a full hearing, the general magistrate makes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations for relief for the review of the judge. If there are no objections to the general magistrate's report, the court enters an order adopting the recommended relief.



Alex Mabery, General Magistrate in the Famliy Division

DEPENDENCY GENERAL MAGISTRATES

Dependency general magistrates provide direct assistance to the Unified Family Court judges by hearing judicial reviews in dependency proceedings. The purpose of judicial reviews is to review the placement and status of a child or children, and to monitor the progress of the case plan of the parent or parents who are working on meeting the requirements that are imposed by the Department of Children & Families and approved by the court, so they can be successfully reunified with their child or children. The dependency general magistrates make findings of fact and provide recommendations to the court, which are generally entered by the court as an order, if there are no objections.



General Magistrate Jennifer Paullin At A Dependency Hearing

CONTRACT CIVIL TRAFFIC INFRACTION HEARING OFFICERS

Contract civil traffic infraction hearing officers hear and consider all civil traffic infraction proceedings including parking ticket hearings. They preside over calendars scheduled in the evening at traffic court locations throughout Pasco and Pinellas counties. These contract hearing officers do not hear cases involving any accidents resulting in injury or death and they do not hear any criminal traffic offenses.

A CONTRACT TRUANCY MAGISTRATE

A contract truancy magistrate travels to six area middle schools weekly during the school year to conduct hearings with the truant youth and their parents; meet with attendance specialists, case managers and other relevant social workers; and properly sanction school attendance and non-attendance. When a truant student and his/her parent(s) agrees to participate in the program, the School Board's Truancy Petition is held in abeyance until such time as the student completes the program. If the student completes successfully, the petition is not filed.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the sixth judicial circuit's general magistrates and hearing officers is:

- To make findings and recommend rulings by conducting judicial Reviews, evidentiary hearings, temporary hearings, pre-trial matters, post-judgment enforcement and status conferences, guardianship inventories, accountings and plans as directed by the court and
- To provide parties with an expedited forum for the resolution Of legal matters while preserving their constitutional right To due process

GOALS

- (1) TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT, EXPEDITIOUS RESOLUTION OF CASES WITHOUT SACRIFICING DUE PROCESS
- (2) TO PROVIDE MORE TIMELY COURT ACCESS TO LITIGANTS
- (3) TO ASSIST THE JUDGES IN DISPOSING OF EVER-INCREASING COURT CASELOADS
- (4) TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DIVISIONAL POLICY AND PROCEDURE
- (5) TO PROVIDE SAFEGUARDS TO CITIZENS, WHO THROUGH ILLNESS AND INCAPACITY ARE UNDER THE COURT'S SUPERVISION (GUARDIANSHIP/PROBATE)

ACHIEVEMENTS

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

(1) NUMBER OF HEARINGS SCHEDULED AND HELD BY TYPE, FOLLOWED BY THE NUMBER OF RECOMMENDED ORDERS

HEARING TYPE: ESTABLISHMENT

HEARINGS SCHEDULED: 1,571

HEARINGS HELD: 1,481

RECOMMENDED ORDERS SIGNED 1,511

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT (cont'd)

(1) NUMBER OF HEARINGS SCHEDULED AND HELD BY
TYPE, FOLLOWED BY THE NUMBER OF RECOMMENDED ORDERS
(cont'd)

HEARING TYPE: MODIFICATION

HEARINGS SCHEDULED: 948

HEARINGS HELD: 881

RECOMMENDED ORDERS SIGNED: 881

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT (cont'd)

(1) NUMBER OF HEARINGS SCHEDULED AND HELD BY
TYPE, FOLLOWED BY THE NUMBER OF RECOMMENDED ORDERS
(cont'd)

HEARING TYPE: ENFORCEMENT

HEARINGS SCHEDULED: 3,772

HEARINGS HELD: 3,672

RECOMMENDED ORDERS SIGNED: 4,010

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT (cont'd)

(1) NUMBER OF HEARINGS SCHEDULED AND HELD BY
TYPE, FOLLOWED BY THE NUMBER OF RECOMMENDED ORDERS
(cont'd)

HEARING TYPE: OTHER (LIEN HEARINGS, RESPONDENTS' MOTIONS, AND CONFLICT HEARINGS)

HEARINGS SCHEDULED: 1,670

HEARINGS HELD: 1,612

RECOMMENDED ORDERS SIGNED: 1,697

PASCO: ADDED ONE (1) DAY PER MONTH IN EACH COURTHOUSE LOCATION TO CONDUCT MISCELLANEOUS HEARINGS BY THE HEARING OFFICER (CONTINUANCES, ETC.)

