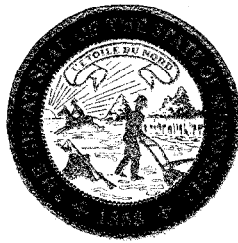


THOMAS G. MCCARTHY
JUDGE
SIBLEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
BOX 867
GAYLORD, MINNESOTA 55334
TELEPHONE (507) 237-2232



SIBLEY, McLEOD, LE SUEUR
SCOTT, CARVER, DAKOTA AND
GOODHUE COUNTIES

STATE OF MINNESOTA
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS

JUN 10 1997

FILED

June 2, 1997

Mr. Fred Grittner
Clerk of Appellate Courts
Minnesota Judicial Center
25 Constitution Avenue
St Paul MN 55155

Re: Report on First Judicial District Interactive Video Pilot

Dear ~~Mr. Grittner~~^{Fred}:

I am enclosing an original and 12 copies of the report on the video pilot project. As you will read, I believe this pilot was an enormous success.

I would be happy to meet with the Court if there are any questions concerning the report or the project. I am recommending that the pilot be terminated and rules be promulgated for the use of interactive video in civil proceedings statewide.

Please let me know if I can provide any further information. Thank you for your assistance and advice during this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive, appearing to read "TGM", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.
Hon. Thomas G. McCarthy
Judge of District Court

CG-90-649

STATE OF MINNESOTA
IN SUPREME COURT

OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS

JUN 10 1997

FILED

Interactive Audio-Visual Communications
Experiment in First Judicial District -
Mental Illness Commitment Proceedings.

Report of Pilot Project

The Minnesota Supreme Court adopted the Order providing for the First Judicial District to implement an Interactive Video Teleconferencing Pilot Project for Mental Illness Commitment proceedings on April 5, 1995. The initial hearing was conducted on December 4, 1995. During the pilot project 56 hearings have been conducted. These have mainly been through the Willmar Regional Treatment Center, but hearing have also been held from RTC's in Brainerd, St. Peter and Fergus Falls. There has been one hearing conducted from the Veterans Administration Hospital in Minneapolis. This has saved the participating counties significant moneys in travel, attorney and other costs.

While the Interactive Audio-Visual Communications Experiment in First Judicial District -- Mental Illness Commitment Proceedings (hereafter referred to as the "Pilot") was originally conceived to save time, effort and expense for the Court system and the Counties involved, it has quickly become apparent that the primary beneficiaries of the Pilot are the persons who are the subject of commitment proceedings.

Standard Procedure for Commitment Hearings: When the Pilot system is not used, there are basically two methods for conducting a commitment hearing¹: The judge,

¹ For purposes of this report, "Commitment proceedings" also may include Jarvis-type hearings and conservatorship or guardianship hearings.

attorneys, witnesses, etc., travel to the Regional Treatment Center (RTC) for the hearing, or the patient is transported to the courthouse. The latter is the more common method.

Disadvantages to Patient of Standard Procedure: In order for a patient to be present at a hearing in the First District at (for instance) 11:00 a.m., it is necessary for the deputy sheriff to pick the patient up at the RTC (Willmar, in this instance) no later than 9:00 a.m. The hearing will last from one-half to one hour. That means the patient is back on the road no earlier than noon, and back at the RTC no earlier than 2:00. The patient has, for all practical purposes, missed an entire day or his or her treatment. There is also the difficulty of meals, especially if the patient has special dietary needs.

Many patients at the RTC's have a medication schedule, if not for their mental condition, then for physical conditions. Removing the patient from the treatment setting for five hours or more will often disrupt the medication schedule. Further, if the patient is in an agitated condition, there may be a tendency to over-medicate the patient so she or he will remain compliant for the transport to and from the hearing. This would, naturally, result in the patient being less able to assist his or her attorney in the presentation of the patient's side of the case.

RTC staff have indicated that patients may become intimidated and afraid in the Courtroom. Some feel that they must have done something wrong or bad, or are in trouble because they are in Court.

Travelling by motor vehicle is relatively risky. The dangers to the patient (and officer transporting her or him) of an accident cannot be ignored. This is especially so in Minnesota winters where if the travelling is too hazardous, the hearing may be cancelled or postponed to another day.

