



Problem-Solving Courts Committee Meeting  
March 20, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

**1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Judge Niemeier called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

Participating Members: Judge Niemeier (Chair), Ms. Brock-Fleetwood, Judge Harper, Judge Jent, and Mr. Williams

Guests: Doug Horton, Lawrence County Probation; Tammy O'Neil, Porter County PACT; and Judge Michael Robbins, Lawrence Superior Court #1

Staff: Jamie Bergacs, Angie Hensley, Mary Kay Hudson, Chad Long, Diane Mains, Justin Miller and Jen Weber

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Members approved the December 19, 2014 meeting minutes, as corrected.

**3. Education Subcommittee Report**

Mrs. Hensley reported that problem-solving court new Staff Orientation was held March 3-4, 2015.

Planning for the 2015 annual workshop is underway. This year will be the first combined Problem-Solving Court and Court Alcohol and Drug Court Program Annual Meeting to be held on October 1-2, 2015 at the Indianapolis Convention Center. Attendance is anticipated to be 450-550 at this workshop. Registration will be available roughly 60 days prior to the event.

**4. Certification Update**

Mrs. Bergacs reported that IJC certified five problem-solving courts since the December committee meeting: Clark Family Dependency Court, Grant Drug Court, Lake Veterans' Court, Marion Family Dependency Court and Lawrence Domestic Violence Court.

**5. Lawrence Superior #1 Domestic Violence Court**

Judge Robbins along with Nedra Brock-Fleetwood, Chief Probation Officer and Coordinator, Doug Horton, Case Manager and, provided the Committee with an overview of the Lawrence Superior #1 Domestic Violence Court (handout provided). The Court formed as a result of a study by the CDC into the high rate of domestic violence homicides in Lawrence County.

Eligibility for the DV court includes a charge of domestic violence (felony or misdemeanor). If accepted in to the DV court, the defendant pleads guilty and the court defers entering judgment of conviction pending completion of the court within a period of 12-24 months. DV court requirements include: assessment with IRAS and the Domestic Violence Inventory, intensive supervision, weekly court sessions, weekly appointments with staff, treatment, SAFE Journals (individual cognitive behavioral programming), and home visits. Victim services are also a program component.

**6. NADCP Best Practice Standards and IJC Certification**

<http://www.nadcp.org/sites/default/files/nadcp/AdultDrugCourtBestPracticeStandards.pdf>

A copy of the PSCR with the proposed changes and the comments submitted in response to these proposed changes were distributed to the Committee members. Given the numerous comments, suggestions and concerns raised by problem-solving court judges, staff and team members, Judge Niemeier suggested that a small work group be formed to address each of the issues raised.

Staff was directed to work with Judge Niemeier to establish the work group. Judge Niemeier also directed staff to send out an email to all problem-solving court judges and coordinators to indicate that the Committee will continue to work on these proposed changes in response to the comments received.

**7. Odyssey and PSC Fees**

Mrs. Hudson reported that two counties have raised concerns that the Odyssey case management system only tracks the collection of a problem-solving court fee but does not allow for the tracking of fees collected for multiple problem-solving court models within one jurisdiction. The Committee was asked to consider whether or not to make a recommendation to Court Technology to modify Odyssey to allow courts to track multiple problem-solving court fees. The Committee recommended a modification to Odyssey accordingly.

**8. IJC Updates**

Mrs. Hudson reported that the commercial court work group recommended to the Supreme Court to conduct a pilot project for district case docketing that will be launched in 2015. Following the conclusion of the pilot project, the work group may request either a Supreme Court order or court rule governing commercial courts.

Mrs. Hensley reported that Phase 2 of the probation incentives and sanctions project is underway, a data collection/outcome evaluation pilot for six months. Three probation departments served as the Phase 1 pilot sites, implementing a contingency management system for probation officers to use in administering incentives and sanctions to probationers during office contacts: Allen (adult), Lawrence and Pulaski. The Judicial Center was awarded grant funding from the Criminal Justice Institute to conduct Phase 2, with the Phase 1 sites and six additional probation departments: Bartholomew, Hamilton, Marion juvenile, Miami, Wabash and Wayne. Recidivism outcomes will ultimately be measured.