GUARDIANSHIP AND PROBATE (INCLUDES GUARDIANSHIP MONITORING)

- (1) NUMBER OF HEARINGS CONDUCTED (ALL PINELLAS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)
 - (a) INCAPACITY: 132
 - (b) SUGGESTION OF CAPACITY: 16
 - (c) MARCHMAN ACT: 34 (PINELLAS, 26; PASCO, 28)
 - (d) EMERGENCY TEMPORARY
 GUARDIANSHIPS: 37
 - (e) CHAPTER 415 (ADULT PROTECTION): 3
 - (f) CHAPTER 393 (DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES): 42

GUARDIANSHIP AND PROBATE (INCLUDES GUARDIANSHIP MONITORING) (cont'd)

- (1) NUMBER OF HEARINGS CONDUCTED (ALL PINELLAS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED (cont'd)
 - (g) TUBERCULOSIS: 2
 - (h) JUDICIAL INTERVENTIONS: 17
 - (i) BAKER ACT HEARINGS

PINELLAS: 2,882 CONDUCTED AT SIX FACILITIES FOR SEVEN HOSPITALS

PASCO: 170 HEARINGS CONDUCTED AT THREE FACILITIES

GUARDIANSHIP AND PROBATE (INCLUDES GUARDIANSHIP MONITORING) (cont'd)

(2) ACCOUNTINGS

THE PASCO COURT MONITOR REVIEWED 943 INVENTORIES, ACCOUNTINGS AND PLANS IN 2017. WHILE THE COURT MONITOR WILL RECOMMEND AND PREPARE APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF HEARING DOCUMENTS FOR THE COURT'S CONVENIENCE, THE JUDGES SET THEIR OWN HEARINGS SO THE NUMBER OF HEARINGS IS NOT RECORDED. HOWEVER EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO RESOLVE ISSUES WITHOUT SETTING HEARINGS UNLESS THE HEARING IS STATUTORILY REQUIRED.

PINELLAS GENERAL MAGISTRATES REVIEWED INVENTORIES, ACCOUNTINGS AND PLANS RESULTING IN 7,877 ORDERS OR FINDINGS OF FACT.

GUARDIANSHIP AND PROBATE (INCLUDES GUARDIANSHIP MONITORING) (cont'd)

(3) COURT MONITORING

IN PASCO, THERE WERE 24 OFFICIAL ORDERS/OR SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS APPOINTING THE PINELLAS COURT MONITOR, RESULTING IN 11 KNOWN HEARINGS. AS STATED ABOVE, THE JUDGES SET THEIR OWN HEARINGS HOWEVER EVERY EFFORT IS MADE TO RESOLVE ISSUES WITHOUT RESORTING TO SETTING THE MATTER FOR HEARING, I.E. REVIEWING DOCUMENTS, VISITING WARDS AND GUARDIANS PERSONALLY AND CONDUCTING INTERVIEWS WITH PERSONS WHO CAN PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO THE CASE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE NUMBER OF ACTUAL INVESTIGATIONS COMPLETED IS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THE NUMBER REFLECTED HERE AND THE NUMBER OF HEARINGS REQUIRED ON THE PROBATE JUDGE'S CALENDAR IS THEREFORE REDUCED.

GUARDIANSHIP AND PROBATE (INCLUDES GUARDIANSHIP MONITORING) (cont'd)

(3) COURT MONITORING (cont'd)

IN PINELLAS, THERE WERE 16 ORDERS APPOINTING THE COURT MONITOR AND 13 REPORTS FILED. THE JUDICIARY ALSO MADE 60 INFORMAL REQUESTS TO CHECK GUARDIANSHIPS RESULTING IN AN ADDITIONAL 60 REPORTS.

GUARDIANSHIP AND PROBATE (INCLUDES GUARDIANSHIP MONITORING) (cont'd)

(4) ATTORNEY AND GUARDIAN FEE PETITIONS

THE PASCO COURT MONITOR REVIEWED 219 ATTORNEY FEE PETITIONS AND 106 GUARDIAN FEE PETITIONS RESULTING IN A REDUCTION OF FEES (SAVINGS TO THE WARDS) OF \$8,547.00 IN 2017. THE FEES WERE REDUCED DUE TO PROBLEMATIC, NON-COMPLIANT OR MATHEMATICALLY INSUFFICIENT BILLINGS BY ATTORNEYS AND GUARDIANS.

