



PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRUST COMMISSION

Committee on Alternatives to Court Appearances

Technology Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2009

Those in attendance:

Mr. Scott Rosengrant, Chair
Family Support Magistrate John Colella
Mr. Lucio Deluca
Atty. Eric Groody

Mr. Ronald Macchio
Atty. Norman Roberts II
Ms. Celia Seifert
Hon. David Tobin

Not Present:

Hon. Patrick Carroll III

Atty. Mark Ostrowski

The Technology Subcommittee on Alternatives to Court Appearances met on January 14, 2009 at 99 East River Drive, East Hartford, on the 7th Floor, Conference Room 707 at 1:30 pm.

The meeting was called to order by Scott Rosengrant at 1:36 pm. The minutes of the December 10th, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved. Mr. Rosengrant led with introductions and provided handouts of the Purposes recommendations and minutes of their January 7th meeting for subcommittee members to review.

The subcommittee discussed the implications of some of the proposed recommendations, specifically one point discussed was the recommendation that all courthouses have video (VC) and tele (TC) conferencing capabilities. If mandated this subcommittee must begin to look at the infrastructure of the courthouses and prioritize accordingly to the need and cost. The subcommittee discussed that while it is important that courthouses have VC/TC it is crucial that the technology is used.

Other technology was discussed including the new contract for judicial laptops that have an integrated webcam that could be used for VC. Other issues discussed were costs and possible overload to the judicial network. A quality continuum was discussed in which the type of court proceeding would dictate the level of quality used.

The subcommittee discussed the challenges of having Probate courts use the technology. If VC is deemed desirable for probate court, the subcommittee may consider proposing an amendment to

the General Statutes to make VC one of the services that host municipalities are required to provide to probate courts.

The subcommittee discussed security issues including secure networks, both inside and outside of the Judicial network, juvenile proceedings, status conferences and the possibility of recording court proceedings by VC. The subcommittee discussed the need to have the Statutes and Rules subcommittee look into creating guidelines on the use of VC and TC.

The subcommittee discussed the need to not only understand the technology that is available today but also make preparations i.e. infrastructure changes to accommodate future advances in technology. Moreover the subcommittee unanimously voted to expand the definition of “alternatives to court appearances” from a technological standpoint to go beyond “court appearances” to just “appearances.”

Ron Macchio discussed existing TC capabilities and the associated costs within the Judicial department. He provided handouts to subcommittee members.

The subcommittee discussed the Scope document which describes some of the necessary steps to implement a VC/TC program

- Types of technology, high vs. low end and where it would be best used
- Cost/benefit analysis
- Identify the “easy to do” items
- Recommended priority list
- Timeline for implementation
- Determine “pilot” plan with applications and locations
- What can we implement today with current bandwidth
- Cost analysis – bandwidth, routers, and switches
- Set standards for non-judicial and judicial connectivity needs
- Training requirements
- Identify infrastructure at each site to be used
- Determine staffing needs
- Identify specific system needs and potential vendors to provide services
- Solution to manage use and reservation of V/C resources (calendar/scheduling tool)
- Recommendation and cost analysis of audio conferencing
- Budget
- Possible grant funding

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m. The next scheduled meeting of the Technology Subcommittee is on Wednesday January 28th at 1:30 p.m. at 99 East River Drive, East Hartford, on the 7th Floor, Room 707.