Mrs. Hudson reported that Indiana was awarded a technical assistance grant from NIC to implement evidence-based decision making on a state level as well as in six local jurisdictions: Bartholomew, Hamilton, Hendricks, Jefferson, Porter and Tipton.

Finally, Mrs. Hudson provided an update on the status of the Evidence-Based Pretrial Release Project. A pilot project will commence shortly. Six counties are meeting on March 27, 2015, to discuss participating in a pilot using a pretrial risk assessment tool to inform release decisions.

## 9. Other Business

- Legislative Update: HB 1006 was passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee this week. HB 1006 includes the award of funds to the Indiana Judicial Center to support community supervision services. If these funds are ultimately provided to IJC through the legislative process, IJC will solicit grant proposals to award these funds to local jurisdictions.
- 2015 meeting schedule was discussed. A conflict with the June 12<sup>th</sup> meeting was noted and this meeting was rescheduled and will be held on June 5, 2015. Additionally, all future meetings will be held from 10:00 am to noon.
- 2015 meeting dates: (all meetings held from **10:00 am – noon** at the Judicial Center office)  
**June 5, 2015**  
September 18, 2015  
December 18, 2015

## 10. Adjournment

Judge Niemeier adjourned the meeting at 2:13 pm.



Problem-Solving Courts Committee Meeting  
June 5, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

1. **Call to Order and Introductions**

Judge Niemeier called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Participating Members: Judge Niemeier (Chair), Ms. Brock-Fleetwood, Mr. Cunningham, Justice David, Judge Harper, Judge Jent, and Mr. Williams

Guest: Tammy O'Neil, Porter County PACT

Staff: Jamie Bergacs, Diane Haver, Angie Hensley, Mary Kay Hudson, Chad Long, Diane Mains, Justin Miller and Jen Weber

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Members approved the March 20, 2015, meeting minutes.

3. **Education Subcommittee Report**

Mrs. Hensley reported that planning for the 2015 annual workshop continues. This year will be the first combined Problem-Solving Court and Court Alcohol and Drug Court Program Annual Meeting to be held on October 1-2, 2015, at the Indianapolis Convention Center. Attendance is anticipated to be 450-550 at this workshop. Registration will be available roughly 60 days prior to the event. The Education Subcommittee is working with Terrence Walton of NADCP to develop the agenda.

No training events have taken place since the last committee meeting. The next new coordinator orientation will be held on August 4<sup>th</sup> and the next staff orientation training will be held on August 25-26.

4. **Certification Update**

Mrs. Bergacs reported that IJC has conducted six problem-solving court certification reviews since the March committee meeting: Howard drug court, Montgomery drug court, Noble family dependency court, Jefferson drug court, Hamilton drug court and Lake reentry court.

5. **NADCP Best Practice Standards and IJC Certification**

<http://www.nadcp.org/sites/default/files/nadcp/AdultDrugCourtBestPracticeStandards.pdf>

A copy of the Problem-Solving Court Rules with the latest proposed changes was distributed to the committee members. The work group tasked with reviewing the comments received on the proposed changes met via conference call on April 17, 2015. The work group determined that the Best Practice Standards were too inflexible to adopt in rule form and will recommend to the committee that these standards be incorporated into rule commentary. By incorporating this information in the commentary, courts will continue to have the necessary flexibility to operate their programs as dictated by local need. Staff made some recommendations for rule amendments based on issues that have arisen during certification reviews.

The committee took no action at the meeting to adopt the draft changes to the rules, and decided to wait until the next set of Best Practice Standards is published before proceeding with any changes to the Problem-Solving Court Rules.

**6. Veterans Courts Grants**

Mrs. Hudson reported that the General Assembly appropriated \$500,000 each year of the biennium for veterans' courts. Currently, there are 13 certified veterans' courts with three courts in the planning stages. Justice David and Mrs. Hudson indicated that the money will likely be used to bring formal training on veteran's courts to Indiana as well as to support a summit on veterans' issues. The goal is to have at least one veteran's court in each judicial district.

