

Minutes  
Court Security Committee  
January 28, 2014

The Court Security Committee met on January 28, 2014 in the attorney conference room at 231 Capitol Avenue, Hartford.

Members in attendance: Hon. Patrick L. Carroll (chair), Atty. Susan Brown, Atty. Joseph D. D'Alesio, Mr. Stephen Grant, Det. Michael Grieder, Chief Thomas Grimaldi, Chief Inspector James Hankard, Atty. Raymond M. Hassett, Ms. Melanie Kerr, Capt. William Kewer, Mr. Robert W. Kilpatrick, Atty. Richard Loffredo, Atty. Pamela Meotti, Mr. O'Donovan Murphy, Atty. Denise Poncini, Mr. Gary Roberge, and Atty. Robin C. Smith.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Judge Carroll.

1. Judge Carroll thanked the members for agreeing to serve on the reconstituted committee. Court security is a priority of the Chief Justice. The initial committee was created by the Chief Justice as part of the Judicial Branch's Strategic Plan.
2. Judge Carroll asked the members to introduce themselves.
3. Melanie Kerr provided an overview of the Judicial Branch's Active Shooter Awareness and Preparedness training. The program has been presented to over 2600 individuals, including Judicial Branch staff, judges, and personnel from other state entities (Department of Children and Families, the Office of the Chief State's Attorney, and the Office of the Chief Public Defender). The Judicial Branch has also presented the program at the New England COSCA conference and will be presenting it at the Melanie Reiger Annual Conference.
4. Judge Carroll created a workgroup that will develop response procedures for hostile incidents that occur within Judicial Branch facilities. Hostile incidents include terrorist attacks, cyber-attacks, hostage situations and active shooter incidents. The workgroup will be chaired by Melanie Kerr and its members will include: Don Murphy, Tom Grimaldi, Bob Kirchner, Rich Loffredo, Denise Poncini, Bob Kilpatrick, Michael Grieder, Dennis Dowd and Mitch Ward.
5. A workgroup will be created to review the status of duress alarms in Judicial Branch facilities. The workgroup will test the functionality of the duress alarms and will review where the duress alarms are located, where the alarm goes to when activated and the response when an alarm is activated. The workgroup will also look at ways to educate staff on issues regarding duress alarms and look at the need for duress alarms to be installed in Law Libraries, Court Service Centers and Public Information Desks. The workgroup will be chaired by Don Murphy and Bob Kilpatrick.

6. A workgroup will be created to review the issuance of temporary access cards. The workgroup will look at how the access cards are activated and who has access to them. The workgroup will also look at ways of ensuring that law enforcement officers attempting to enter a Judicial Branch facility with a firearm are on official business. The workgroup will be chaired by Don Murphy and Bob Kilpatrick.

7. A workgroup will be created to develop guidelines for the local security committees. These committees are present in all the Judicial Districts. The workgroup will develop template agendas and scheduling protocols for the local committees. The workgroup will also determine which entities need to be represented on the committee. It was recommended that the workgroup look at the Hartford Judicial District local security committee as a model. The workgroup will include several Administrative Judges, Don Murphy, Bob Kilpatrick, Larry Callahan, Robin Smith and Susan Brown.

8. Melanie Kerr discussed the contents of the binder that was provided to all members.

9. Judge Carroll discussed some of the additional items that will be addressed at future meetings. Any suggestions for additional topics should be forwarded to Melanie Kerr or Rich Loffredo.

10. The next meeting of the Court Security Committee will be on May 13, 2014 at 231 Capitol Avenue.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.