

Access to Justice Commission Standing Committee on Communications & Outreach

March 25, 2014, 11:00 A.M.

Via Teleconference

In Attendance: Teri Mazer, Michele Robinson, Melanie Reynolds, Jennifer Brandon, Matt Dale, Lisa Mecklenberg-Jackson, Tammy Plubell, Casey Stephenson, and Kate Kuykendall.

Call to Order: 11:00 AM

Appointment of Committee Chairperson

The Committee appointed Matt Dale as Committee Chair.

Discussion of Committee Charges

The Committee discussed each of the tasks set for it by the Access to Justice Commission's strategic plan. All of the tasks were deemed appropriate for the Committee.

The Committee discussed categorizing its tasks into one of two groups: (1) Gathering Information (research and review), and (2) Sharing Information Appropriately (outreach activities). The Committee discussed its overall purpose, and determined that it is the Committee's job to become experts on access to justice in Montana and to help spread knowledge in ways that will best move access to justice forward.

Michele Robinson noted that she is on the Board for Montana Public Television/Radio, and suggested that she might serve as a liason for the group. Melanie Reynolds suggested an approach that would allow the Committee opportunity to reduce big studies to key points and turn them into documents that can be easily shared, online and through other means. There is a need to gather information and synthesize it; this will help identify problem areas and let people know what they are.

Next Steps

The Committee discussed its tasks leading up to the next meeting of the Access to Justice Commission. It was agreed that whatever action the Committee takes, buy-in from the larger group will be important for big items. The next steps identified for the Committee to undertake are:

- Read the Commission's Strategic Plan with an eye for the Committee's tasks and possible partnerships,
- Review the Commission's Gaps and Barriers study as soon as it becomes available, and
- Convene to discuss the data and further next steps.

The Committee agreed that it will hold off on other tasks until it gains more clarity from studying the information available to it.

Lisa serves on the Self-Represented Litigants Committee, and Matt serves on the Policy and Resources Committee. Both agreed to act as liasons as appropriate.

The Committee agreed that it would be useful to add a new task. This task would involve producing materials related to access to justice education, such as brochures, and creating a web presence.

There was no other business.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:47 AM.