

THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CASE MANAGEMENT

Honorable Craig R. Baldwin
Fifth District Court of Appeals
Chairperson

Honorable Beth Cappelli
Fairborn Municipal Court
Vice Chairperson

Meeting Minutes March 26, 2021

Committee Members Present:

Judge Kim A. Browne
Judge Craig R. Baldwin
Judge Beth Cappelli
Judge Kimberly Cocroft
Judge Michelle Earley
Judge Kristen K. Johnson
Michael Negray
Judge Terrance A. Nestor
Judge Michael Oster

Judge John Rudduck
Elizabeth W. Stephenson, Esq.
Judge Terri L. Stupica
Susan Sweeney, Esq.
Judge Thomas Teodosio
C. Michael Walsh, Esq.
Judge Latecia Wiles
Judge William R. Zimmerman
Judge Gene A. Zmuda

Committee Members Absent:

Judge Tom Pokorny, Retired
Judge Diane M. Palos

Judge Elinore Stormer
Judge Curt Werren

Supreme Court of Ohio Staff Members Present:

Brian Farrington
Christine Hahn
Joel Goettke
Kate Munger, Esq.

Kyana Pierson, Esq.
Colleen Rossshirt, Esq.
Stephanie Nelson, Esq.

Meeting Minutes Approved

The August 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Update on Sup.R. 39 – Time Standards

Stephanie Nelson reported on the background of reporting time standards and the ACCM's review of Sup.R. 39 for each jurisdiction. The time standards were presented to the Justices and the Supreme Court went through a case management review. Appellate time standards were next addressed, a report was produced, and education enacted. Appellate courts are working on goals to improve efficiency. On May 11, Judge Palos will present the recommended time standards to the Justices. Judge Stupica, Judge Coss, and Judge Zimmerman will serve as resources.

Update Appellate Reports Statistical Reporting Subcommittee

Brian Farrington reported on C-TRACK adoption by most appellate courts. Some courts have already started using this case management program and the rest will likely be added within the year. Due to C-TRACK requirements, the statistical reporting instructions are being reviewed. The Presiding Judge report was revised and will now give higher quality data. The Individual Judge report is being reviewed thoroughly and quickly by the subcommittee and the changes will likely be made by the end of the year. Individual judge reporting will be in transition phase for a little while.

Update on Appellate Data Dashboard

Brian Farrington reported on the progress on posting Data Dashboards for Appellate Courts.

Update on App.R. 13(A) & 14(C) to Practice & Procedure Commission

Colleen Rosshirt reported on the ACCM's request for the Commission of the Rules of Practice and Procedure to review Appellate Rule 13 and 14 issues regarding service and when a brief is deemed filed by the court. The rules were sent to the Commission to review. However, the Commission cycle for rule review requires our request to be heard in July this year, and any changes could then possibly be enacted in 2022.

New Business:

Update on Access to Fairness Survey

Colleen Rosshirt explained the Access to Fairness Survey for litigants and attorneys participating in court virtually. The pilot sites were juvenile courts and one domestic relations court. The survey gauged satisfaction of users on various platforms. The survey tool was virtual. The pilot project may be expanded.

RSS Feed

Stephanie Nelson provided examples of information that could be shared with RSS feed. Proposed rule changes, such as Civ. R. 26(F) was suggested as a topic that would be very useful for an RSS feed.

Request for Subcommittee to Review AND & PC Time Standards

Kate Munger explained how SB 256 will modify timelines for Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency cases. A subcommittee is needed to decide whether time standards for juvenile reporting need to be changed in light of the new legislation. Judge Browne, Judge Wiles, Judge Zimmerman, and Kristen Johnson volunteered to be on the subcommittee.

Open Discussion:

Post Pandemic

The ACCM discussed backlogs and possible solutions. Solutions offered included courtroom sharing between courts of various jurisdictions, assigning judges to conduct motion hearings to keep cases moving, adding a “virtual track” for certain appellate cases, contacting the Supreme Court for assistance, and collecting data about clearance rates to reach out to courts that may be struggling. Some courts have backlogs that were not directly caused by the pandemic. Also discussed was that daily practice has changed for many due to the technology employed during the pandemic. It was suggested that courts should embrace forward-thinking on technology. It was suggested that case management flow and time guidelines may need to be evaluated in light of all the changes courts are grappling with.

iCOURT Task Force Update

Kyana Pierson reported on the iCOURT Task Force. Surveys were sent out around the state attempting to reach groups of stakeholders. The full report of the task force will be released at the end of June.

Ideas for Future Projects

The ACCM discussed developing a best practice resource as to using new technology and revising COOP plans. It was suggested that barriers to continued use of technology should be removed by rule changes, but perhaps courts should be able to employ which technological solutions work for them. This committee may have work to do after the report of the iCOURT committee is released.

The group also discussed using a weighted caseload analysis for judicial resources. A former effort to work with the NCSC did not move forward. Measuring post-dispositional activity and researching work allocation on cases were suggested as possible data collection projects. The issues will be narrowed and a subcommittee will be formed at a later date.

Future meeting dates:

Tentative Dates of 2021 / 2022 Meetings:

May 21, 2021	March 25, 2022
August 20, 2021	May 20, 2022
October 22, 2021	August 19, 2022