



## PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRUST COMMISSION

### *Committee on Alternatives to Court Appearances*

#### Purposes Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes  
April 2, 2009

#### Those in attendance:

Hon. Hillary Strackbein, chair  
Atty. David Belt  
Hon. Patrick Clifford  
Atty. Susan Quinn Cobb  
Ms. Marilou Giovannucci  
Atty. Scott Hartley  
Hon. Christine Keller

Mr. Richard Miele  
Dr. Michael Norko  
Atty. Adele Patterson  
Atty. Maureen Platt  
Ms. Betsy Rosser  
Atty. Robin Smith  
Hon. Elliot Solomon

#### Not Present

Hon. Thomas Bishop  
Atty. Joseph Garrison  
Hon. Arthur Hiller  
Dr. Thomas Kirk

Hon. Lynda Munro  
Atty. Norman Pattis  
Hon. O. James Purnell III

The Purposes Subcommittee for Alternatives to Court Appearances met on April 2, 2009 at 2 pm at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room 4B.

The meeting was called to order by Judge Strackbein at 2:07 pm. The subcommittee unanimously approved the minutes of the February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. The subcommittee discussed the recommendations for each division.

For Civil Matters the subcommittee unanimously approved the recommendations as proposed.

For Juvenile Matters the subcommittee unanimously approved the recommendations pending revisions discussed.

For Family Matters the subcommittee unanimously approved the recommendations pending revisions discussed.

For Administrative Matters the subcommittee unanimously approved the recommendations pending revisions discussed. The subcommittee agreed to move two bullet points under administrative matters to criminal matters. They are:

- Expansion of communications between Public Defenders and their clients at DOC facilities
- Expansion to allow all defense counsel the same access to their clients through VC.

In addition, the subcommittee added a bullet point under the heading “VC Booths or VC Equipment” to allow State Attorneys access to incarcerated victims and witnesses. Under the heading of “Other alternatives to court appearances,” the subcommittee added a bullet point regarding Connecticut Valley Hospital; after a finding of incompetence, the attorneys shall have access to the defendants in Whiting through VC during the restoration period.

For Criminal Matters the subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

The judicial branch shall provide a room with videoconferencing equipment for attorney conferences with their incarcerated clients during business hours.

- No court appearance for incarcerated defendants for the 2<sup>nd</sup> continuance on extradition cases (by consent of all parties)
- No court appearance for incarcerated defendants for Motions that do not require testimony (by consent of all parties)
- No court appearance for incarcerated defendants for the Part B screening date for Part A (by consent of all parties)
- Encourage the use VC for habeas cases that deal with conditions of confinement (discretion of the judge)
- Incarcerated people should not be brought to court on habeas writs or mitts for the convenience of the attorneys when there is no scheduled court date (discretion of the judge)
- CSSD – VC for pre-sentence interviews, jail re-interviews, and level service inventory interviews

The subcommittee discussed Part-A callbacks and reached an agreement by majority vote. Three options were discussed and put to a vote.

The judicial branch shall provide a room with videoconferencing equipment for attorney conferences with their incarcerated clients during business hours.

1. In Part A cases, the appearance of an incarcerated defendant will not be required at callbacks at the consent of all parties.
  - Voted Yes: Maureen Platt, Adele Patterson
  - Voted No: Judge Clifford, Judge Keller, Judge Strackbein, Judge Solomon, Richard Miele, Marilou Giovannucci, Robin Smith, Betsy Rosser, David Belt, Scott Hartley
2. In Part A cases, the appearance of an incarcerated defendant will not be required at callbacks absent the order of the court or the specific request of the state's attorney or defense counsel

- Voted Yes: Judge Clifford, Judge Keller, Judge Strackbein, Richard Miele, Marilou Giovannucci, Robin Smith, Betsy Rosser, David Belt, Scott Hartley
  - Voted No: Judge Solomon, Maureen Platt, Adele Patterson
3. In Part A cases, the appearance of an incarcerated defendant will not be required at callbacks at the discretion of the judge.
- Voted Yes: Judge Solomon
  - Voted No: Judge Clifford, Judge Keller, Judge Strackbein, Richard Miele, Marilou Giovannucci, Robin Smith, Betsy Rosser, David Belt, Scott Hartley, Maureen Platt, Adele Patterson

The meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm. No future meeting was scheduled for the Purposes subcommittee.