

Where Treatment and Accountability Meet Justice



**The Minutes of the Meeting of the
State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee**

October 21, 2021

Richmond, Virginia

**SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA
Office of the Executive Secretary
Richmond, Virginia**

State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee

The Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee (DTCAC) met virtually at 2:00 p.m. on October 21, 2021 via WebEx.

The Honorable Jack S. Hurley, Judge, Tazewell Circuit Court, Vice Chair, presided. The following members were present:

- Hon. Louise DiMatteo, Judge, Arlington Circuit Court, Arlington Drug Court
- Hon. Charles Sharp, Retired Judge, Stafford Circuit Court
- Hon. Joseph Vance, IV, Judge, Fredericksburg Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court
- Hon. Deborah Tinsley, Judge, Goochland Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court
- Hon. David Carson, Judge, Roanoke Circuit Court
- Hon. Colette McEachin, Commonwealth's Attorney, Richmond
- Natale Ward-Christian, Executive Director Hampton/Newport News CSB, Virginia Association of Community Services Boards
- Cheryl Robinette, Drug Court Coordinator, Tazewell & Buchanan Drug Courts
- For Thomas Fitzpatrick/Jennifer MacArthur, Manager, Division of Programs and Services /Adult Justice Programs, Department of Criminal Justice Services
- Charlene Motley, Field Services Manager, Commission on Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP)

The following guest were present:

- Crystal Foster-Fitzgerald, Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, Richmond
- Hon. Bryan Haskins, Commonwealth Attorney, Pittsylvania County
- Alexis Johnson, Senior Assistant Commonwealth Attorney, Pittsylvania County
- Chris Spain, Director of Department of Social Services, Pittsylvania County
- Hon. Michael Newman, Commonwealth Attorney, Danville
- Tim Jones, Lieutenant, Danville Police Department
- Corey Webb, Lieutenant, Pittsylvania County Sheriff's Office
- Kristine Bailey, Chief Probation/Parole Officer
- Vickie Dowell, Deputy Chief Probation/Parole Officer

- Hon. Michael Mondul, Sherriff, Danville
- Joseph Schenk, Jr., Public Defender, Danville
- Lee Smallwood, Sr., Public Defender, Danville
- Hon. James Reynolds, Judge, Danville Circuit Court
- Hon. Stacey Moreau, Judge, Pittsylvania Circuit Court

The following staff members were present:

- Anna Powers, State Specialty Dockets Coordinator, Department of Judicial Services, Supreme Court of Virginia
- Elisa Fulton, Specialty Dockets Training Coordinator, Department of Judicial Services, Supreme Court of Virginia
- Bre'Auna Beasley, Specialty Dockets Database Analyst, Department of Judicial Services, Supreme Court of Virginia

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Judge Hurley called the meeting to order and welcomed committee members and staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The first order of business was approval of the May 13, 2021 meeting minutes. Judge Hurley asked if there were any suggested changes to the meeting minutes. Judge Vance indicated he was present for the May meeting but didn't appear listed as present. Judge Hurley requested a motion to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2021 State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee meeting as amended. A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended. The minutes were unanimously approved.

PROGRAM PROGRESS

Judge Hurley welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed his apologies for not meeting in person and was hopeful that the next meeting would be in person at the Supreme Court of Virginia. He welcomed two new members one from the Commonwealth Attorney's Association and another Megan Roane from Community Corrections. Ms. McEachin announced that the supervising attorney for Drug Courts in Richmond, Ms. Crystal Foster Fitzgerald is also on the call. Judge Hurley stated that he was glad to have them at the meeting and even though the members are appointed the Committee always welcomes input.

Judge Hurley shared that for almost two years we have been dealing with a nationwide opiate epidemic and in the Commonwealth of Virginia an increase in substance use disorders and overdoses. He believes Virginia is beginning to come out of the isolation period of COVID. He also shared that the Drug Courts in Southwest Virginia seem to be way above the norm for those who are fighting substance use disorders. Judge Hurley thanked the Committee and the positive affect their work is having on the participants.

Judge Hurley invited Ms. Anna Powers to provide the statewide updates. Ms. Powers reported that the Specialty Dockets Division had their second annual poster contest related to the annual training theme and the winner for this year was Dickenson County Adult Drug Treatment Court.

Ms. Powers stated that those who applied for the federal grants from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) would normally be notified of their award status but BJA is on a delay and should have the award notification by December or a little after. However, the grant should still be effective through October 1, 2021. BJA plans to award \$9,575,000 to the Adult Programs and \$20,000,000 to the Veterans Dockets nationwide.