IN PINELLAS, GENERAL MAGISTRATES ENTERED 637 ATTORNEY FEE ORDERS AND 401 GUARDIAN FEE ORDERS

GUARDIANSHIP AND PROBATE (INCLUDES GUARDIANSHIP MONITORING) (cont'd)

(5) CREDIT AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS

THE PASCO COURT MONITOR REVIEWED 69 CREDIT AND/OR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS IN 2017. ADDITIONALLY, ALL DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN & FAMILIES REPORTS ARE SENT TO THE PASCO COURT MONITOR FOR REVIEW. THERE WERE 31 DCF REPORTS REVIEWED WITH RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COURT IN 2017.

GENERAL MAGISTRATES – FAMILY AND DEPENDENCY

(1) NUMBER OF FAMILY HEARINGS CONDUCTED

PINELLAS - 1,764

PASCO - 2,181

(2) NUMBER OF DEPENDENCY JUDICIAL REVIEWS CONDUCTED

PINELLAS - 2,890

PASCO - N/A

CONTRACT TRUANCY GENERAL MAGISTRATES (PINELLAS ONLY)

DURING THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR, THE TRUANCY MAGISTRATE PROGRAM SERVED 64 STUDENTS. TEN STUDENTS GRADUATED AND ANOTHER 29 WERE STILL ENROLLED FOR A RETENTION RATE OF 63 PERCENT. THE PROGRAM CONTINUED TO DELIVER SUPPORTIVE SERVICES OVER THE SUMMER AND BEGAN RECEIVING NEW REFERRALS AGAIN WITH THE START OF THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR.

CONTRACT CIVIL TRAFFIC INFRACTION HEARING OFFICERS

(1) NUMBER OF HEARINGS CONDUCTED

PASCO - 70

PINELLAS – 204

NOTE: EACH SESSION WAS ON AVERAGE ABOUT THREE HOURS LONG, WITH MULTIPLE CASES HEARD PER SESSION

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

JUVENILE DIVERSION 2017

OVERVIEW

Youth who are new to the criminal justice system, and/or who have committed non-violent offenses, are provided a second chance through the circuit's juvenile arbitration program. Juveniles who are referred to this program and who successfully complete it either have adjudication of the offense withheld or they may earn a complete dismissal of their charges. Many also participate on a non-arrest diversionary basis (JAAP) whereby completion of the program avoids an arrest record. Acceptance into the program is contingent upon consent from the victims in the case.

The program's aims are to divert eligible juvenile offenders from formal court proceedings in order to reduce caseload and allow the court to concentrate its efforts on the most serious juvenile offenders. Another major goal of the program is to closely monitor juvenile progress and follow-through to prevent future offenses.

COMPONENTS

JUVENILE ARREST AVOIDANCE PROGRAM – DIRECT DIVERSION

The goal of the Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program is to break the cycle of juvenile justice involvement and an arrest record for youth who commit first-time misdemeanor offenses. The mission is to promote public health, expand juvenile justice diversion efforts, improve interagency communications in the interest of juveniles, gather reliable data for use in juvenile justice system planning, decrease juvenile detention use, and lower the incidence of pinellas juveniles entering the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems.

A group of seven (7) key stakeholders in the criminal and juvenile justice arena in pinellas county came together in 2015 and entered into a memorandum of understanding which outlines each participating agency's commitment to and collaborative role in the JAAP/JAAP2/JAAP3-direct diversion programs. These collaborative partners are the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Department of Juvenile Justice, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, and Operation Par, Inc.

JUVENILE ARBITRATION

Juvenile Arbitration is for first-time offenders. Upon referral to the program, a hearing is held and sanctions are assigned, which the juvenile must complete. Sanctions may include restitution, a letter of apology, an essay assignment, school attendance and behavior improvements, counseling assessment, community service, and/or educational classes. The program offers more than twenty (20) different classes, such as: Conflict Resolution, Drug Awareness, D.O.S.E., Alcohol & Tobacco Awareness, To Catch A Thief, a tour of the Pinellas County Jail, Judicial Education, Truancy-Related Law, Medical Examiner's class, Crime Scene Intervention, Career Orientation, Removing Intoxicated Drivers and Controlling Abuse of Prescriptions, and the ambassador program. Follow-up hearings are held at the end of six (6) to eight (8) weeks to determine if all requirements were successfully met.

