

MINUTES OF JANUARY 20, 2006
JUSTICE BUILDING 215 N. SANDERS
LAW LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM
HELENA, MONTANA 59601

DCC Voting Members Present:

The Honorable Karla Gray, Chief Justice, Supreme Court
The Honorable Thomas McKittrick, District Court Judge, 8th Judicial District
The Honorable Ed McLean, District Court Judge, 4th Judicial District
The Honorable John McKeon, District Court Judge, 17th Judicial District
The Honorable Katherine Curtis, District Court Judge, 11th Judicial District

DCC Non-voting Members Present:

Lori Maloney, Clerk of District Court, Butte
Glenda Travitz, Court Reporter, 21st Judicial District
Mike Hutchin, County Commissioner, Polson

Staff:

Jim Oppedahl, Court Administrator
Beth McLaughlin, Court Services Director
Karen Nelson, Information Technology Director
Becky Buska, Financial Services Director
Robert Peake, District & Youth Court Services Bureau Chief
Amber Richmond, Administrative Assistant

Guests:

Pat Gervais, Legislative Fiscal Division

I. Welcome, Introductions, and Approve October 12, 2005 Minutes

The District Court Council met on Friday, January 20, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. in the Law Library Conference Room, in the Justice Building, in Helena, Montana. Chairwoman Chief Justice Karla Gray called the meeting to order. Pat Gervais of the Legislative Fiscal Division was welcomed as a guest. A quorum being present, the meeting duly convened and business was transacted as follows:

- a. **Approve October 12, 2005 DCC Minutes**
Motion was made to adopt minutes, seconded, question called. Motion carried unanimously.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Juvenile Case Management System

a. System Demo

Robert Peake performed a demonstration of the Juvenile Case Assessment and Tracking System (JCATS), the new juvenile case management system. Youth probation started using this system May 9, 2005. There are many built-in reports at the users fingertips, along with custom reports. Security on the system is tight, access must be granted.

b. Preliminary Statistics

The preliminary statistics show that the larger districts have less money per youth. The large districts have no money left for prevention programs.

c. Resource Reallocation

By the next DCC meeting Robert Peake will be able to present data and make some recommendations for resource reallocation.

IV. Administrator's Report

a. Budget Update

We spent \$12.8 million in FY05 in variable costs. Appropriation FY06 is \$11.2 million. We are projecting a deficient of \$2.4 million, with out paying DPHHS. In July the public defender bills will be moving to the Public Defender's Office. Jim recommends a separate supplemental bill just for the cash flow problem that will exist.

b. Judicial Budget Planning Process-2007 Session

We have sent out requests for new proposals to District Courts, probation and Supreme Court. From Court Administration standpoint, we will put together a pay equity proposal and generic proposals. Also some one-time-only funding IT proposals.

c. Update on Court Security Proposals

Department of Justice agreed to assess the security in every courthouse. In the end DOJ will work with MACO and the counties to make recommendations. March 31, 2006 the report from DOJ will be done with recommendations.

d. Letter from Yellowstone County Attorney

Dennis Paxinos, Yellowstone County Attorney has concerns relating to the new Uniform Filing System. New obligations imposed on the public defenders in DN proceedings. Confidentiality is unchanged.

e. **CASA Funding and Policy**

CASA is now a private not for profit organization. It is no longer part of the State. Funding comes from private, state and federal. CASA needs to live within our budget. To clarify we pay \$400 per family not per child.

VI. Policy Proposal/Amendments/Updates

a. **Youth Court Information-SB426**

SB426 provides for confidentiality on Youth Court records. There is a Sample Procedure page on how purging, sealing and destruction are done. Change "Sample Procedure" to "Procedure."

Judge McLean motioned to adopt with editing, Judge Curtis seconded, Judge McLean called question. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Full Court District Court System

a. **System Overview and Missoula Project**

Karen Nelson starts the presentation with IT status. At this time we have 995 computers and 244 sites. 1:161 staff to user ratio. The Full Court pilot is in the 4th Judicial District. Project kicked off in December 2005. Pilot evaluation March through May and project will be completed in May.

VIII. Workload Study

a. **SJI Grant and Timeline**

The SJI grant was approved for \$35,000. The grant is a project grant not a technical assistance grant. \$15,000 will come from the National Center for State Courts. \$30,000 is in our budget. There are 10 tasks and 10 months to complete.

IX. Other Business

a. **Montana State Leadership Summit on the Protection of Children**

Summit is August 29 & 30, 2006 at the Red Lion Colonial Motel in Helena, Montana. Judges, County Attorneys, Public Defenders, CFS Supervisors, GAL and CASA Volunteers are all invited.

b. **April Meeting Date and Location**

The next DCC meeting will be April 21,2006 in Missoula, Montana at 1p.m.

Motion was made by Judge Curtis to move meeting to Missoula, Judge McKeon seconded, Judge McLean called question. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Public Defender Transition

Randi Hood, Chief Public Defender, will speak at the May MJA Conference. She will be available to answer any questions regarding the transition that will happen in July.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m., by order of the Chair, Chief Justice Karla Gray.