When the hearings are held in the local courtroom, invariably local attorneys are appointed to represent the patients. The fact that the attorney is two hours away from his client until the very day of the hearing is obviously a hindrance to a good attorney-client relationship.

Advantages to the Patient by use of ITV. When a commitment proceeding is conducted by way of ITV, the patient remains in the treatment facility until just before the hearing. There is a minimal interruption of the treatment program. Meal and medication schedules can be maintained. If the patient becomes agitated, qualified help is on the spot to handle the situation. There is no ride for two or more hours in the back of an unmarked squad car.² The setting is not as intimidating as a courtroom setting.³

There may be situations where ITV is not appropriate.⁴ In these kinds of situations, leave should be freely given to conduct an in-person hearing. However, it should be clear that ITV is the preferred method.

Finally, it is *imperative* that the attorney for the patient be physically seated next to each other during the hearing. Perhaps some thought needs to be given, and rules developed for those situations where a patient is transferred to a point distant from the office of his or her original attorney.

Advantages to RTC staff and other patients by using ITV. When a hearing is held away from the RTC, the medical staff is often required to attend. If the patient is

² Tragically, some of the patients are even being transported by a *uniformed* police officer, in the rear seat of a *marked* squad, *with a cage* and *handcuffed!* (See letter of Roger Schwab, Patient Advocate, attached.)

³ Despite the fact that the hearings are held in conference-type rooms, it is important to conduct the hearing in the same manner as if the hearing were in a courtroom. For instance, the judge should wear a robe and observe the formalities of the hearing.

⁴ We have just received the first request from the public defender to conduct a commitment hearing in person, as the patient is very suspicious of televisions. The request, of course, is being honored.

gone for five or more hours, that would also mean that the staff person would be gone that long as well. This naturally means that the other patients at the RTC who are being treated by the doctor will miss their routine on the day of the hearing. By conducting the hearing via ITV, the staff person can go to the video conference room, give his or her testimony and leave. The disruption to the doctor's schedule, as well as the treatment for her or his other patients, is kept to a minimum.

There are also cost savings to the RTC for mileage and meals, not to mention time away from the facility.

Advantages to the committing county. The main advantage is the fact that the sheriff's department is not required to spend the best part of a day transporting one patient for one hearing in the local courtroom. For the example patient whose hearing is at 11:00 a.m., the deputy must leave the county seat no later than 7:00 a.m. to pick up the patient by 9:00 a.m. If the patient is returned to the RTC by 2:00 p.m., the deputy will not return to the county seat until 4:00 p.m. ITV saves the expense of the deputy's pay, the squad car mileage and other miscellaneous expenses, not to mention the fact that the deputy could then participate in her or his regular patrol or investigation duties on that day.

Also, in addition to the elimination of the risk of a motor vehicle accident, the deputy need not be concerned about her safety, or that of the patient, should the patient become agitated during the transport.

Advantages to the Court system: In those cases where the judge and staff travelled to the RTC for the hearing, the advantages of ITV hearings are obvious. Rather than leaving the county seat at 8:00 a.m. to travel to the RTC for a 10:00 hearing, and return to the courthouse sometime after lunch (basically taking up an entire day of court

for one hearing), the judge will sit in front of the ITV system for the one-half hour or so for the commitment hearing.⁵

Using the ITV system, the judge is able to handle a full calendar as well as the commitment hearing. It is the same as if the hearing were held the "old-fashioned" way, where the sheriff transports the patient to the courthouse.

Courtroom decorum is not adversely affected by using the ITV. The key is for the presiding judge to conduct the hearing in the same manner as she would had the patient been present in the courtroom.

Anecdote: I had the opportunity to conduct a mental illness commitment hearing in Scott County on March 11, 1997. This was not a pleasant experience. The young man who was committed was very ill. There was some concern that he may try to hurt himself or another during the course of the hearing.

Along with the final commitment hearing, a Jarvis hearing was held at the same time. The psychiatrist from Willmar Regional Treatment Center testified by telephone conference. His testimony was quite hard to understand. I'm sure that my very qualified court reporter will have a difficult time transcribing that testimony, if it should be required. I am confident the patient did not have a clue as to what that person on the telephone was saying, much less who he even was.

