

Supreme Court of Nevada
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

KATHERINE STOCKS
Director and State Court
Administrator



JOHN MCCORMICK
Assistant Court Administrator

January 27, 2025, MEETING SUMMARY

Name of Organization: JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
SPECIALTY COURT FUNDING AND POLICY COMMITTEE
"To unite and promote Nevada's judiciary as an equal, independent and effective branch of government."

Date and Time of Meeting: Monday, January 27, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

Place of Meeting: Video/Telephone Conference

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chief Justice Lidia Stiglich, Chair
Justice Linda Bell, Chair
Judge Tom Armstrong
Chief Judge Cynthia Cruz
Judge Steven Dobrescu
Judge Michael Montero
Judge Deborah Schumacher
Judge Thomas Stockard
Judge Ryan Toone
Chief Judge Jerry Wiese
Judge Bitia Yeager

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Judge Stephen Bishop
Chief Judge Lynne Jones
Judge Jessica Longley
Judge Randall Soderquist

MEMBERS UNEXCUSED

**REGIONAL SPECIALTY COURT
COORDINATORS PRESENT**

Julia Dendary, Rural Region
EJ Maldonado, Rural Region
Steve Grierson, Clark Region
Jeremy Wilson, Washoe Region

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
STAFF PRESENT**

John McCormick, Assistant Court Administrator
Stephanie Gouveia, Specialty Courts Statewide
Coordinator
Brandi Jinkerson, Audit Manager
Todd Myler, Chief Financial Officer

Call to Order

Chair Justice Lidia Stiglich called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Call of the Roll and Determination of Quorum Status

Ms. Stephanie Gouveia called the roll. A quorum was established.

Public Comment

Chair Justice Stiglich asked for any public comment. There were none and public comment was closed.

Approval of Meeting Summary from the October 17, 2024, meeting

Vice Chair Judge Michael Montero made a motion to approve the minutes for the October 17, 2024, meeting. Judge Cynthia Cruz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Administrative Office of the Courts Chief Financial Officer Report and Cash Flow

Mr. Todd Myler presented a report on the specialty courts budget account. He referenced previous meetings when it was stated that there may be additional funds available towards the middle of the fiscal year, and shared that those funds have become available. Mr. Myler stated the amount was \$430,576 in unspent allocations for the committee to consider. He stated Ms. Gouveia would provide further information and distribute applications. Mr. Myler shared that they have entered the budget process of the current state legislation, and we will see if there are any changes, but he anticipates the same amount of program funding available in the next biennium. He believes in May or June of 2025 we will be able to confirm the allocations for the next fiscal year. Chair Justice Stiglich asked if there were any other questions or comments; there were none and this section was closed.

Fiscal Year 2025 Additional Funding Distribution

Ms. Gouveia confirmed that there was additional funding and that courts would be incited to submit proposals to receive funds. She stated that this will be a one-time funding project and that the details for the application are in the agenda for today's meetings. She said that if there are any errors or questions, she will reach out to courts to discuss further before any applications are denied. She reiterated this is surplus funding so for courts to be aware that these funds would not be available next year. Judge Cruz asked about spending timeline and Ms. Gouveia stated that the AOC needs to distribute the money before June 30, 2025, however courts will have a longer period to spend the funds. She asked that courts outline their spending timeline in their applications. Judge Dobrescu asked about where the money was coming from; Ms. Gouveia shared that it was part of the surplus balance that the AOC maintains so if the programs were to go completely "in the red", we have some funding available to help. Judge Cruz asked Ms. Gouveia to send the forms separately so they are not embedded within the agenda, and she stated she would send them after the meeting ended. Judge Thomas Armstrong asked if it was on the committee to notify all programs and judges in their region and Ms. Gouveia stated while the information was fine to share, she would send something out to each region to ensure all specialty court programs were aware. Ms. Gouveia restated that if any other questions arose courts were free to reach out to her directly. Justice Stiglich asked if there were further questions or comments; there were none and this section was closed.