JUVENILE ARBITRATION (cont'd)

A more rigorous component, the S.T.O.P. (Services and Treatment for Offender Prevention) program, is similar in design but is geared for repeat misdemeanor offenders and third-degree felony offenders (excluding offenses involving personal violence, use of a weapon or grand theft auto). Additional sanctions include fifty (50) community service hours and mandatory weekly phone contact. The program lasts about one hundred and twenty (120) days and involves weekly call-ins and an additional mid-point hearing to assess a juvenile's progress within the program.

Juvenile drug court is for juveniles who have been charged with misdemeanor or felony drug charges or who are assigned diversion but have exhibited substance abuse issues. Participants will be required to submit to drug assessment and random urinalysis. A hearing master conducts the initial hearing, and appropriate sanctions are applied. Hearings are held monthly or more often as needed to monitor the progress of participants. Juvenile Drug Court is offered in Pinellas County.

JUVENILE ARBITRATION (cont'd)

In Teen Court, the roles of clerk, bailiff, prosecuting and defense attorneys and jury are held by high school student volunteers. A hearing officer serves as the teen court judge. Upon conclusion of a trial, the teen defendant is sentenced to appropriate sanctions as described above. If using a grand jury format, the teen court jury will directly ask questions to the teen offender. Again, the jury deliberates and issues a teen court jury verdict.

Truancy Teen Court is a Teen Court program that provides early intervention through the Teen Court process for students who have established a pattern of non-attendance and unexcused absences (5-15 days). Truancy Teen Court operates in the same way as the Standard Teen court and hearings are held using the grand jury format. Truancy Teen Court is available in Pinellas County. Teen Court has been enhanced to include a Truancy Teen Court II program.

JUVENILE ARBITRATION (cont'd)

The A.I.M. program (At-Risk Intervention and Motivation) is a voluntary prevention program that provides education and community referrals for siblings of Juvenile Arbitration defendants, truants, siblings of DJJ-involved youth, or other at-risk youth in an effort to prevent participants from ever entering into the juvenile justice system. At first a summer program pilot, AIM has now been incorporated as a full year-long program and was conducted as such in 2017. It will continue to be a year-long program in the future.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide intervention, prevention, and diversion services to at-risk youth and juvenile offenders and to relieve overburdened juvenile courts by providing non-judicial dispositions of lesser juvenile offenses.



Xay Xiong, Program Coordinator for Juvenile Diversion, with some members of his staff

GOALS

- (1) TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL ELIGIBLE FIRST-TIME MISDEMEANANT JUVENILES TO AVOID A JUVENILE RECORD.
- (2) TO PROVIDE AN EFFICIENT AND COST-EFFECTIVE DIVERSIONARY ALTERNATIVE TO FORMAL JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS THROUGH THE TEEN COURT PROGRAM.
- (3) TO HOLD JUVENILE OFFENDERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.
- (4) TO PROVIDE JUVENILE OFFENDERS WITH EDUCATIONAL CLASSES, COUNSELING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES, ENABLING THEM TO MAKE POSITIVE CHOICES.
- (5) TO CIRCUMVENT THE PROGRESSION OF INCREASED CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR AND TO REDUCE RECIDIVISM.
- (6) TO DECREASE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER USE.

DEVELOPMENTS

Juvenile Arbitration is now eight years post launch of the Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Project, a large collaborative effort in Pinellas County, which began in 2009 to address ways to break the cycle of juvenile justice involvement of the community's youth. The Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Project, now referred to as Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program, or JAAP, is a proven success. With successful completion rates consistent over eight years averaging 85% and recidivism rates consistently averaging 5-7% and the continued strong collaborative, JAAP has a proven track record and consistent outcomes that have significantly addressed breaking the recidivist cycle early on – at first misdemeanor offense. The mission of promoting public health, expanding juvenile justice diversion efforts, improving inter-agency communications in the interest of juveniles, gathering reliable data for use in juvenile justice system planning, decreasing juvenile detention use, lowering the incidence of Pinellas juveniles entering the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, and avoiding an arrest record for first, second and even third ime juvenile misdemeanants is meeting with great success. Since the inception of the Juvenile Arrest Avoidance Program in April 2009, over 6,000 juveniles have been diverted.