⁵ This is actually quite a good system to be sure that court commences on time. There is a definite period of time during which the ITV system will be available for the hearing. This requires that the hearing be started on time and moved along. There have been times when the hearing has extended past the allotted time. In those cases, we have, thus far, been able to extend the connection between the RTC and the courthouse.

Had this hearing been by ITV, the patient would have been able to participate in his treatment for the entire day. The deputy who transported him would have performed his regular duties, without the fear that this clearly ill person would have a mental or physical emergency during the transport. The doctor would have testified in the same room as the patient, who could have had some understanding of what that was all about. The court reporter, being able to see the doctor as well as hear him much more clearly over the ITV, would be able to produce a much higher quality transcript if required.

I could see no advantage to having this unfortunate, ill young man travel more than two hours each way, participate in a hearing which lasted well in excess of one hour, and then spend another two-plus hours going back to the RTC.

Summary

Once the Pilot is terminated, the rules for ITV commitment hearings are applied statewide, and more ITV sites come on line, it is my hope that in-person hearings will be the exception rather than the rule. We have attempted to discover the down side to ITV hearings for commitments, but without success. Other than the occasional patient who is fearful of television, and an occasional and short term problem with the hardware, there have been no significant problems conducting these hearings by ITV.

Recommendations

1. The Pilot be terminated.
2. The rules for mental illness commitment proceedings (including Jarvis-type proceedings) be made permanent and adopted statewide.

Respectfully submitted:

Hon. Thomas G. McCarthy
Judge of District Court

OFFICE OF
JOAN PROEHL
COURT ADMINISTRATOR

McLeod County
830 11th Street East
Suite 203
Glencoe, Minnesota 55336
Telephone: 320-864-5551
Fax: 320-864-5905

February 21, 1997

Honorable Thomas G. McCarthy
Judge of District Court
Sibley County Courthouse
400 Court Street
Gaylord, MN 55334

RE: Sibley County Pilot Project

Dear Judge McCarthy:

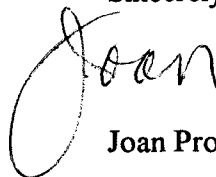
Conducting commitment hearings via interactive video was specifically done for the purpose of expediting the commitment process, reducing transport and travel costs and court appointed attorney expenses. Another purpose was to keep to a minimum any disruption to the patient.

The process certainly seems to have accomplished all of the above concerns with a minimum of disruption to McLeod County. I would like to add that the amount of work and dedication to this project was tremendous on the part of Sibley County.

Perhaps the contribution that McLeod County made towards the project helped in some way.

Thank you for taking this step into the future.

Sincerely,



Joan Proehl

JP



JAY W. LIEDMAN

432 West Litchfield Avenue, Willmar, Minnesota 56201

Law Offices

Willmar	612-235-2522
Atwater	612-974-8134
New London	612-354-2285
Raymond	612-967-4241

February 20, 1997

The Honorable Thomas G. McCarthy
Sibley County Courthouse
P. O. Box 867
Gaylord, MN 55334

RE: ITV Commitment Hearings

Dear Judge McCarthy:

Thank you for requesting my opinion on the use of ITV for commitment hearings.

My experience with the ITV pilot project has been positive. I have been handling civil commitments for approximately 13 years. All of the hearings in the early years, and most of them in recent times, were the conventional in-court hearings. I do however participate in four to six ITV hearings per month for various counties.

As a defense attorney, I do not defend proposed patients any differently when ITV is used than when everyone is in the same courtroom. Consequently, I do not feel the client gets any less representation. The main advantage of ITV is that the client and his or her attorney are usually able to confer with one another more quickly and more often, because local attorneys can be appointed. It only stands to reason that there will be more patient-attorney contact if the law office is 2½ miles away from the hospital rather than 70 miles. I feel that contact is very important to the client/patient, who is usually thrust rather abruptly into an unfamiliar place, far from friends and family. Most seem quite eager to talk to someone they feel is trying to help them.

In the ITV system, the defense attorneys and examiners are also usually geographically near one another, which facilitates communication, which in turn often permits a better treatment plan to be developed.

I would assume the counties involved would also benefit from the cost savings ITV permits. In my private practice I frequently tell clients who have cases venued in distant counties that they would be better off hiring an attorney nearer the courthouse. ITV eliminates the need to pay lawyers for time spent driving across the state.

