

The Supreme Court of Ohio

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor

FROM: Judge James Shriver, Chairperson of the Commission on Specialized Dockets

CC: Michael L. Buenger, Administrative Director
Stephanie Hess, Deputy Administrative Director
Stephanie Nelson, Director, Court Services Division

DATE: December 18, 2017

SUBJECT: Commission on Specialized Dockets 2017 Annual Report

In accordance with Rule of Superintendence 36.11, please accept this annual report detailing the activities and accomplishments of the Commission on Specialized Dockets for 2017.

The Commission on Specialized Dockets was created on November 13, 2012 with the adoption of Rule of Superintendence 36.02. The purpose and duties of the Commission are defined in Sup. R. 36.03(A):

The Commission on Specialized Dockets shall advise the Supreme Court and its staff on all of the following: (1) the promotion of statewide rules and uniform standards concerning specialized dockets in Ohio courts; (2) the development and delivery of specialized docket services to Ohio courts, including training programs for judges and court personnel; (3) the consideration of any other issues the commission deems necessary to assist the Supreme Court and its staff regarding specialized dockets in Ohio courts.

The commission is comprised of twenty-two members. Appointments were made based on specific roles defined in Sup. R. 36.04(A). The commission met for the first time on April 10, 2013. During 2017, Judge James Shriver of the Clermont County Probate / Juvenile Court served as the chair of the commission, and Judge Theresa Dellick of the Mahoning County Juvenile Court served as the vice-chair.

The commission was active in 2017, meeting six times which included two telephonic meetings for certification. The activities of the commission included:

- Recommending the Certification of specialized dockets
- Planning and executing the Annual Specialized Dockets Conference
- The vital work of commission subcommittees

Certification Recommendations

As of December 18, 2017, the Commission approved 94 specialized dockets for final certification during 2017. Re-certifications accounted for 72 of the dockets, and 22 of the dockets were new programs. Furthermore, there are approximately ten additional dockets slated for final certification before the end of the year. Currently, there are 229 operational specialized dockets in Ohio that have achieved either initial or final certification.

Additionally, the commission has been working on developing specific guidance for certified dockets and those seeking certification concerning how the Ohio Certification Standards should be implemented in programs. Specifically, substance abuse monitoring guidance was issued by the commission during 2017, detailing the national best practices and Ohio expectations with respect to random, frequent, and observed drug testing for specialized docket participants.

Annual Specialized Dockets Conference

On October 23 and 24, 2017, the Annual Specialized Dockets Conference was held at the Ohio Union on the Ohio State University Campus. Over 530 specialized docket professionals and stakeholders from across the state attended. Conference participants were offered 33 educational breakout sessions along with a plenary session presented by Dan Griffin, an international men's recovery speaker, author, and advocate, specializing in trauma, addiction and mental health recovery.

Commission Subcommittees

The Education Subcommittee met three times during 2017. The subcommittee assisted with the planning and implementation of the 2017 Specialized Dockets Annual Conference. Post conference, the entire commission worked with section staff to debrief the event, and the subcommittee assisted with the groundwork and curriculum development for the 2018 conference scheduled for October 11th and 12th.

The Data Collection Subcommittee chaired by Rob Menke of the Butler County Common Pleas Court met twice during 2017. The subcommittee focused efforts on fully implementing the data reporting requirement of Certification Standard 12-Effectiveness Evaluation. Specifically, members created an initial data collection plan, including those data elements that will be requested of all dockets initially as well as a long-term strategy to expand the range of data requested. At the request of the subcommittee, staff of the Specialized Dockets Section have been meeting with the court's IT Division to begin the design and development of a technology solution through which dockets will report the required data.

The Process Review/Certification Review Subcommittee chaired by Judge Joyce Campbell of the Fairfield Municipal Court met twice during 2017. The subcommittee is drafting proposed amendments and additions to Sup. R. 36.20-36.28 and its Appendix. The purpose of the recommended modifications are threefold. First, the commission would like to more clearly and directly communicate what is required and needed for certification. Secondly, the goal is to promote uniform fidelity to the model across the state by aligning state practice with National Best Practice Standards for each type of docket. Finally, maintaining the capacity for local flexibility and innovation is critical for local communities to plan and implement programs that meet their needs and align with the resources available.

Thank you for your support and the continued opportunity to promote the advancement and provision of specialized docket services to Ohio courts. We welcome your feedback and suggestions on the work of the Commission.