

Supreme Court of Nevada
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

KATHERINE STOCKS
Director and State Court
Administrator



JOHN MCCORMICK
Assistant Court Administrator

July 28, 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, July 28, 2025, 12:00 p.m.

Place of Meeting: Video/Telephone Conference

MEMBERS PRESENT

Justice Linda Bell, Chair
Judge Tom Armstrong
Judge Cynthia Cruz
Judge Steven Dobrescu
Chief Judge Lynne Jones
Judge Michael Montero
Judge Deborah Schumacher
Judge Thomas Stockard
Judge Ryan Toone
Chief Judge Jerry Wiese
Judge Jessica Longley
Judge Randall Soderquist

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Chief Justice Lidia Stiglich, Chair
Judge Stephen Bishop
Judge Bitia Yeager

MEMBERS UNEXCUSED

None

**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
Kathleen McCloskey, Program Manager
Brandi Jinkerson, Chief Operations Officer
Casandra Ventura, Chief Accountant

Call to Order

Chair Justice Linda Bell 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 Bell asked for any public comment. There were none and public comments were closed.

Approval of Meeting Summary of April 14, 2025, meeting

Chief Judge Jerry Wiese motion was made to approve the minutes for the April 14, 2025, meeting. Judge Michael Montero seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Todd Myler prepared the CFO Report and Cash Flow Summary; he was unable to attend today's meeting per his Chief Accountant, Casandra Vanzura. Ms. Gouveia summarized the report, beginning with the current projected budget for fiscal year 2026. Mr. Myler's report provided a breakdown of general fund support, specialty court assessments, and discussed potential additional funding that may be available later in the year, like fiscal year 2025's one-time surplus funding. The Legislature continues to support the specialty court budget with an increase for fiscal year 2026. In closing, the report summarized that information for surplus funding would be available in December 2025 or January 2026. Judge Montero asked if there was a breakdown by region regarding unspent funds and Ms. Gouveia let him know she would provide that for him. Justice Bell said it's a good idea for programs to keep a running list, so they have ideas ready when money becomes available. Ms. Gouveia stated that she recognizes it can be difficult to transfer funds due to fear of losing money; she reminded everyone that committee makes sure to see what was spent and not penalize for transferring. She did state that if a court program continuously held a carry forward, then it would likely be redistributed so programs can provide treatment, and no one is being denied due to lack of funding. Judge Montero said if we made an effort to communicate within regions, it may help spending. He said funding could be further discussed in smaller groups. Justice Bell asked if there were further questions or comments; there were none and this section was closed.

FY2026 Program Funding Allocations

Ms. Gouveia stated that the committee had voted on and finalized funding allocations for fiscal year 2026. She stated the vote was finalized last week and thanked the courts for their patience particularly during the legislative season as it can take time for budgets to be finalized. She also shared that next year she would send out contact update forms prior to sending award letters. Justice Bell asked if there were further questions or comments; there were none and this section was closed.

Funding Criteria Updates

Ms. Gouveia stated that some funding caps would be adjusted to reflect inflationary pressures. Housing and Housing with a Case Manager were increased to a maximum 40% of the award while Team Training will increase to a maximum 20% of the award. Ms. Gouveia said if any court needs to exceed a maximum, then to please submit a written request and we would likely be able to be flexible. Justice Bell said that we are attempting to maintain that flexibility while also being sure we are aware of what expenses are. Judge Cruz made a motion to approve the recommended funding guidelines; Judge Thomas Armstrong seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Legislative Update

Mr. John McCormick provided an update to the recently concluded legislative session. He stated that SB17 expanded eligibility for pre-prosecution diversion to persons charged with a misdemeanor, with exceptions (see SB17, NRS 174.031, NRS 200.408). This bill also made statutory language regarding authorization to have a specialty court consistent for all trial courts and all statutory program types.

Additionally, there was an amendment that allows a person to be provisionally ordered to a specialty court program for purposes of evaluation. Mr. McCormick stated that this bill is effective as of May 26, 2025. He also discussed SB140, which was an Autism Court Expansion bill, that authorizes those courts to accept those who are diagnosed with, or suspected to have, prenatal exposure to alcohol or controlled substances, effective October 1m 2025. Mr. McCormick then discussed SB416, regarding the 24/7 restricted license program. The effective date is when the DMV notifies the Governor and LCB that it has the proper funding to carry out the amendatory provisions of the bill. He also briefly mentioned AB60 regarding licensure changes on peer recovery supports specialists; AB163 which enters Nevada into the Interstate Counseling Compact; SB54 allowing unhoused people to receive certain Medicaid services; and SB165 which creates licensure provisions for behavioral health and wellness practitioners. Mr. McCormick asked if there were any questions, there were none, and Justice Bell closed the topic.

DCCM Statistical Quarterly Report

Ms. Gouveia shared that DCCM has released an automated statistical quarterly report. She stated this report is due quarterly from all specialty courts and can now be pulled from DCCM. She shared that there are still some issues, particularly with substance free babies, case transfers, and bench warrant counts. She asked that courts check their counts against what is being generated on the report; she said ideally, we will have counts match from court to case management system, and rather than courts submit the reports, the AOC can pull them as needed. She also thanked the courts for their patience as they work through the case transfer issue and hopefully it will be resolved soon. Justice Bell asked if there were further questions or comments; Carissa O'Grady from Reno Municipal Court asked if they needed to resubmit reports that were not generated using this tool and Ms. Gouveia said no, it is not currently required to utilize this report feature. Judge Montero asked if it would be helpful to have staff from DCCM attend a committee meeting for a Q&A so they could discuss some of the issues of the product. There were no further questions, and Justice Bell closed this item.

Specialty Court Website & Directory

Ms. Gouveia shared that the Communications department from the AOC has been assisting both with the specialty court website as well as attending community events and graduations to highlight them for the state. She shared that they have also created a specialty court directory that shares general specialty court program contact information; she asked courts to review, and they could add or edit any information necessary. Justice Bell said it was interesting to go through the list of programs and that we had many more in the state.

TTA Opportunity for PRSS

Ms. Gouveia stated that the Bureau of Justice Assistance has released a new Technical & Training Opportunity for Peer Recovery Support Specialist. The BJA is asking for programs with at least three PRSS's to apply. She shared that there are limited spots available so interested courts should apply quickly. Justice Bell asked if there were further questions or comments; there were none and this section was closed.

Peer Review

Ms. Gouveia shared that Peer Review would be resumed and would be expanded to include both general and limited jurisdiction programs. She said the committee would continue to work with NPC Research and the BeST assessment and use the findings to continue to better support programs. She stated that many courts would be asked to do this assessment so the committee could get an idea of what programs need support faster. Judge Steven Dobrescu shared that he found peer review to be a success, and fun. He shared his team was able to approach some issues with a different solution and everyone was on the same page, to improve the program, and he feels every specialty court should do it. Judge Montero said

that he agreed with Judge Dobrescu and recognized while it can be difficult to set aside time, the experience was extremely valuable. Ms. Gouveia stated that for programs that already completed a peer review, follow up visits could be provided. Justice Bell asked if there were further questions or comments; there were none and this section was closed.

Recent Successes & Challenges

Chair Bell asked for any successes and challenges to share. Courts shared experiences from the last quarter.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meetings are scheduled for:

Monday, October 13th, 2025, at 12pm

Friday, January 23rd, 2026, at 12pm

Public Comment

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

Adjournment

With there being no further discussion, Chair Bell adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.