DEVELOPMENTS (cont'd)

In early 2015, the JAAP committee discussed expanding the Direct Diversion program to allow 2nd and 3rd time misdemeanor offenses to be included as part of the JAAP. In October 2015, Florida Statute 985.12 was amended with the following verbiage, "use of the civil citation or similar diversion program is not limited to first-time misdemeanors and may be used in up to two subsequent misdemeanors." The JAAP2 and JAAP3 Direct Diversion Programs were launched in Pinellas County on October 1, 2015 as a result of the new statute. *

In 2017, a number of Juvenile Arbitration classes and drug court classes in both counties were enhanced and updated to meet the changing trends of diversion referrals and to provide appropriate programs and classes for 2nd and 3rd time misdemeanant youth. Pinellas's Juvenile Drug Court program and Juvenile Arbitration program expanded available counseling agency referrals to include Spanish-speaking services. For the R.I.S.K. class a new survey tool was developed to provide a greater identification of risk factors for juveniles. Updated data and increased speaker list for all JAAP classes. Also in 2017, the school monitoring of 2nd and 3rd time misdemeanor offenders continued which included in-school visits and attendance monitoring of this population. In Pasco, the program started a new Power of Youth Program, partnering with MADD to put together a presentation for youth charged with Alcohol and Substance related charges that is offered every six weeks.

^{*}In Pasco County, the administration of a juvenile civil citation program is being handled by the Pasco County Sheriff's Office.

DEVELOPMENTS (cont'd)

In 2017, the Pinellas Truancy Teen Court II program began preparation for expansion of services to accept former appropriate magistrate referrals in 2018. The Truancy Teen Court II program provides a more intense intervention and expanded selection criteria through the Teen Court Process for certain students who are under DJJ supervision and/or who have previously completed the Truancy Teen Court I and have continued to establish a pattern of habitual nonattendance and unexcused absences. Truancy Teen Court II operates in the same way as the standard Teen Court and Truancy Teen Court I; however, additional consequences and interventions are assigned. Truants in this program are required to attend educational programs and undergo counseling; they are assigned a mentor; they must provide mandatory school attendance; and they must abide by other sanctions as prescribed by the order or verdict form on the hearing date and that were issued at follow-up hearings as needed. Truancy Teen Court II targets students in most middle schools and all high schools.

DEVELOPMENTS (cont'd)

In 2017, the Juvenile Arbitration program continued providing technical assistance to Pinellas County high schools who implemented internal Teen Court and Truancy Teen Court programs. Schools included, but were not limited to, Dixie Hollins High School and Countryside High School. This technical assistance consisted of training in policies, procedures and protocols as well as developing a referral process to the Juvenile Arbitration Truancy Teen Court II program for those truants who do not successfully complete the school's internal Truancy Teen Court.

Finally, each of the Juvenile Arbitration education classes were updated with recent data, statistics, materials, and videos. These classes continually are enhanced and evaluated internally and through surveys as needed to provide quality educational interventions and curriculum to meet the needs of our juvenile population who are referred to this program.

ACHIEVEMENTS

JUVENILE ARREST AVOIDANCE PROGRAM (PINELLAS COUNTY ONLY)

- (1) TOTAL YOUTHS PARTICIPATING 559
- (2) SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION RATES 85 PERCENT
- (3) RECIDIVISM RATES 7.9 PERCENT
- * NOTE: IN 2017, THE JAAP DIRECT DIVERSION PROGRAM SERVED 62 PERCENT MINORITIES (52 PERCENT AFRICAN-AMERICAN, 7 PERCENT HISPANIC, 1 PERCENT ASIAN, 2 PERCENT OTHER) AND 38 PERCENT CAUCASIAN JUVENILES. THE PROGRAM CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCING THE DISPROPORTIONATE REPRESENTATION OF MINORITIES, PARTICULARLY AFRICAN AMERICANS, IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

JUVENILE DIVERSION (PINELLAS AND PASCO COUNTIES)

(1) DIVERSION TOTALS

PINELLAS - 2,439

PASCO - 591

(2) REFERRAL BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM

JUVENILE ARBITRATION

PINELLAS (TEEN COURT) – 640

PASCO - 292

JUVENILE DIVERSION (PINELLAS AND PASCO COUNTIES) (cont'd)