The Honorable Thomas G. McCarthy
February 20, 1997
Page 2

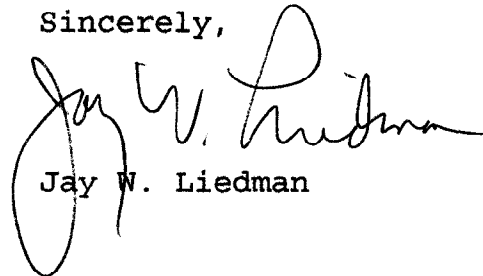
There have been a few delays caused by technical problems in the ITV hookup, but I personally do not recall any longer than ten minutes, which is less than we often wait at the courthouse.

The only limitations in the use of ITV would be these:

1. ITV should not be used if the patient/client suffers from a disorder which includes a belief that his every move is being video taped etc. Occasionally one runs into this, and in such case a conventional hearing should be held. One would not want to inadvertently give reinforcement to a delusion.
2. To avoid diluting the attorney-client relationship, the attorney and his or her client should be together in the same location. In other words, the client should not be sitting at the hospital while both the defense and petitioner's attorney are together at the other location. That would erode client trust and confidence.

In summary, I feel the ITV system can provide benefits to both sides if just a few simple safeguards are employed. Please contact me again if you have questions.

Sincerely,



Jay W. Liedman

JWL:tb

SIBLEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ROGER M. GRAHAM, Sheriff
P.O. Box 102
319 Park Avenue
Telephone: (612) 237-2321
GAYLORD, MINNESOTA 55334



February 20, 1997

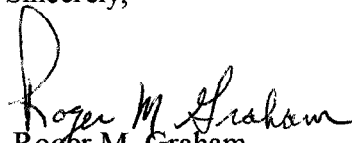
Honorable Thomas G. McCarthy
Judge of District Court
Gaylord, MN 55334

Dear Judge McCarthy :

The success of the interactive video pilot project has been measured in my department by the positive impact on the budget. Time and money are two luxuries county governments will never have in excess. Over time and part time salaries saved on commitment hearings have been appropriated to other areas in need of support.

Thank you for the support you have contributed to the success of this project.

Sincerely,


Roger M. Graham
Sibley County Sheriff

RMG:cer

MICHAEL D. THALBERG

ATTORNEY AT LAW

TELEPHONE (320) 235-2522
Fax (320) 231-6065

432 W. LITCHFIELD AVE.
WILLMAR, MINNESOTA 56201

February 18, 1997

Hon. Thomas G. McCarthy
District Court Judge
Sibley County Courthouse
Box 867
Gaylord, MN 55334

RE: ITV Commitments

Dear Judge McCarthy:

I am responding to your Memo dated February 13, 1997 regarding ITV Commitment hearings. As you know, I have been appointed in a number of the ITV hearings over the last year. My practice is to interview the patient in person at Willmar Regional Treatment Center as soon as I can after receiving the Petition for Commitment. In almost all of the commitments, I have talked to the patient in person before the Probable Cause hearing.

From my experience, I feel the patient likes being interviewed in person and as early as possible. They know that they can call me at my office if something comes up they think I should know. They know that I can come out to the hospital if that need arises. I am also close in proximity to the court appointed examiners. Often I find out what their recommendations are going to be. If I do not agree with them, I can discuss this with the patient and consider another examination.

In most cases, the patients do not have any problem with the ITV hearings. The procedure is explained to them and I think they are happy they do not have to ride to and from the hearings. In those instances where a patient is getting messages from the TV or speakers etc., I have recommended the hearing take place in the courtroom.

From a scheduling standpoint, I appreciate that the hearings are held on time. When the ITV is scheduled the hearing has to be held or the time runs out. A couple of times time has run out before closing statements and these were done by telephone. If more testimony had to be taken, I would demand the hearing be continued until the ITV could be scheduled again.

Every now and then there is some problem with the hardware. This is usually taken care of and the hearings are held. I think these problems are more rare as time goes on.

Hopefully these comments help in your report to the Supreme Court. I feel the patients are the ones that really benefit from this procedure. I am not aware of any complaints from the patients about the ITV program.

