Supreme Court of Nevada
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

KATHERINE STOCKS
Director and State Court Administrator

JOHN MCCORMICK
Assistant Court Administrator

Washoe Regional Judicial Council

Wednesday, August 17, 2022
Noon
Summary prepared by: Almeda Harper

Members Present	**Absent**	**Absent Excused**
Chief Judge Lynn Simons (Chair)	Judge Amiee Banales	Judge Barry Breslow
Judge Derek Dreiling	Judge David Clifton	Chief Judge Scott Pearson
Judge Shirle Eiting	Judge Paige Dollinger	
Chief Judge Kevin Higgins	Judge Gene Drakulich	
Judge Jessica Longley	Judge Kathleen Drakulich	
Judge James Spoo	Judge Scott Freeman	
Judge Egan Walker	Judge Terry Graham	
	Judge Dixie Grossman	
Guests Present	Judge David Hardy	
Mr. James Conway	Judge Pierre Hascheff	
Ms. Alicia Lerud	Judge Christopher Hazlett-Stevens	
Mr. Steve Tuttle	Judge Cynthia Lu	
Ms. Anita Whitehead	Chief Judge Shelly O'Neill	
	Judge Tammy Riggs	
AOC Staff Present	Judge Bridget Robb	
Almeda Harper	Judge Tamatha Schreinert	
	Judge Kathleen Sigurdson	
	Judge Connie Steinheimer	
	Judge Ryan Sullivan	
	Judge E. Alan Tiras	
	Judge Sandra Unsworth	
	Judge Chris Wilson	

I. Call to Order
- Chief Judge Simons called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

II. Call of Roll and Determination of Quorum Status
- Ms. Harper called roll; a quorum was not present, however, Judge Simons elected to proceed.

III. Approval of Meeting Summary
- There being no quorum, the summaries were not approved

IV. AOC Updates
- Personnel Updates
  - Zaide Martinez has been promoted to Court Improvement Program Coordinator.
  - Amber Puta has been promoted to IT Manager.
  - Laura Ammons is the new Deputy Chief Information Officer starting mid-September.
- CMS Update

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- The AOC has been working with Global Justice Solutions to create a statewide Civil Traffic CMS program for the new rules implemented by AB116. The program is expected to go live on January 1, 2023, with a beta version available in November for testing. Training will be provided in Las Vegas on December 7th and 8th.
- Global Justice Solutions will also be creating a statewide CMS for courts to use if they choose.
  - Judge Simons requested additional information on the statewide e-filing RFP.

- JCSN Bylaw Updates
  - **The Bylaws will be revised in January 2023. Please provide input or ideas by the next regional meeting in November for future changes.**
- USJR Dictionary and Worksheets
  - The dictionary and worksheets have been updated and approved. Voluntary reporting of the new standards should begin in January 2023, with expected reporting by all courts by July 2023.
- Court Interpreter Program: New Virtual Orientation Workshop
  - The Certified Court Interpreter Program launched a Virtual Orientation Workshop. It is a 10-hour, self-paced workshop with pre-recorded modules and knowledge checkpoints. The workshop is available year-round so candidates can attend at their own pace from the comfort of their own homes. The fee has been reduced to $150. For additional information, please contact Ms. Kim Williams.
    - Chief Judge Higgins commented in the past year, only one of the 28 people who took the Spanish exam passed. He speculated the test may be too difficult and contains outdated material, but the interpreters on the panel commented the applicants are not studying enough.

V. Discussion and Action Items

- Competency Evaluations
  - Judge Walker discussed the importance of Competency evaluations and mental health in the state.
  - Mental health issues, competency evaluations, and competency restoration are in crisis in Northern Nevada. He has reached out to justice and municipal courts for help in this matter.
  - He would like to rework a coordinated order involving each department as the District Court has not been effectively or timely communicating the orders of remand to the other courts in gross misdemeanor and felony cases related to competency.
  - He will be touring Lakes Crossing with Ms. Lerud to meet the administrators and the Deputy Attorney Generals that represent Lakes Crossing.
  - There have been many conversations with the jail to support mental health services and begin competency restoration before people are sent to Lakes Crossing.
  - The District Court will be circulating a new form in the near future.
  - **Reach out to Judge Walker if there are competency-related process issues.**
  - Please keep mental health issues at the forefront of your mind.
    - Judge Spoo asked if the crisis pertains to processing or an influx in mental health issues.
      - Judge Walker commented it has been a multifaceted crisis, partly due to process and partly due to covid and the lack of space available. Lakes Crossing has been having hiring issues and has been impacted by the increased numbers of patients.
      - Chief Judge Simons added there are a limited number of beds allotted for Northern and Southern Nevada.
- Court Updates
  - Second Judicial District Court
    - Chief Judge Simons commented she has been working on pre-trial services and RJC. There is a misunderstanding on some of the tasks that pre-trial services perform that DAS cannot. She will be collaborating with Chief Judge Pearson to find the best resolution for

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the employees, the community, and the sheriff. DAS staffing shortages have been an issue.
    - Mr. Craig Franden has taken another position with the City of Reno, leaving an open IT position.
    - The current case management system is in need of replacement.
    - There have been discussions on the 10% bail and what that means. Judge Riggs has become the resident expert stating, that it is a 10% deposit with an assurance on the remainder. Further discussion is needed.
    - Court-appointed public attorneys are maxed out and some cases are not being assigned.
    - The court is in need of a Specialty Court manager.
  - Reno Justice Court
    - Judge Dreiling commented mental has been difficult recently.
    - Weekend bail hearings are in effect, but it is taxing on the staff who may not receive a day off between weeks. The process has been running smoothly.
    - Private attorneys do not have access to the case management systems creating issues. They were able to allow access via a fixed IP address.
    - Mr. Conway commented the court will have its Bench Bar Meeting on August 18, 2022.
  - Reno Municipal Court
    - Mr. Tuttle commented the number and cost of competency evaluations have increased substantially and become a budget issue.
    - Weekend bail hearings have been running smoothly.
    - Mr. Tuttle will be retiring at the end of September 2022 and will be succeeded by Ms. Veronica Lopez. Her position as Specialty Court Coordinator will be filled by Mr. James Popovich from the AOC.
  - Sparks Justice Court
    - Chief Judge Higgins commented there will be a Bench Bar meeting in mid-September to discuss restructuring status conferences.
    - The Judicial Council of the State of Nevada Legislative Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 23, 2022.
      - One story has circulated that one assemblywoman felt good cause for continuing 48-hour hearings should not exist.
      - AB116 does not indicate where bail forfeitures for civil citations should be allocated. Chief Judge Higgins will be sending the fees to the county for the time being.
      - BDRs are due to the Legislative office on September 1, 2022
    - For competency cases, the lower courts share a confidential webpage where evaluations can be shared.
    - The Interim Judicial Discipline Committee will be working on a BDR to correct current issues. Chief Judge Higgins will be meeting with Judge Riggs, Judge Glasson, Mr. Deyhle, and the Las Vegas JP to discuss possible changes.
  - Sparks Municipal Court
    - Judge Spoo commented the AB424 process has been running smoothly.
    - The court acquired Tom Durante on a fee basis to process competency evaluations.
- Open Mic Time
  - Chief Judge Higgins reminded the members of the importance of attending Regional Judicial Council meetings to ensure regional members have input in the decisions of the Judicial Council of the State of Nevada. Please encourage your brethren and sistren to attend future meetings.

VI. Adjournment

- There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

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