(2) REFERRAL BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM (cont'd)

STOP

PINELLAS – 248

PASCO - 41

JUVENILE DIVERSION DRUG COURT

PINELLAS – 173

PASCO - 119

JUVENILE DIVERSION (PINELLAS AND PASCO COUNTIES) (cont'd)

(2) REFERRAL BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM (cont'd)

TEEN COURT

PINELLAS - 376

PASCO - 139

TRUANCY TEEN COURT (PINELLAS ONLY) – 200

AIM (PINELLAS ONLY) – 802

JUVENILE DIVERSION (PINELLAS AND PASCO COUNTIES) (cont'd)

(3) RECIDIVISM RATES FOR JUVENILE ARBITRATION

PINELLAS – 6.0%

PASCO - 5.8%

NUMBER OF JUVENILES REFERRED BY JUVENILE ARBITRATION TO OUTSIDE COUNSELING SERVICES, FOLLOWED BY PERCENTAGE COMPLETING THESE SERVICES

(1) PINELLAS COUNTY

REFERRED TO OUTSIDE COUNSELING – 1,500

PERCENTAGE COMPLETING – 85%

(2) PASCO COUNTY

REFERRED TO OUTSIDE COUNSELING – 290

PERCENTAGE COMPLETING – 81.7%

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS SERVED BY JUVENILE ARBITRATION PARTICIPANTS

PINELLAS

APPROXIMATELY 67,000

PASCO

APPROXIMATELY 15,100

NUMBER OF STUDENT VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATING IN TEEN COURT

PINELLAS 290

PASCO 277

PERCENTAGE OF TRUANCY REDUCTION FOR THOSE WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE TEEN TRUANCY PROGRAM (PINELLAS ONLY)

97 %

NUMBER OF AIM PARTICIPANTS (PINELLAS ONLY)

802

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

PINELLAS COUNTY LAW LIBRARY

2017

OVERVIEW

The Pinellas County Law Library has been providing access to legal information necessary for the effective functioning of the justice system since 1950. Today, the remaining law library is administered by court administration for the Sixth Judicial Circuit. The chief judge consults with the law library board of trustees with respect to law library services, budget and planning. The law library provides access to legal research resources for the residents of Pinellas County at its location in the old historic courthouse in Clearwater. Library patrons include attorneys, judges, paralegals, court reporters, students, law clerks, court and county staff, the business community, and the general public. Statistics demonstrate that the general public is a major user and receives the most service from law library staff. The law library strives to provide equal access to the courts through a strong collection of legal materials in print and electronic format to better serve all of the citizens of Pinellas County.

OVERVIEW (cont'd)

The law library collection development policy follows the county law library standards approved by the American Association of Law Libraries. Holding the line on the law library collection expenditures during a period when costs are escalating 12–20 percent annually presents challenges. Contrary to popular notions, books continue to dominate legal publishing. Electronic databases such as Westlaw and Lexis simply complement the print resources and cannot be considered a total replacement for these research materials.



Law Library Director Michelle Howard

MISSION STATEMENT

The Pinellas County Law Library provides access to timely, reliable and accurate legal information in a format that can be understood and used by the greatest number of citizens.

GOALS

- (1) PROMOTE TRUST AND CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM BY PROVIDING AN ACCESS POINT FOR EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER THE LAW.
- (2) PROVIDE ACCESS TO THOSE SOURCES OF LEGAL INFORMATION THAT CAN ASSIST ANY INTERESTED CITIZEN OF PINELLAS COUNTY TO DETERMINE THEIR LEGAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.
- (3) SELECT AND MAINTAIN THE COLLECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY STANDARDS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- (1) THE LAW LIBRARY SERVED AN AVERAGE OF 40 WALK IN PATRONS AND 15 PHONE INQUIRIES PER WEEK.
- (2) THE GENERAL PUBLIC REPRESENTED 69% OF PATRONS SERVED.
- (3) SEVEN PERCENT OF PRO SE LITIGANTS WERE REFERRED TO OTHER SERVICES SUCH AS THE CLERK'S SELF HELP CENTER AND THE LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE.
- (4) THE LAW LIBRARY MANAGED ITS BUDGET IN A CLIMATE OF DECREASING REVENUE, HOLDING EXPENDITURES 8% BELOW REVENUES.
- (5) THE LAW LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONTINUES TO ACTIVELY SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