Very truly yours,


Michael D. Thalberg

McLEOD COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER

801 East 10th Street
Glencoe, Minnesota 55336
(320) 864-3134
FAX (320) 864-5920

DUANE E. KOPESKY
McLeod County Sheriff

Al Cheney
Chief Deputy
Lt. Bonnie Case
Jail Administrator

February 21, 1997

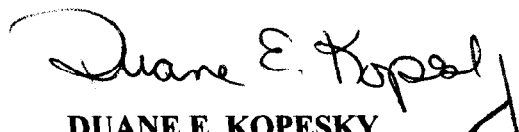
Honorable Thomas McCarthy
District Court Judge
McLeod County Court Administration
801 East 10th Street
Glencoe, Minnesota 55336

Dear Judge McCarthy:

This letter is in response to your request for information and comments relative to the Interactive Video Commitment Hearings, Sibley County Pilot Project. My experience with this process has been very positive. The McLeod County Sheriff's Department experienced a significant reduction in the number of mental health transports in 1996. This is important to me as a public safety issue, also, due to the unpredictable behavior officers can encounter during those mental health transports.

I would encourage the Supreme Court to accept Interactive Video Commitment Hearings as a standard procedure for mental illness commitments. This procedure increases public and officer safety. I believe it is also a cost saving measure for Sheriff's Departments in the area of transports and I believe this process is less awkward for the patient and family.

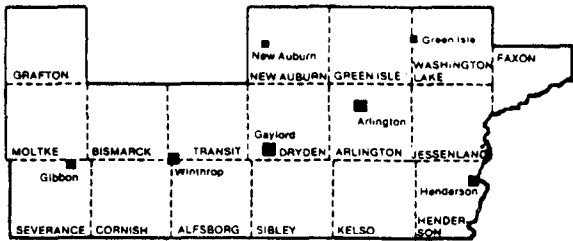
Most sincerely,



DUANE E. KOPESKY
McLEOD COUNTY SHERIFF

DEK:jdm

cc: Lt. Bonnie Case



OFFICE OF THE

Sibley County Attorney

207 NORTH MAIN
POST OFFICE BOX H
WINTHROP, MN -- 55396-0406
Tel: (507) 647-5377

DAVID E. SCHAUER, County Attorney

JOEL G. PASCHKA, Assistant County Attorney

March 4, 1997

The Honorable Thomas G. McCarthy
Judge of District Court
Box 867
Gaylord, MN 55334

RE: Interactive Video Commitment Hearings, Sibley County Pilot Project

Dear Judge McCarthy:

In response to your memo of February 13, 1997, I gladly take this opportunity to express my satisfaction with the First Judicial District pilot project using interactive video for civil commitments. As you are aware, this office was involved from the beginning of this project and I believe we can truly appreciate the benefits of this project.

I am sure you will have presented to you statements from others who will talk about the benefits to the patient, the benefits to law enforcement, the benefits to treating professionals, the benefits to examining professionals and the benefits to court administration. I will not belabor them here.

As to my office, the interactive video project has resulted in a substantial savings to time. We no longer need to schedule special times for commitment hearings and spend a substantial amount of time on travel to the Willmar Regional Treatment Center, which is our catchment area. The hearings are held on regularly scheduled court days and do not disrupt to any significant degree the Court's calendar or our schedule. The quality of the video transmission makes for very effective communication between the patient, his or her attorney, the court appointed examiner, the Court and myself. I believe this methodology is also less disruptive to the patient and the Court receives a more accurate impression as to the patient's status. I also appreciate the flexibility that interactive video provides. Since we have patients in a number of regional treatment centers, we can still conduct our commitment hearing from the Sibley County Courthouse no matter where the patient is. I believe it is also a benefit to my office that the patient has an attorney appointed from the area where the patient is located. It allows that attorney to have more contact with the patient and thus more contact with my office to get matters resolved.

I see no real problems with the interactive video hearings. In fact, I would like to see use of video hearings expanded. For instance, for eight day detention hearings with juveniles held in facilities. It does not make a lot of sense to transport a juvenile to the courthouse for a two minute continued detention hearing. To me, this would be the ideal type of hearing to be held over the interactive video.

If you need anything additional or have any questions for me, please feel free to contact me.

