

final minutes

State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee (SDTCAC) Meeting

10:00 a.m. • Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Legislative Council Conference Room • 3rd Floor Boji Tower Building

124 W. Allegan Avenue • Lansing, MI

Members Present:

Judge Raymond Voet, Vice Chair
Heidi Cannon
Judge Susan L. Dobrich (teleconference)
Andrew Konwiak (teleconference)
Douglas Lloyd
Sheriff Michael Main
Christina Nicholas (teleconference)
Judge Julia B. Owdziej (teleconference)
Judge Geno Salomone (teleconference)
Gary Secor
Andrew Smith

Members Excused:

Judge Amy Ronayne Krause, Chair
Judge Louise Alderson
Jesse Billings
Judge Mark Latchana
Mark Risk
Stacy Salon

I. Call to Order

Judge Voet reported that Chair Ronayne Krause would not be attending today's meeting and he was asked to chair the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

The Chair asked the clerk to take the roll. A quorum was present and absent members were excused.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the October 16, 2018 Meeting

The Chair directed attention to the proposed minutes of the October 16, 2018 meeting and asked if there were any changes. There were none. **Mr. Lloyd moved, supported by Ms. Cannon, to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2018 State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee meeting. There was no objection and no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

IV. Subcommittee Updates

The Chair called on each subcommittee chair for an update.

Affordable Health Care Act Impact Subcommittee:

Ms. Nicholas reported that in mid-December U.S. District Court Judge Reed O'Connor ruled the Affordable Care Act unconstitutional due to a recent change in federal tax law that eliminated the individual mandates penalty on uninsured individuals. She noted that ruling has been appealed and she will continue to closely follow the issue.

Defense Attorney Participation Subcommittee:

Mr. Risk was not present so there was no update to report.

Family Dependency Court Subcommittee:

Judge Dobrich reported they are working with DHHS and the new administration. She sees positive changes coming in 2019.

Juvenile Issues Subcommittee:

Judge Owdziej had no update to report other than that they are continuing with the 5-year plan of reevaluating and reorganizing juvenile drug courts.

Legislative Subcommittee:

Judge Voet began with an announcement that, because he is chair of three subcommittees, he would like to resign as chair of the Legislative and the Marijuana subcommittees. He asked for volunteers to take over the two subcommittees. A discussion of the need for a separate Marijuana subcommittee followed. Dissolving the Marijuana subcommittee into the Legislative subcommittee was proposed and discussed. **Ms. Cannon moved, supported by Mr. Secor, to dissolve the Marijuana Subcommittee and roll any issues reviewed by the Marijuana subcommittee into the Legislative Subcommittee. There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

Heidi Cannon offered to chair the Legislative Subcommittee. Judge Hoffman and Judge Voet as well as Judge Ronayne Krause will continue to serve on the subcommittee and SDTCAC members are encouraged to send Ms. Cannon anything that comes up and bring any issues to her attention. Her email will be distributed to the members.

Marihuana Subcommittee:

No update was provided beyond the legislative subcommittee discussion.

Program Standardization and Alternative Funding Subcommittee:

Judge Salomone reported that he has received responses from several courts to a survey that was sent out seeking practices implemented and commonly used in drug and hybrid courts. He noted that MAT services and pure recovery coaches are two practices that are becoming standard. With regard to alternative funding, the subcommittee is looking at the sustainability of funding for treatment courts by moving towards a more standard type of funding source for treatment courts that are now reliant on grants. They are also looking at ways for treatment courts to be considered part of the criminal justice institution much like probation has become. He hopes to have more to report after March.

Veterans' Treatment Court Subcommittee:

Judge Voet had nothing to report but did recommend a couple of books for insight into the life of a person who has served in combat which he noted is important if you have a veterans' treatment court. Judge Hoffman added that Bob Russell who developed the first drug treatment court in Buffalo, New York, will be coming to the MADCP conference and will lead several breakout sessions. Judge Hoffman also shared that Senator Tom Barrett will be visiting Judge Cunningham's veterans' treatment court the first week of February. Mr. Lloyd noted that Eaton County has great mentors but is always searching for veterans for their veterans' treatment court. He will share the name of their lead mentor with Judge Voet. Mr. Secor shared that his court coordinator and sobriety staff did not feel there was a need to start a veterans' treatment court since they have such a good relationship with the veterans' home in Grand Rapids and Battle Creek and veterans in his area and are getting the services they need. He added that a veterans' treatment court has been set up in Wyoming and averaging between 12 and 16 participants.

Vision Subcommittee:

Prosecutor Lloyd had nothing new to report, but commented that, with the effort and focus now being made by the Legislative subcommittee, it might be helpful to sit down and discuss where the Vision subcommittee is to go moving forward.

V. SCAO Medication Assistance Treatment (MAT) Grant Funding Proposed Letter

Mr. Secor reported that, after the October 2018 SDTCAC meeting, he had drafted a letter to SCAO outlining some concerns the Committee had with the allocation of MAT grant funding. He shared that he had discussions with Andrew Smith since the letter was drafted and SCAO has taken action to address the Committee's concern. Based on the discussions, Mr. Secor agreed there is no need for the letter to be sent to SCAO at this time. Mr. Smith provided an update and shared that one of the big focuses in 2019 as part of their strategic plan will be to evaluate and better utilize MAT funding. Mr. Smith was asked to report back at the next meeting the steps the strategic planning team has determined should be taken to address unspent MAT and regular grant funds.

Funding Update

Mr. Smith reported that prior spending is playing more of a role in grant funding awards. A discussion of ways to better analyze prior spending followed. Dr. Jeanne Kapenga was present and offered comments for a successful MAT program including finding a contracted group that is onboard with MAT services. Mr. Smith continued with news that SCAO has received the award letter for Bryne-Jag funding and that the funding will not be affected by the federal government shutdown. Ms. Nicholas agreed with the previous comments about MAT funding and shared that she has found issues with medical providers as well.

VI. Committee Member Comments

The Chair asked if there were any comments from Committee members. Mr. Lloyd raised the need to create a mental health court subcommittee. After discussion, it was decided that, because there is already a separate Mental Health Court Advisory Committee (MHCAC), the creation of a SDTCAC subcommittee is not necessary. Judge Hoffman suggested it might be helpful to invite a representative from the MHCAC to a future SDTCAC meeting. The Chair tabled the discussion until Mr. Smith has had the opportunity to talk to SCAO to see if there are ways for the SDTCAC to collaborate with the MHCAC. Mr. Secor commented on the institutionalization of specialty courts. The Chair introduced one of his probation officers, Ron Mortsaw, who was present at today's meeting. Judge Dobrich There were no other Commissioner comments. Judge Dobrich commented that she supports the comments made during the MAT discussion.

VII. Public Comment

The Chair asked for public comment. Dr. Jeanne Kapenga provided comments regarding the need to better educate courts on how to utilize grant funding and provided information on the differences between the MAT services available for alcohol and drug addiction. Judge Harvey Hoffman provided information on a housing program in Jackson that will provide permanent housing support for participants of drug treatment courts. There were no other public comments.

VIII. Next Meeting Date

The Chair announced that the date of the next SDTCAC meeting is April 16, 2019. Judge Dobrich noted that the July 16, 2019 SDTCAC meeting may need to be moved as it is scheduled at the same time as the National Association of Drug Court Professionals' meeting.

IX. Adjournment

There was no further business. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

(Minutes approved at the April 16, 2019 State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee meeting.)