

**Utah Judicial Council's Standing Committee on
Resources for Self-Represented Parties Meeting Minutes**

Matheson Courthouse
Council Room, N31
October 12, 2018
12 PM – 2 PM

Members	In attendance	Excused	Via phone conference
Judge Suchada Bazzelle	X		
Lisa Collins		X	
Sue Crismon	X		
Jacob Kent		X	
Monica Fjeldsted		X	
Leslie Francis			X
Carol Frank		X	
Susan Griffith		X	
Carl Hernandez	X		
Judge Catherine Hoskins	X		
Judge Barry Lawrence - Chair	X		
Kara Mann (ex officio)	X		
Christopher Martinez		X	
Shawn Newell	X		
Nathanael Player	X		
Judge Brook Sessions	X		
Charles Stormont		X	
Virginia Sudbury	X		
Judge Doug Thomas	X		
Jessica Van Buren	X		
Guests	In attendance	Excused	Via phone conference
Amy Sorenson	X		
Nick Stiles	X		
Staff	In attendance	Excused	Via phone conference
Minhvan Brimhall	X		
Michael Drechsel	X		
Nancy Sylvester		X	

(1) Welcome and approval of minutes

Judge Lawrence opened and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Committee noted that the August 10, 2018 minutes list Judge Lawrence as “chairman.” The committee voted to change “chairman” to “chairperson.” With the change, Jessica Van Buren made a motion to approve the minutes. Sue Crismon seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

(2) Introduction of new members

Judge Lawrence welcomed two new members to the committee: Juvenile Court Judge, Suchada Bazelle, and community member, Shawn Newell.

(3) Coordination with Access to Justice Committee and local pro bono committees

Amy Sorenson has been tasked to head the Access to Justice Committee along with Retired Justice Christine Durham. Nick Stiles is the Bar’s Access to Justice Director. Nathanael Player has been asked to a member of the committee. Mr. Stiles and Nancy Sylvester created a memorandum of understanding for the committee. The memorandum states that role and responsibility for the committee members and members of the State Bar.

Ms. Sorensen provided a brief explanation of the creation of the Access to Justice Committee and its role within the community and providing community resources. The committee will have more community member involvement and key players will form a subcommittee, focus on legislative advocacy, educational information, and making resources available.

Ms. Sorensen expressed appreciation for those willing to participate in the upcoming summit and is looking forward to a day of learning and meaningful discussion on how to better provide information and resources to the community.

Judge Lawrence would like the Self-Represented Parties Committee to review its role in providing assistance to community partners in getting the word out on the services that are available. This committee is not to the forum to address policy issues, but rather to coordinate between the court and community partners. How does this group get the word out to the people? How does it educate the community before they make a decision that affects them legally?

The committee discussed various ideas and options in “getting the word” out to the communities. The upcoming summit is a good place to start and will help provide a guideline for all community, civic, and religious leaders on the different resources available. The committee discussed that the person giving out

the information needs to be a credible person. Those within the community are the best option for getting the word out on what resources are available.

Judge Thomas expressed the need to begin to take action. This committee has had multiple discussions on this topic, and has shared multiple ideas on how to move forward and now is the time to move forward and actually get things done. Judge Thomas would like to focus on practical ideas and practical resources. The Self-Help Center is a big part of the work that has been completed by this community. He said we should be getting people to utilize the center and the resources available. Judge Thomas would like to see the committee focus on one or two things, focus on those things, and move forward in getting those things accomplished. Judge Thomas would like to see work get started in the rural areas.

Mr. Player stated that TLC clinics are open and will be expanding to rural areas. The clinic will allow for clients to access service in other areas in a virtual manner. Judge Thomas expressed that the virtual clinic is a great idea but how do people out in the rural areas know about it? How will they be reached?

The committee discussed additional ideas such as radio advertisements, ads in the newspaper; providing a list of resources in all areas of the state at courthouses and libraries.

Judge Lawrence stated that part of the difficulties is the focus of this committee. The committee originated as a means to create and set up the Self Help Center. The center is now fully active and running at full capacity. How does this committee forward now? Where should this committee turn its focus?

(4) Access to Justice Summit: October 23, 2018

Nick Stiles discussed the upcoming Access to Justice Summit that will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2018. The purpose of the summit is to gather members from different organizations throughout the state for discussion and presentations on resources to better help people in the community and through non-profit organizations. There are many resources throughout the state, however, not everyone knows about what each organization does and how they provide services. Amy Sorenson will open and welcome attendees to the summit. Former Justice Christine Durham will speak, as well as Senator Neiderhouser, who will speak on legislative advocacy. Information from the summit will be available after the summit to anyone who wishes to but is unable to attend. The hope is that the summit will be an annual event. Mr. Stiles invites anyone to attend who wishes to.

