

final minutes

State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee (SDTCAC) Meeting

10:00 a.m. • Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Legislative Conference Room • 3rd Floor Boji Tower Building

12 W. Allegan Street • Lansing, MI

Members Present:

Judge Raymond Voet, Vice Chair (serving as Chair) (Ionia County, Michigan)
Heidi Cannon (Adrian, Michigan)
Judge Susan L. Dobrich (Cassopolis County, Michigan)
Andrew Konwiak (Wayne County, Michigan)
Sheriff Michael Main (Mt. Pleasant, Michigan)
Christina Nicholas (Oakland County, Michigan)
Mark Risk (Traverse City, Michigan)
Judge Geno Salomone (Taylor, Michigan)
Andrew Smith (Lansing, Michigan)
Ines Straube (Barry County, Michigan)
Alma Valenzuela (Holland, Michigan)

Members Excused:

Judge Amy Ronayne Krause
Judge Louise Alderson
Judge Mark Latchana
Douglas Lloyd
Judge Julia B. Owdziej
Stacy Salon

Due to COVID-19 concerns, all Committee members participated via web conference. Pursuant to Public Act 228 of 2020, each Committee member who participated in the meeting remotely made a public announcement indicating he or she was attending the meeting remotely and identified the physical location by stating the county, city, township, or village and state from which he or she was attending the meeting remotely as noted above.

I. Call to Order

Due to the absence of Chair Amy Ronayne Krause, Vice Chair Raymond Voet served as Chair of today's meeting. Chair Voet called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. Roll Call

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

III. Recommendation of Appointment of Juvenile Drug Court Graduate Member

The Chair reported that a potential candidate to recommend for the juvenile drug court graduate position on the Committee is still needed. After a discussion about what additional steps may be taken to search for potential candidates, the Chair asked the committee clerk to work with Chair Ronayne Krause to send a letter to all of the juvenile courts in Michigan asking if they have a graduate to recommend for appointment. There was no objection.

IV. Approval of the Minutes of the October 20, 2020 SDTCAC Meeting

The Chair directed attention to the proposed minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting and asked if there were any changes. There were none. **Ms. Nicholas moved, supported by Ms. Valenzuela, to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2020 State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee meeting as presented. There was no further discussion and the Chair asked for a roll call vote. The motion prevailed by a unanimous vote and the minutes were approved.**

V. Subcommittee Updates

The Chair called on each subcommittee chair for an update.

Affordable Health Care Act Impact Subcommittee:

Ms. Nicholas was present but had no update to report.

Defense Attorney Participation Subcommittee:

Mr. Risk was present but had no update to report.

Family Dependency Court Subcommittee:

Judge Dobrich reported that she continues to see promise with the new Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Children Services director and she is pleased they are getting to focus more on addiction issues. Mr. Smith provided an update on the family dependency court legislation that a work group drafted and noted that MDHHS had a lot of involvement. He added that they hope to move forward with this legislation in the beginning of 2021. Judge Harvey Hoffman commented that the Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals (MATCP) legislative committee is pulling together a group with their first call expected in the next month to review this legislation to get MATCP on board as well.

Juvenile Issues Subcommittee:

Judge Owdziej was excused from today's meeting so no update was reported.

Legislative Subcommittee:

Ms. Cannon reported there has been a lot of legislative activity and the jail reform package passed with overwhelming support during the last legislative session. Judge Hoffman shared that House Bill 5408 which would have required the department to establish a fee for service for alcohol use disorder did not pass last year and the MATCP Legislative Committee is thinking of taking this up as a major issue in the next legislative session. He added that MATCP was heavily involved in the crafting of House Bill 5854 which took away mandatory minimums for people who are in treatment courts. In addition, he noted that MATCP will be working with the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) to amend 600.1084 that deals with ignition interlock to include mental health courts. Judge Salomone inquired if there is a summary of the criminal reform package that passed last session. Judge Voet shared that he is aware that the Michigan Judicial Institute (MJI) and District Court Judge Travis Reeds of Oakland County are working on one. Judge Dobrich added that SCAO may be working on preparing a summary as well.

Program Standardization and Alternative Funding Subcommittee:

Judge Salomone reported that, since the last meeting, he, Chair Ronayne Krause, Mr. Smith, Mr. Risk, and Ms. Valenzuela discussed the establishment of a mentoring program for new judges. Because funding has been a concern, he is excited to report that the Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative (RJOI) has agreed to set up a pilot program for judicial mentors that would run through September using the ECHO system. He noted that discussions to work out the details are just beginning and will continue. Judge Dobrich then shared more detailed information about the ECHO program.

Veterans' Treatment Court Subcommittee:

Judge Voet was present but had no update to report.

Vision Subcommittee:

Prosecutor Lloyd was excused from today's meeting so no update was reported.

VI. Expulsion from Drug Court Program After Another Felony Conviction

The Chair noted that this item was tabled at the last meeting and asked if there were any updates to report. Judge Hoffman and Mr. Risk had no update to report. Judge Hoffman noted that although there had been some interest in reconsidering the automatic expulsion of drug court participants who commit another felony, the concept did not make it into the reform package of bills that were drafted last year. The Chair suggested the item be removed from the agenda until any movement/action begins in the legislature. There was no objection.

VII. Funding Update

The Chair called on Mr. Smith for a funding update. Mr. Smith noted that they have two grant opportunities that they are looking to open at the beginning of the year. There is a \$750,000 BJA Adult Drug Court and Veterans' Court discretionary grant that will focus on rural drug court programs expanding non-treatment and transportation services and on Veterans' treatment courts working with the VAs for non-VA related services. They also received MDHHS funding through the State Opioid Response II grant to expand the response to Opioid and stimulant populations in drug court programs. Judge Hoffman inquired if Mr. Smith has heard anything about the impact of federal level funding on drug courts. Mr. Smith replied that he has seen continued and growing support of funding for the drug court program at the federal level which is a good sign.

VIII. Committee Member Comment

The Chair asked members for additional comments. Mr. Risk expressed concern that Ms. Salon who represents an adult treatment court graduate has not participated in committee meetings for some time. He raised the possibility of having someone who can attend on a more regular basis appointed. The Chair asked the clerk to have Chair Ronayne Krause reach out to Ms. Salon to determine her interest and availability to participate in future meetings and to report back at the next meeting. Ms. Nicholas commented that she just received a MDHHS Notice of a Proposed Policy that deals with fee-for-service coverage for alcohol use disorder and Opioid use disorder treatment services. She then provided some information about the proposed policy. She will send the proposed policy to the clerk and asked the clerk to share it with committee members. Ms. Cannon reported that she was recently promoted to Court Administrator and wanted to share that news in case it affects the qualifications for her appointment. Committee members expressed support for her continuing to serve on the Committee and, because she is still serving as a probation officer, Chair Voet felt she still met the qualifications of her Committee position. Ms. Cannon will provide more details about her job duties at the next meeting. Sheriff Main commented that he is seeing higher prison rates with repeat offenders and an explosion of meth-related offenses. He is a little concerned with the higher offender issues and wondered if other jurisdictions are seeing similar trends. Ms. Cannon noted Lenawee County is seeing an increase and a discussion followed.

IX. Public Comment

The Chair asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

X. Discussion of Next Meeting Date

The Chair announced that the next SDTCAC meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

There was no further business. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

(Minutes approved at the April 20, 2021 State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee meeting.)