



Behavioral Health Steering Committee

530 Fund Sub-Committee

December 9, 2020

Attendees

Laura Edmonds, Shenna Oriabure, **Julie Turnbull, Trina Crosby, Vickie Rice, Teresa Saulsberry, Judge La'Donna Harlan, Judge Lela Mays, Judge Jennifer Bennett, Judge Aubrey Moorehead, Kelly McWilliams, Audrey Garnett, Gaelle Abrey, Serena McNair, Dr. Love, Bryan Smith, Keta Dickerson, Kimberly Duran, Charlene Randolph, Judge Kristin Wade** (bold type indicates designated voting representatives)

Review/Approval of Minutes

Laura Edmonds called the meeting to order at 9:02am and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Judge Wade made a motion to approve the minutes. Julie Turnbull seconded the motion and the group accepted the minutes.

530 Fund Balance and Update

Laura Edmonds provided an update of the 530 Fund Balance. Currently the balance for the Felony account (4020) is \$133,656.92 the Misdemeanor account (4031) is \$26,349.49 for a total of \$160,006.41. Legislation enacted January 2020 changed the fee structure for revenue placed into the 530 account. Revenue was previously generated by a flat fee from drug and alcohol related offenses. The new fee structure is a percentage assessed on all offenses. Shenna Oriabure and Laura had a meeting with the Auditor's Office to garner more information about revenue and the impact of the new legislation. Currently funding is located in two accounts, an escrow account and General Fund 120. Fund 120 is not broken down by County or District courts' deposits. Fund 120 has a total of \$53,349.84. Laura encouraged courts to submit incentive requests for FY2021 or complete the Dallas County specialty court survey. Laura also encouraged courts to purchase incentives throughout the fiscal year to avoid waiting for large reimbursements at the end of the year. An overview of the 530 Fund FY2021 expenditures was included in the meeting packet.

Drug Testing

Laura Edmonds provided an update of the 530 specialized drug testing utilization total for FY21. Total invoiced under the drug testing line item is \$3,659.30 which leaves a balance of \$21,340.70 Utilization of drug patch: 0% were no shows and 100% received patch services. Of those clients that received drug patches: 17% positive, 11% results pending, 39% negative, 33% unable to test

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(no patch intact at removal, did not return for removal). A report was provided in the meeting packet. Courts are encouraged to reach out to Shenna about court specific drug testing utilization. Serena McNair advised CSCD is hoping to have a soft opening on 1/4/2021 to return with UA testing. Recovery Monitoring Systems will be the UA monitors/observers and specimen testing will continue through Redwood. CSCD is not paying a specific cost per test to Recovery but paying the salaries of UA technicians. Judge Harlan inquired how much will it cost for UAs to be taken. Serena replied "between \$12.50-\$15." Serena continued that CSCD financially cannot provide auto confirmation on every UA. The cost of confirmations is \$15. Serena will present questions to CSCD's CFO. The new CSCD UA process will be paperless and officers will be able to directly input information into the testing system. Serena advised there are advantages to having UA technicians not be CSCD officers. There will be a meeting to provide more information to judges, coordinators, grant writers, and other stakeholders. Serena stated that CSCD is financially unable keep UAs at the level of 2019. Vickie Rice expressed concern about transferring cost of testing to participants. Vickie asked the committee look into grant funding, alternative funding, and/or grace periods before participants begin to pay. Judge Mays suggested Serena contact Keta Dickerson because Keta was able to negotiate the best UA rates. UA collectors will be located as follows: 2 at Crowley, 2 at George Allen, and 2 at Recovery. UA services will include weekends and late hours. Many courts are ready to do UA stings. Judge Mays cautioned courts to be mindful of program paperwork now participants are being sent to a third party vendor for drug tests. Julie advised of a DA grant that is providing software for all pretrial diversion courts. The software is expected to roll out in the next two months or so. The software will be useful with coordination of drug testing.

Transitional Housing

A written report was provided in the meeting packet. There are 2 specialty court participants in Salvation Army transitional housing. The breakdown is 1 female and 1 male participant. The court utilization breakdown is 1 STAC and 1 STAR. Referred individuals must present proof of a negative COVID-19 test and are staffed on a case-by-case basis. There are currently 2 vacancies (1 male bed and 1 female bed). The vacant female bed has a person identified but if the participant cannot provide required documentation and another referral is received, placement will be given to the move-in ready participant. Please send referrals to specialtycourts@dallascounty.org and clients will be added to waitlist. Housing is for participants who are chronically homeless. The benefit is participants can stay in the transitional housing for up to 6 months.

Request for Funding

No requests were received.

Texas State Office of Governor Update

The OOG's Specialty Court Advisory Council (SCAC) met on 11/13/2020. Keta Dickerson advised the meeting specifically addressed what criteria to roll out for family courts. Discussion included rating metrics based on an assessment tool so family courts will know the expectations from OOG. Family courts will have more guidance as far as expectations.

TASC

The Texas Association of Specialty Courts (TASC) Conference is coming up in April 2021. In November, the 530 Subcommittee was presented with a proposal on how to divide 530 funding

for TASC. The proposed amount for each 530 stipend is \$1,000. The stipend amount will cover the majority of cost but not all cost. Those attending under 530 funding are encouraged to carpool and share rooms. It is proposed the 5 larger courts receive 2 stipends per court, the 9 smaller courts receive 1 stipend per court, and 1 stipend for Keta Dickerson-OOG representative. The proposed funding option will total \$20,000 for TASC leaving \$4,000 in the training line item for the remainder of the fiscal year. The remaining funding can be used for smaller in-house trainings. A survey has gone out about if the conference will be virtual or in person. Laura requested a vote on the 530 stipend amount. Once the funding amount is voting on, each court will decide who and how to attend. Julie Turnbull recommended moving forward with the vote but cautioned on sending anything to the courts until conference details are finalized. The date may change, the location may change, etc. TASC may move to Galveston to increase space. A vote was called to approve the proposed funding option. All voting members present voted "Yes."

The meeting packet also including an in-house training option. A vote or continued discussion will occur at a later time. Kimberly Duran expressed interest in the Urban Trauma training. Judge Mays inquired if there were other options. Judge Mays requested training surrounding what is happening with COVID-19 or practical applications with specialty courts. Shenna advised NADCP has offered multiple virtual free trainings related to COVID-19. Shenna will continue to forward and highlight that information as it comes via email. Committee members are also encouraged to reach out to potential trainers or pass the information along to Laura or Shenna to follow up.

Specialty Court Survey

A Dallas County sponsored specialty court survey has been available for some weeks. The survey is optional to complete. Courts that complete the survey will be automatically credited FY2021 incentive funding. Courts that complete the survey will not have to complete formal requests for funding. Courts that opt not to complete the survey can still obtain incentive funding by submitting a formal funding request. Courts that completed the survey by the due date were entered in a drawing for additional funds. The funds are provided by the Criminal Justice Department's DDA fund. A drawing was had for those courts which completed the survey by the deadline. Courts that completed the survey by the deadline were: 4C, AIM, Competency, DIVERT, Legacy, and, MHJD/SET. AIM Court was the winner of the \$150.

Specialty Court Video Production

Specialty court video production was approved in the FY2020 budget but production was delayed due to COVID-19. The goal is to complete the project before the end of FY2021. The hope is to resume filming in the first or second quarter of calendar year 2021. There are still concerns about COVID. Outreach will be made to courts to see how to complete production safely. The topic will be revisited in January.

Announcements

NADCP 2021 registration and room block is open.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 am and will reconvene on 1/13/2021 @9:00am via Teams.