



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

**April 3, 2014
Richmond, Virginia**

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

State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee

The State Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee (SDTCAC) met at 10:00 am on Thursday, April 3, 2014 in the 6th floor Courts Conference Center Room at the Supreme Court of Virginia. Chief Justice Cynthia D. Kinser, Chair presided.

The following members were present:

- Hon. Jerrauld C. Jones, Judge, Norfolk Circuit Court
- Karl R. Hade, Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia
- Hon. Charles Sharp, Judge, Stafford Circuit Court
- Hon. David Peterson, Judge, Fredericksburg Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
- Hon. Jack Hurley, Judge, Tazewell Circuit Court
- Hon. D. Scott Bailey, Judge, Prince William Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court
- Angela Coleman, Executive Director, Commission on Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP)
- Bruce Crusier, Director, Programs & Services, Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)
- Mike Whipple, SA Program Manager, Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Patricia Shaw, President, Virginia Drug Court Association (VDCA)
- Cheryl Robinette, Coordinator, Tazewell Adult Drug Court
- Catherine Mullins, Esq., Attorney, Virginia Indigent Defense Commission (IDC)
- Hon. Jack Weisenburger, Sheriff, Bristol; Virginia Sheriff's Association
- Julie Truitt, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)
- Makita Lewis, Project Manager, Family Services, Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS)

The following guest was present:

- Lori Trail, Pulaski Drug Court Coordinator, New River Valley Community Services Board

The following staff members were present:

- Paul DeLosh, Director of Judicial Services, Supreme Court of Virginia
- Anna Powers, State Drug Court Coordinator, Supreme Court of Virginia
- Michael Waite, Drug Court Analyst, Supreme Court of Virginia

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chief Justice Kinser called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. Members of the committee introduced themselves. Chief Justice Kinser stated that Judge Jones is chairing the Problem Solving Docket Committee. She also said that if anyone had any questions, the Supreme Court of Virginia is here to help you. Chief Justice Kinser commended the Committee for their continued commitment to drug courts and turned the meeting over to the Vice-Chair, Judge Jerrauld Jones.

Judge Jones, vice chair of the Advisory Committee, welcomed the committee and thanked the Committee for their time and effort.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The next order of business was approval of the October 17, 2013 meeting minutes. Someone made a correction in which the next meeting date should be October 16, 2014. The motion carried to approve the minutes as corrected, unanimously.

PROGRAM PLANNING

Paul DeLosh began speaking about the grant funding. He stated there were 3 enhancement renewals: Bristol, Wise, and Chesapeake counties. The Statewide BJA grant aided the Drug Court team with the addition of the RANT tool and MRT to the Drug Court Database. The National Center for State Courts is currently conducting a DUI study. In addition, Mr. DeLosh said the prescription study should be completed by the end of June. He also said that federal funding is up \$7 million from last year. Mr. DeLosh explained the DMV grant supports the Drug Court annual conference each year. The 2015 DMV grant has been submitted. This year's Drug Court Conference will be held August 7-8 at Hotel Roanoke, in Roanoke, Virginia. The theme of the conference is "Virginia's Drug Courts Work." A few potential speakers include: Kathy Burnette of Correctional Counseling Inc., Dave Wallace (the Traffic Safety Guy), and Dr. James Reinhardt.

VIRGINIA DRUG COURT ASSOCIATION (VDCA) UPDATE

Tricia Shaw invited the committee to the Virginia Drug Court Association and the Virginia Drug Court Coordinators meeting in Verona, Virginia on April 16. The budget and

language has remained the same in the Drug Court statute. This was considered a main goal for the VDCA and it was successful. Drug Court can establish without the General Assembly's approval as long as that drug court doesn't request funds. Judge Jones added that the biggest challenge to support Drug Court is funding. He is grateful for the VDCA. Anna Powers stated that at the DMV conference in August, the VDCA will have vendors set up. The DMV pays for lodging and meals, and she encourages the members of the Virginia Drug Court Advisor Committee to come to the conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Judge Peterson reported the Operations Committee received an application for an Adult Drug Court for Pulaski County. The committee met over the phone and reviewed the application. The Operations Committee unanimously approved the application.

Ms. Trail stated Judge Long is very excited to help the needs of the community. She thanks Tazewell County's Drug Court team for their assistance. She reported the Pulaski Adult Drug Court anticipates a maximum of ten participants to begin.

