**District Court Council**

**Summary Meeting Minutes**

**May 12, 2021**

**Lewistown, MT**

1. **Welcome**

**Attendees: Judge Greg Todd, Chief Justice Mike McGrath, Judge Dusty Deschamps, Judge Jon Oldenburg, Judge Amy Eddy, Glen Welch, and Phyllis Smith. Via Zoom: Judge Dusty Deschamps, Randy Brodehl and Glenda Travitz**

**Guests: Judge Mike Menahan and Judge Beth Best (via Zoom)**

**Staff: Beth McLaughlin**

1. **Public Comment –** There was no public comment.
2. **Administrator’s Update –** Beth provided the general administrator’s update including reviewing bills passed in the 2021 session. Specifically, she addressed the two new judges by the Legislature (in the 11th and 18th), the marijuana expungement process and court, and additional drug courts. The Council discussed issues with recruitment and retention of staff. Chief Justice McGrath noted the Branch would have to look at pay increases in order to provide required services.
3. **Safety and Security Study** – Beth presented the proposed the results from the judges’ security survey. After some discussion, the members authorized the Chief to appoint an advisory committee of judges and other interested parties. Judge Shane Vannatta will chair the committee.
4. **Review Proposed Policy Change –**  The group reviewed the proposed changes to Policy 1300 (Youth Assessments and Evaluations).
   1. Judge Deschamps moved approval of the change in Policy 1300; Judge Todd seconded the motion; it was approved unanimously.
5. Chief Justice McGrath recognized Chief Juvenile Probation Glen Welch and thanked him for his service. Glen, an original member of the council, is retiring in July.