

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF A PERMANENT COMMITTEE KNOWN AS
THE DRUG TREATMENT COURT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

O R D E R

WHEREAS over twenty-five drug treatment courts have been established in Montana and the operation and function of drugs courts have become an integral component of dispositions in an increasing number of courts at all levels;

WHEREAS drug and alcohol abuse and addiction contributes to growing caseloads in the courts in both criminal and civil matters and the judiciary has an obligation to lead efforts to reduce caseloads by addressing the issue of alcohol and drug addiction;

WHEREAS drug treatment courts have proven to be an effective strategy for addressing addiction and criminal behavior and intervening with families and juveniles;

WHEREAS, as drug treatment courts become a routine part of the criminal justice system, the judiciary has an obligation to provide standards and strategic planning to maintain and grow successful treatment courts; and

WHEREAS it is the best interest of the continuing viability of drug treatment courts to create a Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee charged with making policy and funding recommendations to the District Court Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee is created as a permanent advisory committee. The Advisory Committee is charged with: (1) providing ongoing review and revision to drug court standards; (2) assuring communication and continuity in the operation of Montana drug treatment courts; (3) providing ongoing review and recommendations to the District Court Council

and Supreme Court regarding statewide drug court funding, budget and policy issues; (4) overseeing and updating the strategic plan; and (5) addressing future drug treatment court issues as they arise.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the committee shall consist of seven judges appointed from different treatment court types. Members will serve three-year terms. The Chief Justice shall appoint one member to act as chair. The Office of the Court Administrator shall provide staff support to the committee.

The following judges have agreed to serve as members of the committee, and they are hereby appointed to serve for three-year terms beginning on the date of this Order: The Honorable Greg Pinski of the Eighth Judicial District Court, the Honorable Mary Jane McCalla Knisely of the Thirteenth Judicial District Court, the Honorable John W. Larson of the Fourth Judicial District Court, the Honorable John C. Brown of the Eighteenth Judicial District Court, the Honorable James A. Manley of the Twentieth Judicial District Court, the Honorable Kurt Krueger of the Second Judicial District Court, and the Honorable Katherine M. Bidegaray of the Seventh Judicial District Court. The Honorable Kurt Krueger is appointed Chairman.

The Clerk is directed to provide copies of this Order to Court Administrator Beth McLaughlin, each newly-appointed member of the Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee, and the State Bar of Montana.

Dated this ____ day of May, 2016.

Chief Justice

Justices