JUDICIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM COMMITTEE

February 25, 2022
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Online Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Members Present:
Justice Barbara A. Madsen, Chair
Judge Scott K. Ahlf
Ms. Mindy Breiner
Mr. Joseph Brusic
Mr. Derek Byrne
Mr. Donald Graham
Judge John Hart, Vice-Chair
Judge Kathryn Loring
Mr. Frank Maiocco
Ms. Barb Miner
Chief Brad Moericke
Judge Robert Olson
Ms. Paulette Revoir
Ms. Dawn Marie Rubio
Judge Lisa Worswick
Ms. Margaret Yetter

Members Absent:
Mr. Dave Reynolds

AOC Staff Present:
Mr. Kevin Ammons
Mr. Phil Brady
Mr. Spence Cearns
Mr. Kevin Cottingham
Ms. Vonnie Diseth
Mr. Rob Eby
Ms. Brittany Gregory
Ms. Christy Hunnefield
Mr. Mike Keeling
Mr. Dirk Marler
Ms. Anya Prozora
Mr. Christopher Stanley
Mr. Garret Tanner

Guests Present:
Ms. Suzanne Larsen-Elsner
Mr. Allen Mills
Ms. Heidi Percy
Mr. Terry Price
Mr. Christopher Shambro
Judge Kimberley Walden
Ms. Tristen Worthen

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Call to Order & Approval of Meeting Minutes

Justice Barbara Madsen called the Judicial Information System Committee (JISC) meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. This meeting was held virtually on Zoom.

Justice Madsen asked if there were any changes or additions to be made to the December 2021 meeting minutes. Hearing none, the meeting minutes were deemed approved as written. Ms. Margaret Yetter abstained from voting as she did not attend the previous meeting.

JIS Budget Update

Mr. Christopher Stanley gave a budget briefing on the JIS account. The JIS account is projected to have a deficit of $17.53 million at the end of the biennium. JIS account revenue has declined over a ten-year period. There has been a $10 million/year loss due to the pandemic. Normally, a fund balance would have built up between projects, but that did not happen due to the pandemic. We are on budget, but the problem is the decrease in revenue.

Mr. Stanley reported the House of Representatives deposited $17.5 million into the budget. The Senate has fully funded the CLJ-CMS project, $3 million for integration costs, $2.8 million for eFiling, and $25.4 million to finish the project. (The $25.4 million included the full amount to pay off the Tyler Technologies contract.)

Additionally, Mr. Stanley asked for volunteers for a subcommittee to develop a long-term solution to fund the JIS account, even past the current projects. He would like to work on solutions to present to the JISC to propose to the Legislature by July. Volunteers are needed from each court level to meet for the next eight months. Ms. Yetter and Judge Scott Ahlf volunteered.

Ms. Miner asked if this is different from the Equipment Replacement workgroup. Mr. Stanley and Justice Madsen clarified that they are different groups. The JISC may not continue to offer equipment replacement.

Legislative Update

Ms. Brittany Gregory provided an update on the 2022 Legislative Session. There are about two weeks left of the legislative session. Monday, February 28 is the last day for bills to move out of the fiscal committee, and Friday, March 4 is the House of Origin cut-off for the opposite chamber. Thursday, March 10 is the last day of the session.

The BJA had a legislative slate of five bills, three of which are still active. These include a request for two more judges in Snohomish County Superior Court (SB 5575), a request for a process for filling vacancies in single judge courts (HB 1825), and a bill that would broaden the extension of juvenile diversion agreements (HB 1894). AOC and the BJA have taken a public position on or provided feedback on several bills that impact the judiciary. Details on each of these bills can be found in the Legislative Report in the meeting materials.

Additionally, at this point, the House and Senate funded the staffing and operating budget, but only the House provided some money for security equipment. Next month, the Legislature will begin soliciting proposals for the next legislation session. There will be several interim education sessions for the Legislature about the court rules process and the forms process. They will also have a Legislature Introduction to the Courts in-person event later this year.

Access To Justice Biennial Report

Mr. Rob Eby and Mr. Terry Price apprised the Committee of the recent completion of the biennial Access To Justice (ATJ) Technology Principles Report, a joint report from the Access to Justice Board and AOC which highlights the guiding principles for access to justice for all in the state of Washington, as well as provides information on initiatives and efforts underway from both AOC and the ATJ Board. Following any suggestions from the JISC, the report will be brought to the Supreme Court for approval.

