

Draft Minutes
Public Service and Trust Commission
May 29, 2008

Those in attendance: Hon. Alexandra DiPentima (Chair), Magistrate Sandra Sosnoff Baird, Hon. Robert E. Beach, Jr., Beth Bickley, Hon. John D. Boland, Hon. Patrick L. Carroll, III, Atty. Joseph D. D'Alesio, Hon. Nina F. Elgo, Atty. Melissa Farley, Hon. James T. Graham, Atty. Norman K. Janes, Hon. Clarence J. Jones, Atty. Kevin T. Kane, Justice Joette Katz, Caren Kittredge, Agnes Maldonado, Hon. Douglas C. Mintz, Atty. Joseph Mirrione, Atty. William H. Prout, Jr., Hon. Antonio C. Robaina, Atty. Kenneth B. Rubin, Hon. William B. Rush, Atty. Michael T. Ryan, Hon. Mary Sommer Sandak, Hon. Joseph Shortall, Thomas A. Siconolfi, Atty. Carolyn Signorelli, Atty. Toni M. Smith-Rosario, Atty. Robert Stillman, Hon. Hillary B. Strackbein, Atty. Frederic Ury, Atty. Dawne G. Westbrook, Alex Wood, and Atty. Jennifer Zito.

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM.

1. Welcome – Judge DiPentima welcomed members of the commission and expressed appreciation to the members and staff for their hard work. Judge DiPentima introduced Beth Bickley, the acting Executive Director of Information Technology, who is replacing Joseph Camilleri who has retired, and Agnes Maldonado, the interim director of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, who is replacing Lisa Holden, who has taken a job in California. She also acknowledged the Honorable Mary Sommer Sandak, who was recently appointed to the bench. She reminded the members of the commission to identify themselves before speaking so that the court reporter would be able to make an accurate record of the meeting.
2. Approval of minutes – The next agenda item was the approval of the meeting minutes from March 25, 2008. Upon motion and second, the minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Discussion of Strategic Plan – The next agenda item was the discussion of the plan. Members of the commission had received the draft copy by mail prior to the meeting. The intent is to discuss the plan and then act on it so that the plan can be transmitted to the Chief Justice for her approval. Judge DiPentima provided background on how the plan was drafted. Once the steering committee had reviewed goals, strategies, activities and performance measures each committee had produced after their review of the immense amount of data from focus groups, surveys and public hearings, the material went to a drafting committee that produced the draft of the plan. The co-chairs of each committee then met with Judge DiPentima to review the draft of their specific section and provide comments. The revised draft, reflecting those comments, is what the commission is reviewing today. This draft is a text-only version of the plan. Charts on the structure of the judicial branch and statistical information about jurors, cases, small claims, and data on changing demographics and emerging trends in the area of probation will be added to show where we are and why this plan will be relevant and effective for the branch. A research summary with information on the surveys, the focus groups and the public hearings will also be added, along with links so that all material used by the commission will be available to those who are interested in viewing the data.

A section by section review of the plan took place. Co-chairs of each committee went over the strategies for their areas, and the Judge Mintz went over the vision and mission statements and the values. Extensive discussion ensued about all aspects of the plan with comments, suggestions, clarifications, and corrections being made by members of the commission on several areas of the plan.

After lengthy discussions, a motion was made to authorize the steering committee to incorporate into the plan the substantive changes suggested by the commission at the meeting and to send the plan as revised to the Chief Justice for her approval. The motion

was made by Justice Katz and seconded by Judge Jones. After a brief discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

Judge DiPentima asked that any further comments about making this a clearer document, as long as it does not change the substance of the document, be directed to her or to a member of the steering committee within the next week.

4. Implementation of the Strategic Plan – Judge DiPentima provided a brief overview of the proposed implementation of the strategic plan. The Chief Court Administrator and the Deputy Chief Court Administrator will work with the executive directors of the five divisions of the Branch to come up with the activities to support the strategies and goals. Implementation will require the cooperation of everyone: members of the bar, bar groups, trial judges, appellate judges, family support magistrate, victim advocates, media and others in various capacities and to varying degrees. Immediately after the Chief Justice approves the plan, work will begin on the implementation plan, which should be completed by September. Some things have already been done, but there are many more activities to be accomplished. This commission will reconvene in December or possibly January to see what progress has been made, make adjustments to the plan, and share ideas for keeping the plan effective and relevant as time passes.
5. Other Business - Judge Shortall made a motion to thank Judge DiPentima for her leadership of the commission. That motion was supported unanimously by the group.

Judge DiPentima thanked the commission and adjourned the meeting at 4:55 PM.