

Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC18-32

IN RE: STEERING COMMITTEE ON PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Problem-solving courts, a form of differentiated case management, address the root causes of justice system involvement through specialized dockets, multidisciplinary teams, and a non-adversarial approach. Offering evidence-based treatment, judicial supervision, and accountability, problem-solving courts provide individualized interventions for participants, thereby reducing recidivism and promoting confidence and satisfaction with the justice system process.

Florida's courts are frequently called on to respond to the needs of individuals with serious mental illnesses and substance abuse issues who become involved in the justice system. The limited availability of community services and other resources increases the likelihood of justice system engagement, where services are more costly and less effective in the long-term. The complexity of cases involving individuals with serious mental illnesses and substance abuse issues who become involved in the justice system has been addressed by the Task

Force on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues in the Courts since it was established in 2010.

As problem-solving dockets continue to evolve, it is clear the important work of the Task Force must be carried forward, with emphasis on the evidence-based practices and modern court case management principles. Because this work will continue well into the future, the Court finds it is appropriate for those efforts to continue under the structure of a court steering committee. Accordingly, the Steering Committee on Problem-Solving Courts is hereby established to continue addressing the needs of court-engaged individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders through the use of differentiated case management principles and other evidence-based and emerging best practices.

Over the next two years, the Steering Committee shall perform the following tasks:

1. Develop best practice standards for veterans court, juvenile drug court, family dependency drug court, driving under the influence court, and mental health court.
2. Finalize the problem-solving court certification program, including the development of any necessary protocols, forms, and tools, and also determine the resources necessary to implement the program.

The Steering Committee shall perform its responsibilities consistent with The Long-Range Strategic Plan for the Florida Judicial Branch 2016-2021, including but not limited to Goal 1.2 (Ensure the fair and timely resolution of all cases through effective case management.), Goal 1.5 (Encourage the use of consistent practices, procedures, and forms statewide.), Goal 2.1 (Minimize economic barriers to court access and services.), Goal 2.4 (Collaborate with justice system partners and community organizations to deliver appropriate services.), and Goal 2.6 (Promote the use of innovative and effective problem-solving courts and alternative dispute resolution processes.).

The Steering Committee is authorized to propose rule changes that are necessary to fulfill the charges in this administrative order. Should the Steering Committee recommend amendments to the rules of court procedure and/or forms, it shall file such recommendations in petition form with the Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court.

The Steering Committee is also authorized, in accordance with the applicable state court system protocols, to propose statutory changes that are necessary to fulfill the charges in this administrative order and to address statutory changes previously proposed by the Task Force on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues in the Courts and approved by the Court but that have not yet been enacted.

Should the Steering Committee make recommendations that require additional funding or resources to implement, impact court technology, or impact education and training needs of judges and court staff, the Steering Committee is directed to establish the necessary liaison relationship with the District Court of Appeal Budget Commission, the Trial Court Budget Commission, the Florida Courts Technology Commission, or the Florida Court Education Council, as appropriate. At a minimum, the Steering Committee shall provide the chairs of these liaison groups with copies of those Steering Committee reports and recommendations, prior to the finalization of the reports.

When feasible, the Steering Committee will collocate meetings with the Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court and will hold a shared-agenda meeting with the Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court no less than once a year.

The Steering Committee shall submit its reports to the Chief Justice through the State Courts Administrator.

The following persons are appointed to serve on the Steering Committee for a term that expires on June 30, 2020:

The Honorable Lester Bass
County Court Judge
Duval County

Magistrate Randi Boven
Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

Ms. Melanie Brown-Woofter
President/CEO
Florida Council for Community Mental Health

The Honorable Jeri B. Cohen
Circuit Court Judge
Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Mr. Mark Fontaine
Executive Director
Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association

Ms. Terica Hamlyn
Director of Treatment Courts
Fourth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Frederick J. Lauten
Chief Judge
Ninth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Steven Leifman
County Court Judge
Miami-Dade County

The Honorable T. Patterson Maney
County Court Judge, Retired
Fort Walton Beach

The Honorable Janeice Martin
County Court Judge
Collier County

The Honorable James L. Martz
Circuit Court Judge
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Melanie May
Appellate Court Judge
Fourth District Court of Appeal

The Honorable James McCune
County Court Judge
Marion County

Dr. Roger H. Peters
Professor, Department of Mental Health Law and Policy
University of South Florida

The Honorable Erika Quartermaine
Circuit Court Judge
Twelfth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Michele Towbin Singer
Circuit Court Judge
Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

Ms. Robin Wright
Trial Court Administrator
First Judicial Circuit

Ms. Charlotte Matthews
Lead Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist
United States Department of Veterans Affairs

The success of Florida's problem-solving courts depends upon effective communication among all stakeholders. Accordingly, the following representatives, or their designees, shall also serve as members to the Steering Committee:

Florida Public Defender Association

Florida Prosecuting Attorneys

Regional Counsel, Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel

Director, Florida Guardian ad Litem

Secretary, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Secretary, Florida Department of Children and Families

The Honorable Steven Leifman shall serve as Chair to the Steering Committee through June 30, 2020. Staff support shall be provided by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on July 2, 2018.

Char. T. Canady
AOSC18-32 7/2/2018

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Chief Justice Charles Canady

ATTEST:

[Signature]
AOSC18-32 7/2/2018
John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

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