MEDIATION

2017

OVERVIEW

To help make mediation more accessible to all parties, the Sixth Judicial Circuit implemented a mediation model that provides paid family, dependency and county civil mediation services to certain parties. Family mediation involves many marriage dissolution issues, such as property division, shared or sole parental responsibility, child support, custody and visitation issues. Parties may choose a mediator privately and at an agreed-upon fee. Parties whose combined annual gross income is under \$100,000.00 may request court-provided mediation, and if deemed eligible, pay a \$60.00 or \$120.00 fee per party. Mediators are assigned from a state court system list of certified mediators for the circuit on a rotation basis. The contract mediator is paid by the state of Florida.

OVERVIEW (cont'd)

Dependency mediation involves cases in which there is an allegation of abuse, abandonment and/or neglect of a child by one or both parents. The goal of this type of mediation is to work out case plans that would help reunite families sooner. No fee is charged for dependency mediation.

Small claims cases, involving amounts between \$1 and \$5,000, may also be mediated. These issues include such matters as monies due, landlord-tenant disputes, breach of contract, consumer claims, etc. Small claims mediation is used mostly in the pre-trial phase of the case and is provided at no cost to the participants.

County civil cases, where the amount in dispute is \$5,000 to \$15,000, are also referred for mediation. These cases can involve issues such as negligence, monies due, real estate, breach of contract, etc. If a judge determines that the parties do not have the ability to pay for a private mediator, a court-provided mediator can be utilized for a fee of \$60 per party. There are no fees assessed for eviction mediations.

Model mediation noted below consists of those mediations in family, dependency or county that utilize court-contracted mediators at a state-subsidized, flat rate.

The mediation staff also help schedule non-model mediations with private mediators pursuant to policy covered by administrative order. These mediations are also tracked until disposition.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the sixth judicial circuit's mediation program is to provide the court with an alternative mechanism for the resolution of legal disputes leading to early disposition of cases, resulting in savings in time and costs to the litigants and to the court.



Linda Blanar, the director of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Program, otherwise known as mediation, trains new employee Kara Causseaux

GOALS

- (1) TO EFFECTIVELY PROCESS ALL CASES REFERRED TO THE MEDIATION PROGRAM BY JUDGES IN A TIMELY MANNER AND ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH ALL FLORIDA STATUTES AND RULES, LOCAL RULES AND ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS PERTAINING TO MEDIATION.
- (2) TO ENSURE ACCESS TO COURT-PROVIDED MEDIATION FOR ELIGIBLE PERSONS REQUESTING IT.
- (3) TO PROVIDE PROCEDURAL INFORMATION, INVOICES, AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR COURT CONTRACTED MEDIATORS IN FAMILY, DEPENDENCY AND SMALL CLAIMS.
- (4) TO MAINTAIN STATISTICS NECESSARY TO ENSURE OPERATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY.
- (5) TO ASSIST PROSPECTIVE MEDIATORS IN ACHIEVING CERTIFICATION BY OFFERING MENTORING OPPORTUNITIES TO OBSERVE AND CO-MEDIATE CASES UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF FLORIDA SUPREME COURT CERTIFIED MEDIATORS

ACHIEVEMENTS

- (1) NUMBER OF COURT ORDERED CASES 6,275 (INCLUDES NON-MODEL MEDIATIONS)
- (2) NUMBER OF MEDIATION SESSIONS HELD 3,721 (MODEL MEDIATIONS)
- (3) SETTLEMENT RATES (FULL OR PARTIAL SETTLEMENT)

COUNTY CIVIL – 49%

FAMILY - 53%

DEPENDENCY - 59%

CIRCUIT CIVIL – 44%

ARBITRATION – 52%

SMALL CLAIMS – 87%

- (4) PERCENTAGE OF MEDIATION CASES ELIGIBLE FOR COURT-PROVIDED MEDIATION 65%
- (5) AMOUNT OF MODEL MEDIATION USER FEES, \$1 CIRCUIT FILING FEE, AND \$15 COUNTY FILING FEE SUPPORTING MEDIATION SERVICES COLLECTED (FISCAL YEAR 2017)

PASCO - \$80,725

PINELLAS - \$289,192