Supreme Court of Nevada
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

KATHERINE STOCKS
Director and State Court Administrator

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

SUMMARY

SIERRA REGIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL MEETING
Friday, July 29, 2022
12:00 PM
Red's Old 395 Grill, Carson City
(Prepared by Jamie Gradick)

Members Present:	Members Absent (Excused):
Judge Nathan T. Young, Chair	Judge Richard Glasson
Judge Leon Aberasturi	Judge James Russell
Judge Tom Armstrong	Judge Tom Stockard
Judge Thomas Gregory	Judge Camille Vecchiarelli
Judge Eileen Herrington	
Judge Kristin Luis	
Judge John Schlegelmilch	Members Absent (Unexcused):
Judge Jim Wilson (Remotely)	Judge Cheri Emm-Smith
	Judge Doug Kassebaum
Guests Present:	Judge Mike Lister
Ms., Maxine Cortes	Judge Lori Matheus
Ms. Bobbie Williams	Judge Ben Trotter
Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Staff Present:	
Jamie Gradick, Rural Courts Coordinator	
Almeda Harper, Court Services Analyst	

I. Call to Order
- Judge Young, as chair, called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

II. Determination of a Quorum
- A quorum was not present.

III. Approval of Meeting Summaries
- Approval of the January 7, 2022 meeting summary was tabled for a future meeting.

DRAFT

IV. Business, Action, and Discussion Items

- AOC Updates
  - Ms. Gradick informed attendees that Zaide Martinez has replaced Shannon Gildea as the Court Improvement Program Coordinator. Amber Putz has replaced Rebecca Edwards in overseeing the Trial Court Help Desk and the AOC's CMS team.
  - Ms. Gradick provided attendees with a brief update on current AOC IT Projects.
    - AOC-sponsored CMS: After a rigorous bid and selection process, the AOC ended contract negotiations with Journal Technologies but is moving forward with Global Justice.
      - Ms. Gradick reminded attendees that courts are not required to implement the state-sponsored system and may use a state-approved system, if they prefer. Any system that is complaint with reporting requirements (USJR, MAS, etc.) is, usually, considers "state-approved".
    - Civil traffic CMS: Global Justice is developing a statewide civil traffic CMS; per a recent CMS Committee meeting, the intent is that the civil traffic CMS will integrate with systems.
    - Attendees discussed timeline and training; the CMS is, tentatively, expected to launch in November and training will occur at the e-Courts event in December.
  - Ms. Gradick reminded attendees that the National Judicial College is waiving tuition on courses for the remainder of the calendar year.
  - Ms. Gradick provided an overview of JCSN Bylaw changes.
    - The new attendance policy will be problematic for the regional councils as the Bylaw language allows for only 2 absences in a "term" but doesn't define the length of the "term." Both excused and unexcused absences will be tracked; attendees briefly discussed the new procedure for requesting that an absence be "excused".
    - AOC personnel responsible for staffing regional councils will now be required to report regional council meeting attendance to the full JCSN on a yearly basis.
    - Ms. Gradick informed attendees that the AOC is planning to revise these Bylaws further in the spring of 2023.
    - Attendees agreed to keep this item on the agenda for the next meeting
- Use of Third-Party Providers for Child Interviews
  - Judge Wilson explained that he has been using third-party counselors to conduct child interviews and is no longer conducting these interviews himself.
    - Under this process, parents are allowed to provide questions with judicial approval. Prior to the interview, the counselor is provided with information from the parties.
    - The final report is not distributed, the parties must come to the courthouse to review it. These reports are "invaluable" in understanding the child's voice and thoughts.
    - It is voluntary, the children are not required to participate.
    - Counselors come to the courthouse to conduct interviews.
    - Order establishes what the counselors can and cannot do and ask.
    - Attendees discussed liability and civil rights concerns; Judge Wilcon commented that the statute allows for this approach is the parties stipulate to it.

- Community Service Reports/Updates
  - Judge Luis acted as a "Tip Cycle" mentor.
  - Judge Schlegelmilch reported participation in the 4th of July Kids' Fun Day.
- Other/Discussion
  - Judge Young provided attendees with an update on the 7/28 JCSN Legislative Committee meeting.
    - Attendees discussed AB424 and expressed concerns regarding unrealistic expectations. Courts do not have control over jail and/or county staff and cannot control jail/county staff or resources. Concern was expressed regarding duplicating efforts; this bill duplicates what is already accomplished by the Nevada Pretrial Risk Assessment. Attendees discussed the need for DV advocate groups to get involved in this debate this session.
    - Judge Young informed attendees that other issues at which the Committee is looing include: 6-person juries, civil traffic clean-up, and reduced AA mitigation efforts.
    - Attendees discussed the need for support from the Nevada Supreme Court and attorney associations in order to make any progress in the Legislature this session.
  - Attendees briefly discussed concerns regarding the Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS).
    - The new policies are resulting in a loss of effective counsel in the rural counties. A comment was made that an administrative agency doesn't have the authority to dictate who a judge must appoint.
    - Attendees discussed "anecdotal evidence" in the consent decree and expressed concern regarding a lack of information/guidance from DIDS.
- Informational Documents
  - ADKT 0596: Ms. Gradick confirmed that this Order has gone into effect.
  - Nevada Supreme Court Credentialed Court Interpreter Program Brochure

V. Future Meetings

- The next Sierra Regional Judicial Council meeting will be held October 14, 2022 at noon
- The next Judicial Council of the State of Nevada meeting will be September 16, 2022 at 2:00 pm.

VI. Adjournment

- Judge Young adjourned the meeting at 1:15 pm.