**7. HEA 1006/SEA 464 Funds**

HEA 1006 increases the community corrections grant dollars available from \$47 to \$55 million in year one of the biennium, and from \$47 to \$67 million in year two. These funds will be available to court programs beginning July 1, 2015. The Justice Reinvestment Advisory Committee (JRAC), a state level advisory committee chaired by Jane Seigel, will oversee the disbursement of these funds. JRAC will also oversee the disbursement (grants and vouchers) of funds awarded to DMHA (\$10 million in year one and \$20 million in year two) to support the treatment services of individuals in the criminal justice system. The criminal justice population will also be able to take advantage of HIP 2.0 to secure medical, mental health, dental, and vision services. IJC will keep courts updated as information on the disbursement of these funds becomes available.

**8. IJC Updates**

Mrs. Hudson reported that a Supreme Court order established the commercial courts work group comprised of 19 members. The first meeting will be held on June 26, 2015. The work group will report to the Supreme Court by October 1<sup>st</sup> on the feasibility of future pilot projects.

Mrs. Hudson also reported that the EBDM project is still underway. The state EBDM team and the 6 local jurisdictions participating in this project will meet in Indianapolis on June 11-12, 2015. The local jurisdictions on this project are: Bartholomew, Hamilton, Hendricks, Jefferson, Porter and Tipton counties. Grant County serves on the state team.

**9. Other Business**

- Judge Jent reported that a veteran's seminar, Battlemind to Home VI Symposium, will be presented in part by Purdue on August 19-20, 2015, in Indianapolis.
- Mr. Cunningham reported that NIC will be hosting a three-hour webinar on veterans' courts on August 26<sup>th</sup>. He sent two emails to committee members with information on this webinar during the meeting.
- Judge Harper suggested that the committee think about outreach to the bench at the annual meeting to educate on problem-solving courts. Various avenues were discussed, a video of a graduation, personal stories, etc. Ms. Hudson will discuss this with the Education Department.
- Judge Jent reported that her veterans' court will be holding a graduation on October 30<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Supreme Court's oral argument at Portage High School and invited everyone to attend.
- Remaining 2015 meeting dates: (all meetings start at **10:00 am** at the Judicial Center office)  
September 18, 2015  
December 18, 2015

**10. Adjournment**: Judge Niemeier adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.



Problem-Solving Courts Committee Meeting  
December 18, 2015  
Meeting Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

Judge Brett Niemeier called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 a.m.

Members present: Justice Steven David

Members participating by phone: Mr. Chris Cunningham, Judge Jonathan Cleary, Judge John Feick, Judge Mary Harper, Judge Julia Jent, Magistrate John Kitch, Judge Brett Niemeier, Judge Jose Salinas, Judge Jeffrey Todd, Mr. Joseph Williams, Magistrate Zach Winsett

Staff: Ms. Jamie Bergacs, Ms. Diane Haver, Ms. Angie Hensley, Ms. Mary Kay Hudson, Mr. Chad Long, Ms. Diane Mains and Mr. Justin Miller

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Members approved the September 18, 2015, meeting minutes.

**3. Education Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Chris Cunningham reported that the Court Services Conference was held on Oct. 1-2, 2015, with approximately 520 in attendance. The highest attended breakouts were Best-Practices in Heroin Addiction (319), Driving While Intoxicated Courts (132), Opiate Treatment Programs in Indiana (132), Drug Trends in Indiana (160), and Managing Prescription Medications in Court Programs (150). Online evaluations were utilized for the first time at this conference and there was a drastic decline in the number of evaluations submitted using this format. The subcommittee will discuss this issue and methods for improvement.

Mr. Cunningham reported the 2016 Court Services Conference will be August 18-19, 2016, at the Indiana Convention Center, with a room block at the Crown Plaza. The PSC Education Subcommittee will begin working on topics for the next conference in conjunction with the CADPAC Education Subcommittee.

The committee was advised that beginning in 2016, IJC will train criminal justice agencies that have requested University of Cincinnati's Case Management and EPICS training. There are 9 people trained in the Case Management trainer curriculum and 7 people that have completed the EPICS trainer curriculum and are in the process of being trained to provide coaching and code audio tapes.

Mr. Cunningham reported the 2016 training dates as follows:

- February 9 – New Coordinator Orientation
- March 10-11 – New Judge Orientation
- March 29-30 – Staff Orientation
- August 2 – New Coordinator Orientation
- August 18-19 – Court Services Conference
- August 30-31 – Staff Orientation