



MEMORANDUM

Date: July 16, 2021

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "CHH", is written over the printed name "C.H. Huckelberry".

Re: **Department of Justice Services**

I created the Criminal Justice Reform Unit (CJRU) in December 2017 as a small team within County Administration. The intention in doing so was to explore opportunities to reduce costs and improve outcomes in the criminal justice system. Since that time, CJRU has added worked with justice system partners to significantly lower the Pima County jail population, implement a substance use deflection program with Tucson Police Department, and oversee the implementation of the Pima County Housing First pilot program. These milestones are only the beginning of what Pima County can achieve in justice system improvement.

The team has now grown to add individuals with expertise in behavioral health, research and evaluation, community housing, and broad justice system expertise. Not only have they worked collaboratively with criminal justice agencies to implement new programs locally, but have raised Pima County's profile to a national level as one of the leading communities on justice reform.

Seeing the potential for even greater growth, I have approved the transition of CJRU into the development of a new department, the Department of Justice Services (DJS), and promoted Kate Vesely to Director. Ms. Vesely has worked in Pima County justice systems for almost two decades. She brings experience with law enforcement, corrections, problem-solving court programs, behavioral health treatment, and justice reform. Ms. Vesely is recognized as a subject matter expert by the federal Substance Use and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) agency on multiple subjects. She is also a Tucson native, graduate of Salpointe High School, and received both her Bachelor's and Master's degree from the University of Arizona.

Creation of this new department signifies Pima County's long term commitment to improving the criminal justice system. DJS has been tasked with continuing to safely reduce the jail population, work with other law enforcement agencies to develop deflection programs, address racial and ethnic disparities and disproportionalities in the justice system, explore opportunities to help youth with justice involvement, and other strategies to make our community safer and reduce the cycle of incarceration.

Justice reform is not an easy task, it must be done carefully and based on fact and data. It should also be remembered that justice reform is only one component of building better

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communities. Our efforts at public health, housing, jobs and economic development are in some way all connected to justice reform.

Finally, I would like to thank Assistant County Administrator Wendy Petersen for her years of service to the County both in the County Attorney's Civil Division as well as in CJRU. Ms. Petersen is retiring effective today. Her leadership in incubating this function within the County Administrator's Office has been exemplary and the successes of CJRU and its movement to the Department of Justice Services is in large part due to her leadership of this Unit over the past few years. I wish her well in retirement.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Attachment

c: Jan Leshar, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator for Public Works
Francisco García, MD, MPH, Deputy County Administrator & Chief Medical Officer,
Health and Community Services
Kate Vesely, Director, Pima County Department of Justice Services

Kate Vesely

PROFILE

Experienced professional with Master's Degree in Public Administration, emphasis in criminal justice, and specializing in program development and management, government affairs, public finance, public speaking, and policy. Extensive experience Criminal Justice Reform, Specialty Court Programs, Law Enforcement/Crisis Intervention, Courts, Corrections, Mental Health, Crisis Systems/First Responders, & Behavioral healthcare. Over 18 years experience specializing in the intersection of behavioral health and criminal justice systems.

EDUCATION

MASTERS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)
Eller College of Business
University of Arizona
2002 – 2005

BACHELOR OF ARTS
Political Science
University of Arizona
1998 – 2001

EXPERTISE

Program Administration
Specialty Court Programs
Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT)
Grant Writing & Management
Cross-System Integration
Criminal Justice Systems
Behavioral Healthcare Systems
Stakeholder Partnerships
Public Policy
Training & Public Speaking
Finance & Fiscal Accountability

WORK EXPERIENCE

DIRECTOR OF JUSTICE REFORM INITIATIVES // 2020 - PRESENT
Pima County Administration
Tucson, Arizona

- Reports to the Assistant County Administrator for Justice and Law Enforcement. Accountable to County Administrator, Board of Supervisors, and other elected officials throughout community. Work with all leadership to form policy agenda for justice reform and establish Pima County as a national leader on justice reform policies and practice.
- Manage and oversee all aspects of the Pima County Criminal Justice Reform Unit (CJRU) including supervision of staff. Purpose of CJRU is to provide a central point of leadership and coordination with all justice systems throughout community on justice reform and public policy, manage several programs, and provide research and public policy recommendations to county administration and elected officials.
- Site Co-Director for the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge program in Pima County, working to safely reduce the jail population.
- Frequently create budgets, fiscal and programmatic reports, memorandums, white papers, and policy recommendations. Primary author of multiple successful grant applications.
- Frequently give presentations or training on local and national level.

