

IAPSC Meeting

Champaign, Illinois
January 9, 2014, 12:00 pm

MINUTES

The board members of the Illinois Association of Problem Solving Courts met in Urbana, Illinois on January 9, 2014. The following board members were present in person:

Judge Jeff Ford (Champaign County)
Craig Cooper (TASC)
Sarah Carlson (Champaign County)
Hugh Brady (NAMI)
Judge Steven Sawyer (Wabash County)
Judge Ericka Sanders (Marion County)

Also appearing in person:

Mike Carey (Champaign County Probation)

The following board members appeared via telephone:

Marilyn Stromberg (DeKalb County)
Joe Ewers (Kankakee County)
Scott Block (McHenry County)
Lyn Pedigo (Mason County)
Judge Darron Bowden (Cook County)
Janet Leone (Rock Island County)
Carolyn DeSplinter (Rock Island County)
Alicia Kusiak (TASC)
Al Pizza (TASC)
Michelle Rock (Center of Excellence)
Judge Lawrence Fox (Cook County)
Nancy Cooper (Madison County)
Judge Scott Drazewski (McLean County)
Judge Janet Holmgren (Winnebago County)

Also appearing by telephone: Mary Gubbe Lee (Center of Excellence).

The meeting was called to order by Judge Ford at 12:05 pm

A motion to approve minutes of the meeting at Starved Rock was made by Scott Block and seconded by Craig Cooper. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's report

Scott Block reported that Michael Roman was added to the IASPC bank account as a signer. \$3,750 was paid to the Center of Excellence for conference registration. Scott Block reported that there are currently no outstanding checks.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee: Judge Ford discussed the issue of insurance and, specifically, directors and officers liability coverage for wrongful acts. Paul Hobbs of Brown, Hobbs and McMurray in Urbana, Illinois informed Judge Ford via e-mail that the Cincinnati Insurance Company could offer directors and officers liability insurance for an \$850.00 premium per year. In addition, Mr. Hobbs suggested considering general liability coverage for \$500.00 per year. Scott Block read a portion of the contract between IASPC and the Crown Plaza hotel in Springfield, which requires that we provide proof of insurance upon request. Hugh Brady made a motion to obtain directors and officers liability insurance. Sarah Carlson seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Judge Ford indicated that he intends to present more information about general liability insurance at the next meeting.

Scott Block reported that the Annual Report has been filed. In addition, we now have a post office box in Woodstock, Illinois. Scott is in the process of completing IRS Form 1024, which is used to file for 501(c)(6) status. Once it is complete, he will send it to the Benning Group for review and then it will be filed. According to Scott, the Benning Group does not recommend an audit. Instead, we should initiate accounting controls. For a small fee, the Benning Group will help us set some internal controls.

Scott noted that Leigh Bell resigned from the Board. An e-mail of thanks was sent to her for her service.

AOIC Coordinator Position: Judges Ford and Holmgren and Michelle Rock reported that the coordinator position had not been filled as of the date of the meeting.

Nominating Committee: Hugh Brady asked if there is interest in having a Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator on this board. Judge Fox will forward contact information for Tonya Smith Jeffries, from the Hines Veterans Hospital, to Judge Holmgren.

Government Legislative Committee: Hugh Brady reported that part of the Medicaid reform bill, known as the SMART Act, includes a provision that limits people on Medicaid to 4 medications per month. According to Thresholds, a non-profit mental health service provider in Chicago, the average client takes five

medications. Four bills have been introduced to address this issue: HB 3671, HB 2469, SB 2611 and HB 3688. According to Hugh, the passage of any of the four bills would represent an improvement, but the best bill is sponsored by Mary Flowers. Hugh recommends calling legislators.

Hugh also provided the results of a study completed by Thresholds. This study reveals that cutting community health budgets costs more than it saves. Specifically, the study analyzed emergency room visits and hospitalizations and determined that the \$113 millions in budget cuts resulted in \$131 million in additional hospitalizations. The idea of having a legislative platform was discussed.

Hugh stated that two hospitals in Chicago are opening mental health units due to Medicaid expansion.

Technology Committee: Craig Cooper reported that the website is being updated. All is going well with the webmaster. A save-the-date reminder will be on the site for the conference. It is a goal of the technology committee to have a portal for information sharing. It is possible that we could announce the portal at the next conference.

We need to determine whether we are redirected from the old website to the current site.

Public Awareness Committee: Judge Bowden sent a committee report to Judge Ford. According to Judge Bowden, four areas of attack were identified: (1) clothing and paraphernalia; (2) communications; (3) the development and distribution of fact sheet; and (4) the awareness walk. Judge Bowden questioned the committee's budget for purchasing clothing and supplies. Judge Sawyer reported that he and Judge Sanders have been discussing a public service announcement. Judge Sawyer made an initial contact with the Ad Council. Whether the ILAPSC should have a Facebook page and whether the public awareness committee should be in charge of it was also discussed. Mark Raskie is working on the development of a fact sheet in bullet-point form.

Judge Bowden suggests having six dates throughout the year for mass e-mails to members. Regarding our website, we should note the number of hits and focus our concentration on our members who attended the conference and then branch out to other counties who do not have a problem-solving court.

It was suggested by Judge Ford and others that any save-the-date mailing or reminder on the website should include the website address. Judge Ford also suggested that we identify our county's media contact and get that information to Judge Bowden.

Conference Committee: The 2014 IASPC conference will be held on October 2nd and October 3rd at the Crown Plaza in Springfield, IL. The contract with the Crown Plaza has been signed. Regarding speakers, the committee is targeting Theodora Binion with DASA, Director Tardy or Justice Garman. Mary Lee is working on Doug Marlowe for the morning keynote speaker on October 2nd. Others discussed were Amy Miles, chemist, and Peter Early, author and Pulitzer Prize finalist. The save-the-date communication will be released very soon.

Michelle Rock reported that due to the expense associated with retaining national speakers, the conference might not be as profitable as it has been in the past. The goal is to increase revenue with sponsors, however. Currently, our budget contains an approximate \$7,000.00 profit.

Mary Lee will be calling us to get some ideas and advice about sponsor ideas.

Registration for the conference begins June 1st.

The next meeting

The April 10th meeting must be rescheduled because of the conflict with the judicial education conference. The next meeting will be either April 22, 23 or 24 in Rockford. A July meeting was discussed in Chicago. A meeting will also be held on October 3, during the conference.

Hugh Brady moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Sarah Carlson. The meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm

On January 10, 2014, the board, via e-mail vote, agreed to purchase general liability coverage.

Next meeting: April 24, 2014.