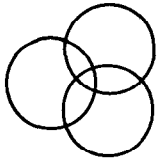
Sincerely,

OFFICE OF THE SIBLEY COUNTY ATTORNEY

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David E. Schauer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David E. Schauer
Sibley County Attorney

DES:bus



STATE OF MINNESOTA
**OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN FOR
MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL RETARDATION**

121 7th Place E. Ste 420, Metro Square Building, St. Paul, MN 55101-2117
612-296-3848 or Toll Free 1-800-657-3506

TTY/TDD - Minnesota Relay Service 612-297-5353 or 1-800-627-3529

February 18, 1997

Judge Thomas G. McCarthy
Sibley County District Court
Sibley County Courthouse
Box 867
Gaylord, MN 55334

Dear Judge McCarthy:

I thank you for the opportunity for input into the use of ITV for commitment hearings. I am especially glad for the additional chance for input as I believe I left out one very important aspect of ITV hearings during the open house discussion.

As I stated during the open house, there are a number of benefits which the ITV brings to the clients at the RTC. Many of the clients from Willmar RTC have a very long ride in a vehicle in order to attend their commitment hearing. Many times these trips can be as long as five hours round trip. Not only is that taxing on the individual's being in a vehicle for that long a period of time, but there have also been problems where clients haven't received either meals or the proper meals based on a special diet for a medical condition, which have caused medical problems upon their return to the RTC. With the use of ITV, that is not an issue.

Also, and this is the issue I neglected to raise during the open house, for the last couple of years it has become an increasing practice on the part of law enforcement who transport the clients to and from the hearings to not only use marked vehicles and wear uniforms, but to also use caged vehicles to put the individuals in and use handcuffs. The use of handcuffs has become more prevalent in the last year or two. As you know, the Commitment Act states that clients are supposed to be transported in unmarked vehicles by non-uniformed officers unless the court specifies otherwise. This is usually not the case. When I have been informed that clients are being transported in either marked vehicles or by uniformed officers, and upon checking court orders, there is no order stating that they may be in uniform or use a marked vehicle.

As to the use of cages, if you have to sit in a car for five hours in a caged vehicle, I would imagine that could cause anyone to have claustrophobia. Handcuffs, in my opinion, with the rare exception are uncalled for. Staff have informed me of these situations, and I have argued with officers and tried to explain that they are not dangerous individuals, and do not need handcuffs placed on them; however, the officers are given no leeway to use discretion in this area. They have stated that the sheriffs from their counties have required that they use handcuffs any time they transport



Judge Thomas G. McCarthy

February 18, 1997

Page 2

anyone in a vehicle. This is very dehumanizing and embarrassing to individuals who are not criminals, but simply have a mental illness and are going to a hearing.

In one instance, that I recall recently, an individual was going to a recommitment hearing. The deputy placed her in handcuffs. A staff tried to argue that she did not need it, and the deputy said they had to do it. Of note is the fact that she was being discharged the next day and the only reason for the commitment hearing was to be able to place her on a provisional discharge.

The use of ITV for commitment hearings gets away from these practices.

Another important benefit of ITV is that many times professional staff are subpoenaed to the hearings. This generally takes them away from the RTC for the majority of the day, and therefore, takes them away from the other clients whom they are working with at the RTC. This is a big benefit, not only to the RTC, but the clients who are being treated in that staff can go ahead and attend the ITV hearing and then go back and either do their one-to-one counseling with individuals or treatment planning or discharge planning.

Another benefit that I have seen with the use of ITV is that it allows physically fragile clients to attend their hearings. This is especially true with the geriatric population at the RTC. Many of those clients cannot tolerate the long drive for their hearings, and their attendance is usually waived due to this fact. However, with the use of ITV, the clients need only be brought to the Administration Building in order to attend. With the counties who are using ITV at this point, it is rare to see an individual need to waive attendance at their commitment hearing.

From my discussions with the clients regarding the use of ITV, I have not had any complaints. Many of them seem to appreciate not having to travel.

I would, however, ask that if it is going to be done universally, which was a recommendation of the Civil Commitment Task Force, that standards be set as to how it will be used. I would specifically recommend the standards set up in the First Judicial District's Pilot Project. We have recently had a problem with a county that had done an ITV commitment hearing where the attorney was at the courthouse in the county and the client was sitting at the RTC with a staff member. It is my opinion that the patient should be wherever the attorney is or vice versa in order to allow for private conversations, which may be necessary. Using the First Judicial District standards, this situation would never have happened.

