
From: Kay Soltero <ksoltero@camden.k12.nj.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 5:21 PM
To: Comments Mailbox
Cc: ksoltero95@gmail.com
Subject: Comments/ Recommendations SCCMC 2013-2015 Report
Attachments: NJSCCMC 2013 - 2015 Report.docx

Dear Honorable Glenn A. Grant, J.A.D.:

It is an extreme honor for me to have the opportunity to share my comments/ recommendations to such a fine and thorough report regarding the New Jersey Judiciary. I hope the attached information that I have shared will be useful.

Sincerely,

Kay L. Soltero

Kay L. Soltero, MSW, CPE, MPA
School Social Worker
Camden City School District
Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC)
1602 Pine Street
Camden, New Jersey 08103
Phone: 856-966-2000 ext. 38305
Email: ksoltero@camden.k12.nj.us
Fax: 856-536-3479

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.
Thomas A. Edison

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The information in this e-mail and any attachments thereto is intended for the named recipient(s) only even if addressed incorrectly. This e-mail, including any attachments, may contain information that is privileged and confidential and subject to legal restrictions and penalties regarding its unauthorized disclosure or other use. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action or inaction in reliance on the contents of this e-mail and any of its attachments is STRICTLY PROHIBITED. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify the sender via return e-mail; delete this e-mail and all attachments from your e-mail system and your computer system and network; and destroy any paper copies you may have in your possession. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please consider the environment before printing this message.

New Jersey
Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns (SCCMC)
2013 – 2015 Report

Chapter II
Subcommittee on Minorities and Juvenile Justice/Family.....23
IV. Discussion of Priority Action items and Related Recommendations.....25
G. Juvenile and Family Drug Courts72
1. Juvenile Drug Court73
2. Family Drug Courts74

Comments:

The SCCMC has introduced yet another invaluable compilation of its great work and thorough research, actions, and recommendations that relate to Judiciary practices and advancements. For example, babies born drug-free to clients in both the Juvenile and Family Drug Court programs; juveniles alternatively placed within the community as opposed to correctional facilities; and the reunification of FDC-involved families have resulted in a potential State savings of several million dollars (pgs. 72-74).

Moreover, the Committee has not only acknowledged the impressive results of the Juvenile and Family Drug Court programs by noting the tremendous economic benefits to the State, but also the explicit positive impact on social outcomes, which aligns with Judiciary goals.

As we ponder new thoughts and ideas as to how we can reflect the Judiciary in a more positive light, these are just a few examples...Babies born drug-free, children reunited with alcohol/ drug free parents, and juveniles alternatively placed within the community outside of a correctional facility equipped with the supports they need to become productive members of society.

Chapter II
Subcommittee on Minorities and Juvenile Justice/Family.....23
IV. Discussion of Priority Action items and Related Recommendations.....25
J. Ongoing Education and Training for Judges, Managers, and staff.....77

The Supreme Court Committee on Minority Concerns since its inception has underscored the importance of ongoing education and training for judges, managers, staff, and court volunteers as a significant means to advance access to justice not only for minority communities but also for the public at large. SCCMC (2013-2015 Report, p. 77).

Recommendation for consideration:

Albeit item “J” speaks to specific types of training such as diversity and cultural competence in which each professional group may have the opportunity to participate, the Committee is also looking into existing training standards as well as those that are under consideration or in development (p. 77).

As a supplement to the aforementioned, I recommend that a provision be made to include cross-training. This measure would help to ensure timely and efficient *access to justice* in the event of any circumstance (i.e. vacation, illness, family loss, etc.) that may otherwise impede the very important work of the courts.

If this is already being implemented, the focus would then be on the manifestation of the inclusive written language.

Chapter III

Subcommittee on Minority Access to Justice.....85
III. Discussion of Priority Recommendations.....88
D. Judiciary Volunteer Services Program.....102
3. Statewide Administration of Judiciary Volunteer Services Program.....108

Comments:

Additionally, I was impressed with the emphasis on volunteerism and the intent to complete a comprehensive needs analysis for the Volunteer Services Program (p. 109). This stood out to me, as I am a volunteer for the courts in 3 areas (CPR, JCC and Minority Concerns Committee, Camden Vicinage), and grateful to have the opportunity to serve.

Submitted by:

Kay L. Soltero
7538 Forrest Avenue
Pennsauken, NJ 08110-2553
Email: ksoltero95@gmail.com