

Public Service and Trust Commission
Juror Security Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the Juror Security Subcommittee was held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 in Conference Room 133 at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, CT.

Members Present: Esther Harris (Chair), Judge Brian Fischer, Melanie Kerr, Robin C. Smith, Roy Smith, Richard Loffredo, Buffy Irizarry, and Kimberly Symmes.

Members Not Present: Ines Nieves and Attorney Raymond Hassett.

The following issues were discussed by attendees:

- 1) Introduction of new members. Recommended adding member from marshal administration.
- 2) Reviewed and approved minutes from 06/23/2014.
- 3) Discussed feedback from the Regional Jury Meetings. The main areas of concern with regard to juror security look to be juror parking lot security, jury assembly room, and criminal vs. civil.
- 4) The elevators with access to jury assembly rooms can be accessed by members of the public. It was suggested that a proxy card be given to staff for elevator access to the jury assembly floor.
- 5) Directions to the courthouses that are provided to jurors do not explain how to get to the parking lots. Suggested adding parking directions to the existing courthouse directions that are located on the judicial website.
- 6) Some courts have marshals walk the jurors out as a group. It was suggested that this be offered for jurors in both criminal and civil cases. There is the issue that if the Judge is talking with jurors after 5 pm, there may be no marshal securing the parking lot when jurors are walking out.
- 7) The issue of jurors arriving to court early suggests opening the courthouse doors early for jurors and allowing them to wait in a designated area until they are directed to the jury assembly room. Other offices in the building may lock their doors until proper opening times. The issue of wandering jurors was also discussed; it was suggested to provide instructions for jurors as to where they need to go after voir dire.
- 8) There have been concerns of jurors being contacted by attorneys or the media after a trial. It was suggested to devise a letter that would be handed out to jurors advising them that they are not obligated to speak to these individuals, in the event that the Judge does not explain this on or off the record.
- 9) Implementing a Juror Security Manual for personnel was discussed further. The manual would be part of the Judicial District Plan. An emergency plan for jurors would be given during orientation.

- 10) The most problems with jurors arise first thing in the morning. It was recommended that there be uniform presence in the jury assembly room at the start of each day. Radio communication between marshals and jury clerk's was also discussed.
- 11) Reviewed and approved the action plan items to bring up at the larger Juror Security Meeting on September 9th. Another topic that will be added to this is the suggestion of duress alarms in all jury assembly rooms.
- 12) Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.
- 13) The next meeting date will be emailed to members.