DIRECTOR OF SPECIALTY COURT INITIATIVES // 2015 - 2020
Pima County Attorney's Office
Tucson, Arizona

- Manage and oversee all aspects of the Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison (DTAP) program, a specialty court program that identifies individuals with serious addictions and "prison mandatory" charges and diverts these individuals to residential substance abuse treatment, wrap around services, and a specialized probation caseload.
- Designed and worked with team to launch Consolidated Misdemeanor Problem Solving (CMPS) Court in 2019; wrote two successful federal funding applications to secure \$4 million in funding.
- Manage multiple funding streams: two federal grant programs as well as state and local funding, special revenue and private contributions. Developed and maintain current budget, submit financial and other grant reports to funding agencies (federal and local).
- Developed and implemented a strategic plan for the Specialty Courts Initiatives. Plan and facilitate annual strategic planning retreat.
- Oversee and ensure contract compliance for vendors of Specialty Courts Initiatives; wrote contract for each new vendor.
- Represent the County Attorney's office at public events; frequently presents at local and national level; address public and media information

Kate Vesely

AWARDS

"40 UNDER 40", 2018

Tucson Hispanic Chamber of
Commerce & AZ Daily Star

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN PIMA
COUNTY GOVERNMENT, 2018

Pima County/Tucson Women's
Commission

OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY
SERVICE AWARD, 2017

Federal Bureau of Investigation

MENTAL HEALTH/CRIMINAL JUSTICE
COLLABORATION AWARD, 2017

Step Up Arizona/David's Hope

CITIZENS AWARD, 2015

Pima County Sheriff Department

ADDITIONAL INFO

Substance Abuse & Mental Health
Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Expert Panel: Medication Assisted
Treatment in Correctional Settings

GAINS Center/Policy Research
Associates, Expert Panelist &
Adjunct Faculty

Policy Research Associates (PRA)
Contributor, "Introducing Intercept
Zero" Article

Bureau of Justice Assistance &
National Center for State Courts,
Learning Site Co-Facilitator (Law
Enforcement & Behavioral Health)

NAMI Southern Arizona
Board of Directors
2017-2019

WORK EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING (CIT) FACILIATOR // 2008 - CURRENT
Collaboration with Tucson Police Department, Pima County Sheriff's
Department & Pima County Attorney's Office
Tucson, Arizona

- Coordinate all aspects of the Southern Arizona CIT training program. Ensure continuous quality improvement and monitor the CIT program for adherence to CIT International standards, aka the "Memphis Model".
- Work with police departments to implement a full training continuum on behavioral health and crisis intervention.
- Founding Member of the Arizona CIT Association (2019) & Program of the Year Award: CIT International, 2016

CRIMINAL JUSTICE MANAGER // 2008 - 2015
Community Partnership of Southern Arizona
Tucson, Arizona

- Oversee the Justice Services department/division of the regional behavioral health authority. Supervise staff of 10 individuals managing caseloads of clients in jail, court, on probation, or having frequent interactions with law enforcement. Stakeholder relations to government, public safety agencies.
- Multiple articles published in national professional magazines on utilizing the accountability of the criminal justice system to leverage treatment efficacy and achieve recovery goals (Under name Kate Lawson).
- Chair: Pima County Forensic Task Force – Quarterly meeting averaging approximately 75 participants from criminal justice, behavioral health and community service agencies.

PROGRAM MANAGER // 2006 - 2008
Pima County Restoration to Competency Program (Promotion)
Tucson, Arizona

- Oversee all aspects of RTC program operations, including but not limited to: resolution and intergovernmental agreement (for approval by the Pima County Board of Supervisors), develop program budget and projected savings, facilitate numerous stakeholder meetings, and hiring of staff.
- Supervise two Forensic Psychologists, two licensed social workers, and administrative support specialist.

SYSTEM INTEGRATION SPECIALIST & JUSTICE LIAISON // 2004 - 2006
Pima County Integrated Health System
Tucson, Arizona

- Liaison between Justice Systems and behavioral healthcare. Specialize in Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) and correctional healthcare.