



Behavioral Health Steering Committee

530 Fund Sub-Committee

November 9, 2022

Attendees

Deborah Hill, Shenna Oriabure, **Trina Crosby, Lynn Richardson**, Vickie Rice, **Audrey Garnett, Bryan Smith**, Kimberly Duran, Crystal Garland, **Julie Turnbull, Judge La'Donna Harlan, Serena McNair, Jerry Barker, Judge Rocky Jones**, Shalonda Collins, LaShonda Jefferson (bold type indicates designated voting representatives)

Review/Approval of Minutes

Deborah Hill called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Judge Harlan made a motion to approve the minutes. Julie Turnbull seconded the motion and the group accepted the minutes.

530 Fund Balance and Update

Deborah Hill provided an update of the 530 Fund Balance. Funding is located in two accounts, an escrow account and General Fund 120. Some funds are still being collected under the drug and intoxication fee structure; those funds are applied to the escrow account. On September 30, 2022, \$112,465.78 was transferred from Fund 120 and divided evenly between the two escrow accounts. Currently the balance for the Felony account (4020) is \$222,899.54 and the Misdemeanor account (4031) is \$109,503.14 for a total of \$332,402.68. The general fund (120) is for fees assessed on all offenses. Fund 120 has a total of \$8,443.54. An overview of the 530 Fund FY2023 expenditures was included in the meeting packet. There are 120 bus passes remaining. Deborah encouraged courts to utilize incentive funding.

Drug Testing

Deborah Hill provided an update of the 530 specialized drug testing utilization total for FY23. Total invoiced under the drug testing line item is \$826.57, which leaves a balance of \$24,173.43. A total of 7 drug patches have been administered. Utilization of drug patch: 0% were no shows and 100% received patch services. Of those clients that received drug patches: 14% positive, 29% results pending, 43% negative, 14% unable to test (no patch intact at removal, did not return for removal). Drug testing services have increased in pricing across the board. A report was provided in the meeting packet. New to the packet was the individual court utilization spreadsheet. The document provides specific drug testing fund utilization by court.

Deborah presented the Drug Testing Utilization proposals. Proposal Option #1 is to allocate the \$25,000 in drug testing funds to certified courts based on court size. Larger courts and smaller courts are divided based on capacity. \$3,200 for larger courts and \$1,000 for smaller courts to be utilized as needed between UAs, drug patches, and alcohol monitoring. Proposal Option #2 is to allocate funds to based on individual court capacity. The allotment is \$20 per participant. Court capacity will be based on the most recently completed Dallas County specialty court survey, most recently completed memo request, or previously submitted capacity number. The proposals were presented in two written documents. The documents contained “practical application” with specific dollar amounts each court would receive under each option. Option #2’s total was not quite \$25,000 so there is a flex amount. The flex amount would be utilized by a court once the court specific allotment is exhausted. Allocation of the flex amount can be determined later. The group voted to accept and approve Option #2.

Transitional Housing

A written report was provided in the meeting packet. There are 2 specialty court participants in Salvation Army transitional housing. The court utilization is 1 MHJD/SET and 1 ATLAS participant. There is one on the waitlist. Referred individuals are no longer required to present proof of a negative COVID-19 test. The Salvation Army has secured onsite rapid COVID testing. 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.

A written report on Recovery Beds was provided in the meeting packet. There is no specialty court participants currently in Salvation Army recovery housing. There is no one on the waitlist. The funding will pay for 14 participants to be housed for 90 days. Each court has an opportunity to utilize a bed but the resource may be exhausted prior to that occurrence. The resource is utilized on a first come, first served basis. A certified court can only use a total of 90 days of the resource per fiscal year

Request for Funding

No requests for funding were received.

Texas State Office of Governor Update

The Criminal Justice Department requested the scoresheet for FY2023 specialty court grant applications. The specific scoresheets were sent to the specialty court judge and grant writing stakeholders. All the comments from the grants were de-identified, compiled, and provided in a document included in the meeting packet.

Specialty Court Video Production

The purpose of the video production is document the effectiveness of the specialty court programs to encourage increased participation. The videos will capture the program participants’ unique stories of success, which can be specifically attributed to the specialty court program. The FY2023 video production is underway. Deborah Hill appealed to the committee for volunteers. The bid process has concluded and a vendor selected. The packet included a video production timeline.

Shenna advised volunteers are needed for the project. Courts need to identify clients who will be the video subjects. The project is more involved and intimate with personal testimonies. Clients will need to be willing to speak about the client's personal life, share childhood and bookin photos, have family interviewed, and be filmed in their home or other personal space. One video will be completely in Spanish.

Dr. Kang responded by email to a request for feedback on the showing of the FY2022 specialty court long form video at Wilmer/JTC. The video was said to open up discussion and dialogue. Many of the male participants took notes and verbalized wanting to speak to their probation officer. Chief Richardson inquired about why the women were less responsive to the specialty court video. Serena McNair will obtain more information particularly about the demographics of the viewing group. Judge Harlan advised from her experience women are harder to engage. Judge Harlan's experience is that women report being overwhelmed, intimidated, and prefer one-on-one interactions. Judge Harlan stated a need for female representation in videos. Judge Jones concurs with Judge Harlan. Judge Jones has observed the female population to have a higher rate of deniability. Serena advised women come with a lot of guilt and baggage and may feel overwhelmed. It takes a while for them to feel comfortable; it takes a while but eventually the layers do come off.

Department Updates

Criminal Justice Department: A Dallas County Specialty Court Survey analysis is scheduled to be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting. All the subcommittee work and activities are to support and for the betterment of specialty courts.

Community Supervision and Corrections Department: Serena McNair advised of no current updates.

District Attorney's Office: Julie Turnbull advised there are ongoing conversations related to drug testing for fentanyl. Discussions include logistics for training about drug testing and fentanyl. Shenna Oriabure will bring back information on possible logistics.

Public Defender's Office: Chief Richardson advised members from the mental health and community engagement team attended an international conference on judicial mental health and community court justice. Chief Richardson served on a panel discussion for the Center for Court Innovation on Community Courts. Diane Gibson, City of Dallas, and Judge Stephanie Huff also presented about SCCIP Court.

Judiciary: No updated provided.

Announcements

Judge Harlan announced STAC is having a graduation November 18th in the Central Jury Room at 1:00pm.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 am and will reconvene on 12/14/2022 at 9:00 am via Teams.