She added that her office has been coordinating virtual Regional Coordinators meetings as requested by coordinators to stay connected and learn from each other. This has been going well and the coordinators are learning to reach out and interact with each other. These meetings are being held via WebEx.

Ms. Powers added that onboarding information and coordinator checklists were created for each specialty dockets model and they are posted on the Specialty Dockets webpages. Additionally, Ms. Powers stated her office collaborated with the Department of Veteran Services (DVS) to provide Veterans Re-Entry Search Service (VRSS) training to jails to help identify more veterans in the jails to see if a Veterans Docket was needed. She added that coordinating with DVS is also part of our current statewide BJA grant. There have been two regional trainings completed via WebEx and the jail staff attendees also receive DCJS credit after completing the evaluation survey.

The Veterans Docket Advisory Committee identified 12 individuals to serve as trainers for the newly created Virginia Veterans Docket Implementation Curriculum training. The train the trainer was completed last month. These trainers plan to provide this training to the seven currently operating veterans dockets as well as to all new dockets with applications requesting permission to establish. We are anticipating Chesterfield, Dickenson and Loudoun Counties to

apply for a Veterans Docket.

Ms. Powers stated that the Behavioral Health Dockets Advisory Committee meets upon request and they will have a meeting scheduled the following week to review a pending application for approval.

NADCP Rise 2021 was a smaller version this year due to the pandemic. Registrants had to sign a COVID waiver to attend this year. The 2022 NADCP Rise conference will be held July 25-28 in Nashville, Tennessee. Ms. Powers stated that the 2021 DMV training that was scheduled for September in Harrisonburg was canceled due to the pandemic emergency. The theme for this year's training was Charting the Course. We received the 2022 DMV Grant award and that training will hopefully be in-person.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Judge Hurley invited members of the Virginia Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee to participate in the Executive Committee meetings. Judge Hurley mentioned that the Drug Court Executive Committee tries to meet monthly and must take action from time to time. He stated that you do not need to be a committee member to take part in the meeting. If anyone would like to participate in an executive committee meeting, please reach out to Anna Powers and she will get that information to you.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Judge Hurley stated that Judge DiMatteo, Chair for the Operations Committee works to review Drug Court applications to recommend for approval. Judge DiMatteo added that Judge Hurley's initial goal as Vice-Chair was to have every circuit in the Commonwealth with a Drug Court.

Judge DiMatteo added that she and Judge Moreau worked together as colleagues and have spoken to others about the positive benefits of Drug Court. Judge Moreau's team in Pittsylvania County had a good application and corrected items as requested for clarification. Judge DiMatteo noted that many courts use former applications to model their own and she hopes to work with Ms. Powers to create a template application with some examples of best practices for them to use as guidelines.

Danville-Pittsylvania County

Judge DiMatteo presented the application to establish an Adult Drug Treatment Court in Danville-Pittsylvania County. After some discussion Judge Moreau stated that she was hopeful to get her Drug Court approved. Judge Hurley requested a motion to approve the application. A motion was made to approve the application and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Southside Treatment and Recovery Drug Court (STAR) includes Emporia, Greenville, Greensville, Brunswick & Sussex Counties

Judge DiMatteo presented the STAR application to establish an Adult Drug Treatment Court in Emporia, Greenville, Brunswick, and Sussex Counties for approval. After some questions and answers Judge Hurley requested a motion to approve the application. A motion was made to approve the application and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Had no report.

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Judge Vance reported that the Annual Reports for the Specialty Dockets were due by December 1, 2021. Judge Vance commended Ms. Bre'Auna Beasley for the exceptional effort she put forth to prepare these reports. Judge Vance indicated that one of the priorities in preparing for this year's annual reports was to include language explaining the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the impact it has had on data. COVID did affect the numbers and that was addressed in the report. The Behavioral Health Dockets were the only dockets that saw an increase in participants numbers. There was a decrease in the number of active participants for Adult, Family and Juvenile models.

Judge Vance reported the National Center for State Courts and the Office of the Executive Secretary are collaborating to conduct a longitudinal study of Virginia Drug Treatment Courts. The study will examine program policy, participants, and all things that impact Virginia's Drug Treatment Courts. The report is expected by summer of 2022.

NEXT MEETING

Judge Hurley reminded members that the next committee meeting will be scheduled for May 4, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. The committee is hoping this will be an in-person meeting held at the Courts Conference Center, 6th floor of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Judge Hurley thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Jack S. Hurley, Judge