

# 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** October 22, 2021

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Judge Kim A. Browne  
Judge Diane M. Palos  
Judge Terri L. Stupica  
C. Michael Walsh, Esq.

Judge Latecia Wiles  
Judge William R. Zimmerman  
Susan Sweeney  
Judge Kimberly Cocroft

#### **Committee Members Absent:**

Judge Michelle Earley  
Judge Tom Pokorny, Retired  
Judge John Rudduck  
Elizabeth W. Stephenson, Esq.  
Judge Elinore M. Stormer  
Judge Thomas Teodosio  
Judge Curt Werren  
Judge Craig R. Baldwin  
Judge Beth Cappelli

Judge Kristen Johnson  
Michael Negray  
Judge Terry Nestor  
Judge Michael Oster  
Judge Gene A. Zmuda

#### **Supreme Court of Ohio Staff Members Present:**

Brian Farrington  
Christopher Geocaris, Esq.  
Kate Munger, Esq.  
Colleen Rosshirt, Esq.

Stephanie Nelson, Esq.  
Marya Kolman, Esq.  
Christine Hahn

## **Meeting Minutes**

The May 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes will be submitted to members for approval.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Changes to Juvenile Time Standards**

Judge Wiles presented the recommendations to the Justices. There were a lot of questions from the Justices. The Justices approved the change in the Permanent Custody time standard from 270 days to 200 days to reflect the statute. They tabled the request to change AND cases to add 45 days for the good cause extension provided by statute. The case management section contacted local case management vendors to find out how much it would cost to change reporting from month to days. The answers varied by vendor and by court contract. They were also asked whether it was possible to give a partial month such as 6.7 months. It was reported that is doable, and, while it would take a little programming, it would be cheaper than changing the counts to days. Therefore, the publication will likely be styled as 6.7 months for PC cases. There is time scheduled in January with the Justices to discuss additional time standard questions.

With regard to AND cases, the Justices did not want to approve because they didn't want courts exceeding the 90 days. They felt the 45 days should be the exception rather than the rule. Because litigants have to ask a good cause finding for those 45 days, the Justices were interested on a two-tier reporting system, but that would require significant resources and change our whole reporting system.

The new PC time standards effective date is "immediate". The court will publish new forms to that effect and courts do not need to worry about making the change until the new forms are distributed and the change announced.

#### **Update on Sup.R. 39 – Time Standards**

Colleen Rosshirt reported on the status of reporting time standards and the ACCM's review of Sup.R. 39. In January 2022, Judge Palos is scheduled to present the recommended time standards to the Justices.

#### **Access and Fairness Survey Project**

Chris Geocarlis reported that the Supreme Court has partnered with The National Center for State Courts to develop CourTools Measure 1. Surveys will be distributed to remote hearing users and other court users using technology to access the courts. The surveys will allow courts to evaluate the court user experience and help court staff better serve the community with technology going forward. The project seeks to identify differences in perception of fairness. As more courts use technology for hearings, the courts need to know whether users believe they are being heard. Cuyahoga and Fairfield Juvenile have already started on the project. Chardon Municipal, Highland Common Pleas, Cuyahoga Common Pleas, Allen County, and Darke County are starting soon. Once surveys are implemented, NCSC will be able to analyze data and draw feedback from court users.

The project is largely in the design and development stage. The other five sites will begin the pilot in October. The court is hoping to distribute surveys through January 2022 and then NCSC will give the data to the SCO.

## **New Business:**

### **Criminal Backlogs Study**

Kate Munger reported that the case management section is starting a project to address rising overage rates in the felony criminal divisions.

### **Probate Court Best Practices Review**

Colleen Rosshirt reported that the case management section will be contacting different probate courts. 2022 will feel like the year of the probate court! If you work in a county where your probate judge, magistrate, court staff, or clerks are phenomenal, please let Colleen know. We want to talk to people who are doing well.

### **iCourt Recommendation Implementation**

Kyana Pierson reported about the iCourt report. iCourt stands for “improving court operations by using remote technology”. The iCourt task force issued 97 recommendations. Various Rules of the Court should be amended to allow the courts the ability to utilize technology in the delivery of services and conduct virtual hearings should they choose to do so.

The task force recommendations include -

- (1) Electronic filing – Civil Rule 5 should be amended to require local courts to establish some sort of electronic filing.
- (2) Develop Minimum Standards for Technology Use for technologically adept courts. Standards should guide courts who are going to go through a technology upgrade.
- (3) Increasing public access.
- (4) Review the COOP
- (5) Court website guidance from SCO.
- (6) Develop an administrative judge centralized online portal for communication with SCO.
- (7) Offer standardized appellate briefs and templates, and explore audio transcripts in appellate cases.

Implementation will include court use of SCO Tech Grants and proposed changes to the Rules of Court. A three-year implementation plan has been approved by Justices.

### **Justice Index Project Summary**

Chris Geocarlis reported that the National Center for Access to Justice developed a Justice Index. The Justice Index is an online ranking system to show which states have implemented best practices related to providing access to justice. The access topics include: Language Access, Disability Access, Fines and Fees, Self-Representation, and Attorney Access. The focus is to promote policies that provide access to the court system, promote fair treatment for all people, spotlight reform initiatives, and identify areas of improvement. There are 163 civil justice best practices in 5 different categories. Visit [NCAJ.org](http://NCAJ.org) to see Ohio’s statistics. Ohio scores 36.41 out

of 100. Our national ranking is in the middle. We were low for self-help in unrepresented litigants. Contact Chris if you have any questions.

### **Case Management Focused Education**

There is a need for education of judges and magistrates on case management. The group brainstormed areas of expertise in this group.

### **Acknowledgments:**

Judge Palos was thanked for her three terms serving on ACCM.

Christine Hahn has been the Program Assistant in the Case Management section for 15 years. She has taken a promotion at the court and will be the receptionist for the Justices. Christine was thanked for her service to the section.

### **Future meeting dates:**

Upcoming Dates of 2022 Meetings:

February 11, 2022 (zoom @ 12:00pm)

April 29, 2022 (in-person @ 10:00am)

July 22, 2022 (zoom @ 12:00pm)

October 21, 2022 (in-person @ 10:00am)