

STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE AND DATA STANDARDS

March 1, 2023

1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m., Hybrid Meeting

Present: Hon. James Beene, Ms. Shelly Bacon, Hon. Thomas L. Chotena, Ms. Jennifer Curtiss, Hon. Pamela Frasher-Gates, Ms. Shawn Friend, Hon. Ken Lee, Mr. Rich McHattie, Ms. Donna McQuality, Hon. Heidi Owens, Hon. Michael Peterson, Mr. Marcus Reinkensmeyer, Ms. Charisse Richards, Mr. Eric Silverberg, Hon. Don Taylor, and Hon. Trevor Ward

Absent: No members were absent

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and Guests: Ms. Mary Bellefeuille (AOC), Ms. Cathy Clarich (AOC), Ms. Jennifer Ferguson (Superior Court for Maricopa County) Mr. Michael Malone (AOC), Ms. Laura Ritenour (AOC), and Cindy Trimble (AOC)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The March 1, 2023, meeting of the Steering Committee on Data-Based Court Performance and Data Standards was called to order by the Chair, Justice James Beene, at 1:31 p.m. The Chair conducted member roll call and members were thanked for their attendance and service. Justice Beene welcomed to the committee its new members, Judge Heidi Owens from White Tank Justice Court and Judge Trevor Ward from Willcox Justice Court.

B. Approval of the December 7, 2022, Minutes

The draft minutes from the December 7, 2022, meeting of the Steering Committee on Data-Based Court Performance and Data Standards were presented for approval. The Chair called for any omissions or corrections to the minutes, and none were made. A motion was made by Judge Don Taylor and seconded by Judge Michael Peterson to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

II. REGULAR BUSINESS

A. Data Standardization Workgroup Update

Michael Malone, chair of the Data Standardization Workgroup, presented a summary of the workgroup's progress over the past three months. The Data Standardization Workgroup meets once a month to discuss and recommend standardized docket codes and data element definitions. All case management

systems are represented on the workgroup, ensuing transparency during the standardization process. Since the December 2022 Steering Committee meeting, the Data Standardization Workgroup has met and has provided feedback on the Required Data Elements Phase One Rollout, reviewed the next set for of data elements for the Required Data Elements for implementation, and reviewed code tables for two more integration tables and a set of codes for the Mental Health – NICS Interface. Because the Workgroup only recently met before the Steering Committee’s March meeting, the tables and code set will be brought to the June meeting for approval. In 2023, the Data Standardization Workgroup will continue their work on reviewing and recommending standardized tables and new code requests and provide feedback on the implementation of the Required Data Elements Initiative. Members had no questions about the workgroup summary provided.

B. Proposal - Delegation of Code Standardization Approval to Data Standardization Workgroup

As the Data Standardization Workgroup moves forward with code and table standardization tasks that also assists the AOC Information Technology Division with their integration projects, a proposal for the Steering Committee to delegate approval to the Data Standardization Workgroup has emerged. Michael Malone, chair of the Data Standardization Workgroup, provided an overview of this proposal. The proposal recommended that Steering Committee delegate code and table standardization approval to the Data Standardization Workgroup. The time between Workgroup recommendation and Steering Committee approval could be made more efficient with a shifting of responsibilities. If this change is permitted, Data Standardization Workgroup Chair would still report on all code and table standardization approvals to the Steering Committee as part of their quarterly report. And if the Workgroup is recommending changes to previously approved codes and tables, the Workgroup Chair would bring those items forward to the Steering Committee for input as well. Members had no questions about this proposal. A motion was made by Judge Michael Peterson that the steering committee delegate code and table standardization approval to the Data Standardization Workgroup. The motion was seconded by Judge Ken Lee and the motion passed unanimously.

C. Required Data Elements Initiative – Phase One Implementation and Next Steps

Ms. Ritenour reported that the Required Data Elements 2022 checklists that were due by January 31, 2023 were all submitted on time and superior court presiding judges submitted their approvals for the county-wide reports before the March 1, 2023 deadline. In February, the courts and Clerks were surveyed on the

implementation. They provided positive feedback and ideas to make next year's process even smoother. Next steps are to begin work on standardizing the 2022 checklist data elements' statewide and look for training opportunities to improve consistency and to begin review of the next set of data elements for the 2023 checklists. Ms. Ritenour also provided an overview of Senate Bill 1588, an Arizona Criminal Justice Commission bill that would create a statewide criminal justice data repository. The AOC has been an active participant in the review of this bill.

D. Felony Case Processing Technical Assistance Project

Michael Malone presented an update on the Criminal Time Standards and Technical Assistance Project. Staff from National Center for State Courts and Retired Judge Jeff Coker have drafted their report and county plan for the seven counties that signed up for this project. The report will detail the pinch points for case processing and offer possible solutions and areas of collaboration. Judge Coker and the National Center will also provide technical assistance for 6 months after each report is released so that plan changes can be made as needed. The goal of each plan will be a framework for sustainable change. Mr. Malone reported on plans to video tape Judge Coker's presentations. There will be more information at the June meeting.

E. Informal Family Law Trials (IFLT) Pilot Project

(Note: This item was taken out of order on the agenda.) Judge Michael Peterson presented on the Informal Family Law Trials Pilot Project. Administrative Order 2022-159 authorized the establishment of an informal family law trial pilot program in the superior courts of Graham, Maricopa, and Pima counties. Judge Peterson provided an overview of this pilot project, its goals, and data to be collected. It was suggested that an additional data point would be any post-judgment motions filed on IFLT cases.

F. FY22 Arizona Time Standards "Public" Report

Mr. Reinkensmeyer provided an overview on the report's history. Over the past two years there have been several discussions at these meetings, as well as at the Presiding Judges Meetings, about publishing a public version of the Arizona Time Standards yearly report. Mr. Reinkensmeyer and Ms. Ritenour reviewed ideas for a "public version" of the annual report. The group discussed various issues and the consensus was reached that while some of the data is ready to be published, some case types need further research as there is the perception that the results being gathered are not reliable. This would be due to either the queries not capturing the necessary events correctly, or data entry errors. It was agreed that more work needs to be done to ensure that data matches the practice. Judge Gates reported that Maricopa County will be conducting a "deep dive" into several case types and will share their results with the committee. It was also decided that Justice Beene will meet with AOC staff to review these issues and develop possible solutions.

G. FY22 Arizona Time Standards Superior Court Results Review

Ms. Ritenour presented the superior court time standard results in a table format so members could review statewide performance on each tier of each case type. Members discussed the results and echoed some of the same issues discussed in the agenda item above. Judge Gates reported that Maricopa County will be conducting a “deep dive” into several case types and will share their results with the committee. AOC staff will perform more research into results for AJACS courts as well.

H. Strategic Agenda Planning

Every five years, the Chief Justice publishes their strategic agenda. Ms. Ritenour led the group through the current 2019-2024 agenda items pertaining to the work of this committee. Mr. Reinkensmeyer and Ms. Cindy Trimble (from the AOC Executive Office) presented the process for the next strategic agenda for 2024 – 2029. It was requested that committees provide recommendations and narrative for the plan. It was noted that this topic will also be on the June agenda as well.

I. Call to the Public

Justice Beene made a call to the public for comments. There was no answer.

J. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m. with a motion by Mr. Reinkensmeyer.

E. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE

June 7, 2023, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Hybrid - State Courts Building Room 331 & Zoom Webinar