

final minutes

State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee Meeting

10:00 a.m. • Tuesday, August 11, 2015

Legislative Council Conference Room • 3rd Floor Boji Tower

124 W. Allegan • Lansing, MI

Members Present:

Judge Amy Ronayne Krause, Chair
Judge William Ervin
Judge Susan L. Dobrich
Janette Kolodge (via teleconference)
Andrew Konwiak (via teleconference)
Douglas Lloyd
Sheriff Thomas Reich
Mark Risk
Gary Secor
Judge Jodi Switalski (via teleconference)
Judge Raymond Voet
Mark Witte (via teleconference)

Members Excused:

Jesse Billings
Stephanie Drury
Judge Harvey Hoffman
Judge Frederick Mulhauser
Dr. Jessica Parks
Stacy Salon

I. Call to Order

Chair Ronayne Krause 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. 2015 Reappointment Recommendation

The Chair announced that since the last meeting, the Speaker and the Senate Majority Leader acted upon the Committee's recommendations and reappointed Judge Amy Krause to represent domestic violence provider programs, Stephanie Drury to represent a probation officer who has worked at least 2 years for a drug or alcohol treatment court, and Mark A. Witte to represent a substance abuse coordinating agency. She noted consideration of Ms. Kolodge's reappointment to the Commission was tabled at the last meeting to give her the opportunity to be present during the discussion. In response to a request from the Chair, Ms. Kolodge shared her background and qualifications and expressed her interest in continuing to serve as the advocate for the rights of crime victims' representative. **Judge Dobrich moved, supported by Mr. Secor, that the Committee recommend the reappointment of Janette Kolodge to the State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee and that a letter urging her reappointment be sent to the Speaker and the Senate Majority Leader. There was no objection. The motion was unanimously approved.**

IV. Minutes of the April 21, 2015 Meeting

The Chair directed attention to the proposed minutes of the April 21, 2015 meeting and asked if there were any changes. There were none. **Mr. Lloyd moved, supported by Judge Dobrich, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2015 SDTCAC meeting as presented. There was no objection. The motion was unanimously approved.**

V. Subcommittee Updates

The Chair shared that Ms. Kolodge has volunteered to serve on a subcommittee and then called on each subcommittee chair for an update.

Affordable Health Care Act Impact Subcommittee: Mr. Witte reported that there have been no major developments to report since the last meeting. He noted that there has been some correspondence between federal and state Medicaid officials regarding a document the state uses to modify its Medicaid program. The State has been invited to submit a revised waiver which would allow for a significantly more progressive substance abuse system to be in place.

Defense Attorney Participation Subcommittee:

Mr. Risk had no update to report.

Funding Alternative Subcommittee:

Judge Hoffman was not present so no update was given.

Juvenile Issues Subcommittee:

Judge Mulhauser was not present so no update was given.

Legislative Subcommittee:

Judge Hoffman was not present so no update was given. Mr. Witte inquired if there is legislation to legalize the recreational use of marijuana. Judge Voet and Judge Switalski noted that there may be a ballot proposal in the works, but they are not aware of any legislation that has been introduced. Judge Voet reported that he had heard that Representative Irwin may be introducing legislation, but he has no specific information. On another matter, Judge Switalski shared that she learned that there may be legislation introduced to redefine incarceration as a means of reducing the number of people that become incarcerated. The Chair suggested this might be something the Committee may want to keep an eye on.

Marijuana Subcommittee:

Judge Switalski highlighted some research she recently found on the use of medical cannabis and provided some background for sharing this information. In follow-up, Judge Voet noted that this is a very difficult issue that the criminal justice system and the state are wrestling with right now. Mr. Risk inquired about the number of courts that do not allow individuals who hold medical marijuana cards in their treatment programs. Judge Voet is unaware of any polling, but shared that his court is one that does not allow participants who hold a medical marijuana card because a person under the influence is not amenable to treatment. Judge Dobrich raised the issue of the effect of marijuana on children and will send some materials on this issue. Judge Switalski added that The Journal of Neuroscience released a study on the impact of marijuana use. The Chair requested Judge Switalski forward a copy of that study to Susan Cavanagh who will forward it to the Committee members. A discussion followed.

Veterans Treatment Court Subcommittee:

Judge Voet had no update to report and deferred to Judge Switalski for some statistics on the number of veterans in treatment courts. After sharing some statistics, she noted that there are provisions in the statute that limit veteran participation in treatment courts. After further discussion, the Chair asked the subcommittee to bring forward, before the next meeting, a recommendation and a proposed letter to the legislature to address this issue. Judge Dobrich suggested that the subcommittee may want to look at the top five states that have the largest veteran population including California. On another issue, Judge Switalski reported that she is having an issue with MAPS denying access on cases where the offense is not substance related and wondered if the Committee may also want to look into this issue. Judge Dobrich commented that there may be constitutional issues with judges having total access to information and opening up people's liberties. A discussion followed and Judge Switalski clarified the types of cases where this information would be helpful. Judge Switalski will try to find some case law on when a judge would be liable and will share it with the Committee members.

Vision Subcommittee:

Judge Hoffman was not present at today's meeting. No update was given.

VI. Funding Update

Dr. Parks was not present at today's meeting, but Mr. Secor highlighted the information Dr. Parks had shared in an earlier communication regarding federal support of state grant programs. Mr. Secor added he had learned at the national conference that money is extremely tight and many of the grants are becoming very restrictive. The Chair noted these funding issues are critical and should be brought up again at the next meeting when Dr. Parks is present. Judge Voet then commented on his work on the Criminal Justice Policy Commission and his support for more funding going toward alternatives to prison. The Chair suggested a letter be drafted to the Legislature regarding the restrictions on grant funding. Mr. Secor, with the help of Judge Voet and Judge Dobrich, will prepare a draft that can be circulated before the next meeting.

VII. Public Comment

The Chair asked for public comment. There were none. Mr. Secor mentioned that members may want to access information that was distributed at the national conference on Project 25 in Pennsylvania. The statistics show a substantial reduction in repeat drunk drivers when an individual is put on an alcohol monitor at the initial drunk driving offense. He found the program to be very interesting and plans on reviewing more of the material.

VIII. Next Meeting Date

The Chair announced that the next SDTCAC meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**

IX. Adjournment

There was no further business. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

(Minutes approved at the October 20, 2015 State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee meeting.)