(5) Subcommittee Updates – Committee Members

a. Education (outreach to law schools)

Judge Lawrence provided an update from the Education Subcommittee. The group is continuing to educate attorney throughout the state, as well as to law students at Brigham Young University and the University of Utah. The group will be speaking at the Fall Forum on pro bono issues.

The group's current project is to work on eviction calendars. Salt Lake County has a large eviction calendar and will be moving to a debt collection calendar. They will have volunteer attorneys to staff the calendar for litigants who do not have an attorney. This will allow for debt collection and eviction cases to be heard.

The group is also looking at the ten days summons rule. Judge Lawrence has been working with Kirk Cullimore and Charles Stormont in getting better notices on summons and getting all parties served and involved.

b. Outreach (community)

The Community Outreach Subcommittee has met and is discussing opportunities to get into the communities and be more involved in the outreach process. They discussed placing more of a personal touch in their connection with the community and being more transparent.

Mr. Newell would like to have a list of the Self-Represented Parties committee members to be able to provide notices of upcoming events where committee members will have an opportunity to participate.

Mr. Newell will be speaking on radio station KRCL about services available and how the community is able to access resources. Mr. Newell will be making the same presentation on news station channel 4. Mr. Newell will be the person getting out to share this information within the community and invite anyone wanting to participate to do so.

The group will be at an event on October 18 where they will have a table with handouts and additional resource information and a table banner. The group will continue to coordinate funding, and they will continue outreach at libraries, banks, and barber shops. The group will provide the larger committee a list of upcoming event dates.

Judge Lawrence asked that Mr. Player and Mr. Stiles provide a handout that can be shared at these events with information about the Self-Help Center and

Access to Justice resources. Judge Lawrence also asked that any events needing volunteers be sent out to the committee.

c. Rural Services (local/virtual clinics)

The Rural Services group briefly met. Sue Griffith was unable to attend the committee meeting but provided an email of items they are working on:

“I did send an email to my rural committee in follow up to your question last month about what our committee considers to be the top priority.

We originally came up with these ideas as potential projects:

A. Needs assessment

B. Debt Collection (Vernal was the site originally suggested, but Carol responded that the judges were not supportive).

C. Virtual Clinic (Richfield might be the first location)

D. Supporting Live Clinics or Justice Bus type programs

E. Domestic Violence Shelter Clinics (TLC is spearheading this)

F. Bookmobile concept

Four members of the committee responded. Awarding 3 points for a #1 ranking, 2 points for a #2 ranking and, 1 point for a #3 ranking the priorities are:

C. Virtual Clinic and E. Domestic Violence Shelter Clinics tied for first place.

The next highest was D. Supporting Live Clinics or Justice Bus type programs.”

Mr. Player provided additional information regarding the virtual clinic. The clinic will provide a good resource for those in rural areas in that they are able to see what services and attorneys are available and when they are able to access those services.

Judge Thomas would like an attorney more readily available by phone or video for defendants to reach someone sooner, and information out to the rural areas sooner than later.

Judge Lawrence will have Sue connect with Judge Thomas about parameters and what is they can do. Judge Lawrence will have Sue discuss at the next meeting the two areas their group has determined to be the most important: the virtual clinic and domestic violence shelter clinics. Judge Lawrence stated that the senior section of the Bar has been approved and will be getting online to help in pro bono cases. Judge Lawrence is hopeful that Kelly Williams will be added to the

committee and hopeful that retiring attorney will be a big help in addressing people's legal needs.

d. Self-Help Center / Non-lawyer Assistance / Court Updates
/Subcommittee (SHC funding, etc.)

Mr. Player reported that many defendants are still not showing up at hearings. Many of these people are getting text messages or emails and some people are not getting notices at all. The group is looking at other means to get notices out and asked the committee to share any ideas they may have.

The committee discussed that people move often so they have inconsistent addresses; although a majority of them do continue to keep their phones. Texting is a good option in getting notices out to people and should continue to be a work in progress. Jessica Van Buren stated that many forms are now available in multiple languages and people can access those forms online or at the Self-Help Center.

Ms. Sorensen encouraged the committee to continue reach out to the Access to Justice Group for additional ideas or resources. The partnership between the Self-Represented Parties Committee and the Access to Justice Group is great in building relationships between the courts and the communities.

(6) Other Business

The next committee meeting is scheduled for December 14. Judge Lawrence is unable to attend that day. The committee agreed to move the meeting to the following week on December 21.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.