

Where Treatment and Accountability Meet Justice



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

May 13, 2021

Richmond, Virginia

SUPREME COURT OF VIRGINIA

Office of the Executive Secretary

Richmond, Virginia

The following staff members were present:

- Anna Powers, State Specialty Dockets Coordinator, Department of Judicial Services, Supreme Court of Virginia
- Lori Hogan, Specialty Dockets Administrative Assistant, Department of Judicial Services, Supreme Court of Virginia
- Elisa Fulton, Specialty Dockets Training Coordinator, Department of Judicial Services, Supreme Court of Virginia
- Courtney Stewart, Drug Court Grants Management Analyst, Department of Judicial Services, Supreme Court of Virginia
- Paul DeLosh, Director Judicial Services, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The next order of business was approval of the October 17, 2019 meeting minutes. Judge Hurley asked if there were any suggested changes to the meeting minutes. After hearing no reply, he requested a motion to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2019 State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The next order of business was approval of the May 15, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes who met on behalf of this committee to approve drug court applications. Judge Hurley asked if there were any suggested changes to the meeting minutes. After hearing no reply, he requested a motion to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2020 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The next order of business was the approval of the State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee meeting on November 17, 2020. Judge Hurley asked if there were any suggested changes to the meeting minutes. After hearing no reply, he requested a motion to approve the minutes from the November 17, 2020 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes as submitted. The minutes were unanimously approved.

PROGRAM PROGRESS

Judge Hurley extended gratitude to all who continue to go the extra mile to keep the Drug Treatment Court programs operating through the pandemic. He expressed how creative programs have been to ensure services continued to be provided during the Pandemic. Judge Hurley invited anyone who wishes to attend to the next Executive Committee Meeting scheduled to be held June 25, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. via conference call. He instructed those who wish to participate on the Executive Committee meeting call to contact Anna Powers for the call-in information.

Judge Hurley invited Ms. Anna Powers to provide the statewide updates. Ms. Powers reported planning is underway for the 2021 Specialty Dockets/DUI Training. The training will be held September 20-22, 2021 at Hotel Madison and Shenandoah Conference Center in Harrisonburg, VA. The theme for this year's training is Specialty Dockets Charting the Course and will include an additional third day of training specific to Veterans but the information will be valuable to all models of specialty dockets. Ms. Powers shared that the Specialty Dockets Division team recently created onboarding materials for new programs that includes a Checklist for new Coordinators. The materials provide an overview of the services provided by the Specialty Dockets Division, and specifically who to contact for assistance. Ms. Powers shared the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provided a solicitation opportunity for Adult Drug Treatment Court, discretionary grants. These programs must apply and provide a letter of support from the Office of the Executive Secretary. If awarded, the funds could be used for implementation or enhancement. Seven programs requested letters of support for their applications. Botetourt/Craig Counties, Orange/Madison Counties and Culpeper County applied under the implementation category. Fairfax, Halifax, Lynchburg, and VA Beach applied under the enhancement category. Awards will be announced in late August. Ms. Powers also provided a brief update regarding recent Regional Coordinators' Meetings. Ms. Powers also shared OES is collaborating with Justice Speakers Institute to develop of a curriculum specific to Virginia Veterans Treatment Dockets. This was made possible through a BJA grant administered through the Center for Court Innovation.

JUVENILE DRUG TREATMENT COURTS

Judge Hurley reported that Juvenile participant numbers continue to decline. He added that in the last several years, the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice has spent a significant amount of time and money incorporating therapeutic services into their probation departments. The unique services that the juvenile drug courts offered are now commonplace within the juvenile probation department. As a result, we now find ourselves in a position of duplicating services. As a result, funding will no longer be provided to Juvenile Drug Courts after FY21. We will continue to monitor the situation and reevaluate as needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Judge Hurley invited members of the Virginia Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee to participate in the Executive Committee meetings. The Executive Committee meets by phone the last Friday of each month. The Committee aims to ensure that we monitor progress, continue the flow of information especially related to legislative happenings, funding, and sustainability. He encouraged those interested in participating to contact Ms. Powers.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Judge Hurley commended the work the Operations Committee has done to review applications to establish Drug Treatment Courts in the 21st Judicial Circuit, Botetourt/Craig Counties, and Orange-Madison Counties. Judge DiMatteo shared information about Treatment Courts and their respective applications.

The 21st Judicial Circuit

Judge Greer, Jim Tobin, and Kelly Koebel were present during the meeting to offer information regarding the plans of the Drug Court in the 21st Judicial Circuit. The team was commended for their thorough application and quick response to the committee's request for clarifications. The Operations Committee relayed that it was uncommon for a program to seek additional funding for attorney's who work with Drug Court. Judge Greer shared he had spoken with the Commonwealth's Attorney, Andrew Nester, in an effort to persuade him to remove the request for funding. However, Mr. Nester responded it was appropriate to seek funding given the events happening in the Martinsville, Patrick, and Henry Counties. The main consideration in his decision to seek funding comes from the fact that Martinsville has filed a petition for

reversion with the commission of the local government. Judge Greer indicated there is a great need in the area for a Drug Treatment Court. Due to a high unemployment rate and/or workplace injuries, many citizens have unfortunately turned to drugs. The committee recognized the unique circumstances of the 21st Judicial Circuit and commended the efforts of those involved in preparing the application.

Judge DiMatteo recommended the application to establish an Adult Drug Treatment Court in the 21st Judicial Circuit for approval. Judge Hurley requested a motion to approve the application. A motion was made to approve the application and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Botetourt-Craig Counties

Judge DiMatteo presented the application to establish an Adult Drug Treatment Court in Botetourt-Craig Counties for approval. It was noted that a Drug Court in this location would be a great asset to the community. Judge Hurley requested a motion to approve the application. A motion was made to approve the application and seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Orange-Madison Counties

Judge DiMatteo presented the application to establish an Adult Drug Treatment Court in Orange-Madison Counties. It was noted the applications were consistent in everything and well written. 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 past Annual Reports for the Specialty Dockets were due by December 1, 2020. Judge Vance commended Ms. Bre'Auna Beasley for the exceptional effort she put forth to prepare those reports. Judge Vance indicated that one of the priorities in preparing for the next year's reports will be to include language explaining the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic and the impact it has had on data. 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 Courts. The study will examine program policy, participants, and all things that impact Virginia's Drug Treatment Courts. The report is expected by end of 2021.

NEXT MEETING

Judge Hurley reminded members that the next committee meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2021 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 coming. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Jack S. Hurley, Judge