A member of the committee stated that he was impressed with the application with no additional funds requested. The Advisory Committee unanimously approved Pulaski County's Drug Court application. Judge Jones encourages other localities to have a Drug Court. He hopes to establish Drug Courts across the state.

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Judge Sharp reported the last meeting was conducted over teleconference with Michelle and Tara to discuss the DUI study. The DUI study is expected to be done at the end of the year. The RFP is reviewing the proposal of the prescription study. The prescription study should be done at the end of June. These studies are made to be put in front of the legislature. The Cost-Benefit study is a two year study on how Drug Court works and how much money Drug Court saves the taxpayers.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Judge Spencer was absent from the meeting. She has been presiding for 15 years and recently just celebrated the 15 year anniversary of Richmond Drug Court graduations. She is planning on retiring in a few months.

Anna Powers stated Judge Spencer wanted the Committee's opinion on continuing to present a presentation about Drug Courts at training events for potential stakeholders. Tricia Shaw explained that it's important to continue the presentation.

Judge Hurley suggested we make an informational Drug Court brochure to hand out to stakeholders to get them interested in Drug Court. He also suggested putting the brochure on the Supreme Court of Virginia's website.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Judge Jones reported the Committee continues to meet each month via teleconference. He stated the Committee reports information regarding other committees. A topic that is being brought up is the legislation concern regarding state funding. Judge Jones said the Problem Solving Docket Committee was created by the Chief Justice as a result from the suggestion from the Virginia Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee. Judge Jones stated that we must have sustainability. He said we having to have a dedicated stream of funding in order to go "from surviving to thriving."

PROBLEM SOLVING DOCKET COMMITTEE

Judge Jones reported that members of the Problem Solving Docket Committee are stakeholders in Drug Court. The committee was created as a result of Bob Barrett's, Co-Chair Virginia Bar Association's Veterans Issues Task Force, letter to Judge Jones regarding Veterans' Court. Mr. Barrett strongly recommended having legislation for Problem Solving Courts similar to the Drug Treatment Court Act. To grab the attention of the General Assembly, Mr. Barrett sells the idea of helping veterans and helping offenders with mental health issues, which has become a large issue in Virginia. Judge Jones stated in the public opinion, helping veterans are more favorable than helping drug addicts. Committee member Laurie Neff, Executive Director for Clinic for Legal Assistance to Servicemembers and Veterans, wrote an article entitled "Providing legal assistance through veterans' treatment dockets." Judge Jones recommended the Advisory Committee to read the article.

Judge Jones reported the Committee has self-imposed a deadline of June 2014 to have a recommendation to the Chief Justice. In order to break up the work needed to be done by the Committee, the Committee formed two sub-committees: Legal Framework Workgroup and the Organizational Workgroup. The Legal Framework Workgroup is co-chaired by Judge Kirksey (retired) and Judge Carr, Chesterfield JDR. They have been leading the charge in reviewing

Problem Solving Dockets in other states, like Indiana, who have a similar court structure as Virginia. The Organizational Workgroup is chaired by Judge Talevi, Twenty-Third Judicial District. Judge Talevi established a mental health docket for her court.

The Problem Solving Docket has been considering the option of changing the existing Drug Treatment Court statute or to add an additional statute that would be similar to the Drug Treatment Court statute. Judge Jones said in order to help give Problem Solving Court Dockets enough room to operate the statute cannot be too strict or too broad. Judge Jones stated a major topic that has been ongoing, is the proper definition of “problem solving courts.”

GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

Judge Jones introduced Executive Secretary Karl Hade to the meeting. Karl Hade said the General Assembly tried to take funding from Drug Court but they did not. Mr. Hade said in regards to judicial vacancies, there were questions if dockets would survive after judges’ vacancies are not filled. There are currently 402 judges in the Commonwealth, while 44 of those have announced retirement in the near future. The National Center of State Courts recommended the Commonwealth of Virginia to have 429 judges. As a result of this recommendation, Karl Hade assisted in introducing a bill to reflect the findings from the National Center of State Courts. Mr. Hade is hopeful to receive funding for the current number of judges, 402. Judge Jones added that another challenge is to keep judges for Drug Court.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held October 16, 2014 at 10:00 am in the 6th Floor Courts Conference Center at the Supreme Court of Virginia. Judge Jones encouraged participation in each Committee. With no further business, Judge Jones thanked the Committee for their time and involvement on the Committee. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Hon. Jerrauld Jones, Judge