All Rise 2025 AOC Sponsored Slots

Ms. Gouveia shared that for the All Rise 2025 national conference, the AOC would be sponsoring 35 slots for attendees. She stated the reimbursement limit is \$2,000 per attendee. She shared that rather than a reimbursement from the AOC, courts would receive funding similar to how they receive their quarterly payments. The court would then be responsible for reimbursing the traveler and reporting the expenses on their quarterly financial report forms. She stated she would reach out to the regional coordinators to coordinate travelers and courts. Judge Montero thanked the AOC for the additional education

opportunities. He also asked about previous reimbursement and Ms. Gouveia clarified this would be an augmentation to fiscal awards however courts would not need to do any budget transfers upon receiving the funds. Judge Dobrescu asked for clarification of the 15 spots to the rurales. Ms. Gouveia stated that the decision of the 15 spots would be up to the rurales, although because it is AOC funding no committee approval is required. Justice Stiglich asked if there were further questions or comments; there were none and this section was closed.

Funding Guidelines

Ms. Gouveia shared that this agenda item was left from the previous meeting in October of 2024. The committee was looking at increasing funding caps due to inflation. At the previous meeting a quorum was not established. Judge Cruz made a motion to approve the guidelines, and Judge Montero seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. (For future reference, the coordinator discussed the change with lead audit, Brandi Jinkerson, and it was determined further discussion was needed due to financial tracking. The guidelines are not yet implemented as of March 26, 2025.)

Committee Election Results

Ms. Gouveia shared that four committee seats have been filled. She stated three seats had expired but only one change to the committee occurred. She shared that Judge Randall Soderquist is taking over for Judge Jim Loveless as the seat for the North Central Region Limited Jurisdiction seat. For the Clark region General Jurisdiction seats, Chief Judge Jerry Weise and Judge Bitu Yeager would be serving another term; for the Sierra Region, Judge Thomas Armstrong would continue in his role. Ms. Gouveia stated that this term would run from January 1, 2025- December 31, 2027. She thanked previous and current members for their time spent on the committee.

Recidivism Study Update

Ms. Gouveia shared recidivism data from 2019, 2020 and 2021. The same definition for recidivism was used as for the 2018 report wherein the committee voted on what definition to use. She stated the data was pulled by the Department of Health and Human Services from DCCM, and reminded all that if data was input incorrectly, it would then alter these statistics. She shared a condensed version of the state statistics, and invited courts to reach out for a breakdown of data specific to their programs. Ms. Gouveia stated that she spoke with Doug Marlow at All Rise, and he confirmed no recidivism data has been published nationally since 2012. Ms. Gouveia reported that despite not having comparison data, it appears the state is doing well, and recidivism has gone down overall each year. She also shared that the data showed that participants that receive some treatment, even if they do not successfully complete, still had better recidivism rates than those that received no treatment whatsoever. She thanked everyone for the work they do and keeping Nevada a forward state in specialty courts.

FY2026 Funding Timeline

Ms. Gouveia stated that the next committee meetings will take place in April and July of 2025. She reminded everyone that fiscal year funding applications are due Friday, January 31st. She shared that she expects tentative approval to happen in April, and if all continues on track with legislation, then payments should go out on time in the beginning of July 2025, for fiscal year 2026. Justice Stiglich asked if there were further questions or comments; there were none and this section was closed.

Recent Successes & Challenges

Chair Stiglich asked for any successes and challenges to share. Judge Yeager shared that she received notice that a participant from mental health court who graduated in 2021, has now passed the Peer Recovery Support Specialist state certification exam! Judge Yeager shared it took the participant over 60 attempts before she found her way in recovery and now, she will be helping others find their way as well. Judge Ryan Toone shared participants in his program participated in a Quality-of-Life parade and rode on a float. He shared that many had never been in or at a parade before and it was a great sober experience for all involved. Judge Montero shared that the 6th Judicial District would have many events

in May for Mental Health Awareness month and Specialty Court Treatment month. He rural judges to remain on after the call to discuss the All-Rise slot allocations to their region. Judge Deborah Schumacher asked Judge Montero to please share the dates for his events in May. Hearing Master Michelle Rodriguez shared that their family and juvenile specialty court programs recently connected with AOC colleague, Zaide Martinez, to implement a training in Elko. She stated this training would be available in person and through zoom. Ms. Gouveia shared Ms. Martinez's contact information if any courts wanted to reach out.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meetings are scheduled for:

Monday, April 14th, 2025, at 12pm

Friday, July 25th, 2025, at 12pm

Public Comment

Justice Stiglich asked if there was any public comment. There was none and the section was closed.

Adjournment

With there being no further discussion, Chair Stiglich adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.