



Behavioral Health Steering Committee

530 Fund Sub-Committee

August 12, 2020

Attendees

Laura Edmonds, Shenna Oriabure, **Judge Kristin Wade, Julie Turnbull, Audrey Garnett, Trina Crosby, Judge La'Donna Harlan**, Dr. Jill Johansson-Love, **Judge Lela Mays, Charlene Randolph, Lynn Richardson**, Vickie Rice, Keta Dickerson, **Bryan Smith, Teresa Saulsberry, Judge Jennifer Bennett**, Kelly McWilliams (bold type indicates designated voting representatives)

Review/Approval of Minutes

Laura Edmonds called the meeting to order at 9:01am and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Lynn Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes. Judge Harlan 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 \$133,988.88 the Misdemeanor account (4031) is \$45,043.77 for a total of \$179,032.65. Laura reported the continual impact of COVID-19 is the reduction in credits/revenues. There is approximately \$4,000 in outstanding invoices that not yet cleared the account. Laura encouraged courts to submit requests for incentive monies. Next month is the last opportunity to request incentive funding for FY2020. If approval has been received for incentives, purchases must occur on or before September 30, 2020. An overview of the 530 Fund FY2020 expenditures was included in the meeting packet.

Drug Testing

Laura Edmonds provided an update of the 530 specialized drug testing utilization total for FY20. Total invoiced under the drug testing line item is \$8,083.10 which leaves a balance of \$6,916.90. Utilization of drug patch: 17% were no shows and 83% received patch services. Of those clients that received drug patches: 45% positive, 7% results pending, 24% negative, 24% unable to test (no patch intact at removal, did not return for removal). Report in packet. UA observations and drug patches are continued through the end of the fiscal year. Courts should reach out to Shenna Oriabure for current and accurate utilization numbers. Serena McNair was unable to attend the meeting but sent word that CSCD is continuing process to outsource UAs. CSCD hopes to make a selection or have a contract later in September or early October. Ms. McNair will keep the committee informed.

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 AIM and 1 STAR. Referred individuals must present proof of a negative COVID-19 test and staff on a case-by-case basis. Laura stated the resource is still available and recently demonstrated success with admissions. Shenna Oriabure advised a third individual was admitted at the beginning of August 2020.

Request for Funding

Two funding requests were received. AIM requested \$1050 for incentives (70 participants x \$15). 4-C requested \$3000 for incentives (200 participants x \$15). Both incentive requests were approved unanimously by voting members present.

2021 Budget

Laura Edmonds initiated a review with each line item in Budget Option #2.

- **Drug Testing (\$25,000)** The group voted on the dollar amount for drug testing not the particular mechanism of drug testing pending finalization from CSCD regarding drug testing outsource. There is still room to make adjustments into the fiscal year if needed. The line item was increased by \$10K from the current fiscal year.
- **Training (\$24,000)** The subcommittee will attempt to bring some online and webinar options. The line item also takes into account possible formats for 2021 Texas Association of Specialty Courts conference.
- **Inpatient Treatment (\$40,000)** The amount is an increase from current budget. Provides 370 treatment days (daily rate \$108) which is 8 clients receiving 45 days of treatment.
- **Incentives (\$14,000)** The line item allows each court to request \$15 per participant based off the court's capacity. The line item remains the same as previous year.
- **Transitional housing (\$45,000)** The line item can be broken up between Salvation Army (SA) and general transitional housing beds. SA is for the chronically homeless needing case management. Laura suggested reducing the SA contract to 4 beds (2 males and 2 females) for a total of \$40,880. Laura recommended the current 530 policy remain the same for bed utilization. The remaining \$4,120 can be for general housing. That amount will cover 206 total days, which is 7 clients getting 1 month of housing. Laura reached out to Purchasing regarding general transitional housing and there will be an expanded quote to acquire additional vendors. The process will carry on into the first quarter of the new fiscal year to complete. Judge Harlan inquired about a hybrid where a client can be in general transitional housing with a 3rd party case manager (like IPS, Metrocare, etc.) and be funded for 6 months similar to SA. Dr. Love advised of restrictions due to general transitional housing bed vendors. Judge Wade moved to approve 4 beds as the Salvation Army bed allocation, seconded by Judge Mays. No objections, the motion was approved by voting members present.
- **Transportation (\$2,000)** The monies would be used to purchase bus passes.
- **Office supplies (\$0)** Office supplies were zeroed out as it was not being utilized.
- **Video Production (\$10,000)** The current line item moved into FY2021 as pandemic has stalled production and will resume in the next fiscal year.

There was a final vote to approve the budget. Unanimous approval from all voting members present.

Option #2

Dept	Account	Line Item	FY 2021 Budget
4031	2920	Drug Testing	\$25,000.00
4020	4210	Training	\$24,000.00
4020	6620	Inpatient Treatment	\$40,000.00
4031	2240	Incentives	\$14,000.00
4020	6620	Transitional Housing	\$45,000.00
4020	5590	Transportation	\$2,000.00
4031	2160	Office Supplies	\$0.00
4020	5099	Video Production	\$10,000.00
		Operating Total	\$160,000.00

Texas State Office of Governor Update

Courts are waiting on notice of awards for FY2021 grants. Grant end of the year reporting is due 9/20/2020. Keta advised Judge Huff is starting a gang court. Keta will provide additional information as it becomes available.

Resource Distribution Proposal/Specialty Court Survey

Laura Edmonds advised work continues on policies related to resource distribution. Shenna Oriabure described a potential resource distribution proposal aimed at equity and fairness. The proposal is to distribute resources based on court capacity. Total specialty court capacity is 1308; the large capacity courts make up 65% of total specialty court capacity. Under the proposal, the larger 5 courts would receive 50% of the resources and the 9 smaller capacity courts would receive 50% of the resources. The resources would then be distributed equally to each court within each tier (large capacity, small capacity). Judge Mays provided 530 fund/specialty court background information for context. Judge Mays stated larger courts have been discriminated against in 530 funding particularly in the area of training and housing. Judge Mays opined as newer courts joined the larger older courts have received less and less. Judge Wade inquired what resources the distribution proposal would apply to specifically. Attendees advised the policy makes sense as it relates to training but may not in other areas. Attendees asked for more specifics and were not willing to entertain voting with so many unknowns (what it applies to and the course of drug testing). Judge Wade wants a specific policy per issue/budget line item versus a general distribution policy. Laura advised this is an ongoing discussion. Discussion will continue and clarification sought for voting purposes. The comments lean towards not voting on the proposal next month.

Laura advised of research into the creation of a survey for specialty courts to identify resources and collect data. The purpose would be to assist with long term planning and identify future

needs. A potential option, is in lieu of filling out a memo request for each funding request, courts that complete the survey will be allowed to request funding without formal memo request.

Announcements

Judge Mays spoke about the Big Texas Rally for Recovery being held virtually September 17-19, 2020. Rally organizers are asking for videos (deadline is 8/14/2020). Judge Mays also announced the in-house legal clinic for ID and DL restoration operated by STAC has been expanded through St. Luke Community United Methodist Church. The initiative is currently partnering with Legal Aid. For more information please contact: IDimpactTexas@gmail.com. Judge Wade announced Chief Richardson was honored/recognized in D Magazine as a hero.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 am and will reconvene on 9/8/2020 @9:00am via Teams.