Mr. Price provided some background information on Access to Justice, and recognized Judge Don Horowitz (now deceased) for being a driving force in updating the access to justice principles from 2006-2020. Mr. Price noted that the ATJ Board is aware of the "digital divide" and that the pandemic has increased concerns about individuals having access to services online.

Justice Madsen said that judges doing remote proceedings have noticed that although some rural communities have access to equipment for remote proceedings, they do not know how to use the equipment. She asked if there would be any training for litigants on how to use the equipment. Mr. Price

said the ATJ Board is developing a workgroup to discuss what can be done to address these issues in Washington.

ISD and CSD Staffing Issues/Concerns

Ms. Vonnie Diseth alerted the JISC to the current ongoing staffing issues and concerns AOC is experiencing in both Information Services (ISD) and Court Services (CSD) divisions. The agency has had significant growth and there is funding for many new positions at AOC (approximately 42 new positions in the current biennium). AOC staff have been leaving for higher paying jobs at other agencies or companies or they are being promoted within the agency. There has also been an unprecedented demand on Human Resources with 30+ open recruitments at a time. AOC currently has approximately 46 openings between ISD and CSD (19% vacancy rate). These issues have a direct, critical impact on AOC's capability to carry out work on projects, maintenance, and services in a timely manner.

Ms. Diseth reviewed the vacancies by program and position and how they impacted the work that needs to be done. She pointed out that the work is interdependent: each work area of a project or process relies on the other areas to complete the work. When there are vacancies and staff are being utilized in multiple areas to fill in the gaps, it slows progress and causes delays. New projects could be delayed if the vacancies can't be filled.

AOC completed a salary survey in 2021 and this year has started using NeoGov to help streamline the recruitment process. AOC has also asked for additional funding to increase some salaries and also funding for new HR positions. AOC will complete another salary survey this year to cover the positions that were not included in the 2021 salary survey. The agency is also considering hiring contractors to help fill some of the vacancies temporarily, specifically vendors that could offer up candidates quickly in the areas of expertise that are needed at the time. However, this process may take several months.

JIS Priority Project #1 (ITG 102): Courts of Limited Jurisdiction – Case Management System (CLJ-CMS)

CLJ-CMS Project Update

Mr. Garret Tanner provided an update on the CLJ-CMS project. The project team is focused on launching the Pilot Courts in October 2022. The decision was made to implement Odyssey 2022 in the Pilot Courts. The project team has continued to work on the technical components of the project. The third data review has finished in February, and the fourth data push will begin in April. The team has been working on configuration questionnaires and will be sending them out to the Pilot Courts to coincide with the first Pilot Court Kick-off meetings at the end of the month.

There was some discussion regarding the role of the Pilot Courts in assisting and providing feedback to help guide the later implementation phases of the project. Mr. Tanner stressed that the Pilot Courts' input will be taken and considered for future court implementations; they will help guide the team to make adjustments to the business processes, how information is gathered, and how meetings are held for future courts. Ms. Diseth added that one of the lessons learned from the SC-CMS project was that none of the steering committee members used Odyssey early on and so when a problem came up in using Odyssey, those people were not at the table. Ms. Yetter, Ms. Paulette Revoir, and Ms. Mindy

Breiner each noted that there are individuals from the Pilot Courts actively participating in the CLJ-CMS Court User Workgroup (CUWG) and that they are also represented on the Project Steering Committee. Ms. Yetter commented on behalf of the Project Steering Committee that needs have changed over the last ten years and that all of the members of the steering committee remain supporters of the project.

Quality Assurance Assessment Report
Mr. Allen Mills, with the project's QA vendor Bluecrane, provided an overview of the January QA Assessment Report for the CLJ-CMS project. The full report can be found in the JISC meeting packet.

Data Dissemination Committee (DDC) Report

Judge Hart announced that as there were no new agenda items, the February Data Dissemination Committee meeting was cancelled. As such, no report was given.

Meeting Wrap Up & Adjournment

Justice Madsen asked that members who would like to volunteer to participate in the JIS Funding Subcommittee, to please contact Mr. Stanley, Ms. Diseth, Mr. Marler, or herself.

Justice Madsen adjourned the meeting at 11:57 am.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be April 22, 2022, via Zoom from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Action Items

	Action Items	Owner	Status

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