Judge Thomas G. McCarthy

February 18, 1997

Page 3

I am in full support of the use of ITV for commitment hearings as long as appropriate standards are in place. I also believe wholeheartedly in the fact that if the client wishes to be at the courthouse for the hearing and not have it on ITV, they should be afforded that right.

Sincerely,


A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger Schwab".

Roger Schwab
Region VI & VIII Client Advocate
Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health
& Mental Retardation

RS/jj

DEPARTMENT: Willmar Regional Treatment Center **STATE OF MINNESOTA****Office Memorandum**

DATE: February 25, 1997

TO: Thomas G. McCarthy
Judge of District CourtFROM: Scott C. Armstrong, M.D.  AD
Medical Director
Greg Spartz, CEO 

PHONE: 320/231-5903

SUBJECT: **INTERACTIVE VIDEO COMMITMENT HEARINGS
SIBLEY COUNTY PILOT PROJECT**

I am writing this to inform you that, from a Medical Director's perspective, the use of I-TV in the court room for commitment hearings is a great use of technology. Provided a patient does not object using I-TV or have any delusions regarding its use, I-TV has only advantages.

These advantages are:

1. I-TV saves time. Staff and patients do not need to be transported to and from a court. This saves staff time and allows patients to only be briefly interrupted in their treatment.
2. I-TV provides a better "atmosphere". I often believe patients are intimidated in a court room. Some feel they are in trouble. By allowing the patient to stay in the hospital and have the proceedings occur in more familiar surroundings, it is less frightening and disruptive for them.
3. Finally, court room cancellations due to Minnesota's infamous winter weather could be all but eliminated by the use of I-TV. This last issue allows the court and the hospital to be more efficient with its resources.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

SCA/mf

SIBLEY COUNTY
ITV COMMITMENT HEARINGS
TRACKING SHEET

	<u>Date</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Facility</u>	<u>Hearing Type</u>
1.	December 4, 1995	McLeod	Willmar RTC	6 mo Commit Review
2.	December 11, 1995	Scott	St Peter RTC	Harhut-MR Hearing
3.	December 14, 1995	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Commitment
4.	December 18, 1995	Carver	Willmar RTC	Probable Cause
5.	December 21, 1995	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Commitment
6.	January 8, 1996	Carver	Willmar RTC	Commitment/Jarvis
7.	January 11, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Jarvis
8.	February 5, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Commitment
9.	February 5, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	6 Mo. Review
10.	March 11, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Final
11.	April 1, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Jarvis
12.	April 4, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Final
13.	April 8, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Conservatorship
14.	April 15, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	6 Mo. Review
15.	May 16, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Prob. Cause
16.	May 23, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Prob. Cause
17.	May 30, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Final
18.	June 6, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	6 Mo. Review

19.	June 10, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Prob. Cause
20.	June 13, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Final
21.	July 22, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Probable
22.	July 22, 1996	Sibley	St. Peter RTC	Probable
23.	July 29, 1996	Sibley	St. Peter RTC	Final
24.	August 1, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Final
25.	August 1, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Final
26.	August 12, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Jarvis
27.	August 19, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Probable
28.	August 26, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Final
29.	September 19, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Probable
30.	September 23, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Probable
31.	September 26, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Probable-CD
32.	September 26, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Final
33.	September 30, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Final
34.	September 30, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Final
35.	October 3, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Probable
36.	October 10, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Final
37.	November 7, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Review
38.	November 7, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Final
39.	November 12, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Final
40.	November 25, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	18 Mo. Review
41.	December 2, 1996	Sibley	Willmar RTC	Final

42.	December 19, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Final
43.	December 30, 1996	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Conservatorship
44.	January 27, 1997	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Probable
45.	January 30, 1997	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Probable
46.	January 30, 1997	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Final
47.	February 6, 1997	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Final
48.	February 18, 1997	Sibley	Mpls VA Hosp.	Final
49.	February 24, 1997	McLeod	Brainerd RTC	6 Mo. Review
50.	March 3, 1997	McLeod	Fergus Falls	Probable
51.	March 17, 1997	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Probable
52.	March 17, 1997	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Conservatorship
53.	March 17, 1997	McLeod	Fergus Falls	Final
54.	March 20, 1997	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Probable
55.	March 24, 1997	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Revocation
56.	March 24, 1997	McLeod	Willmar RTC	Final