

Tribal Court State Court Forum (TCSCF) Quarterly Meeting Summary

3/11/2022

Virtual Meeting – via Zoom

The purpose of the Tribal Court State Court Forum is to enhance tribal court and state court relationships, provide an opportunity to address issues arising from the courts' concurrent jurisdictions, collaborate on development and delivery of judicial education and training, recommend revisions to Minnesota's procedural rules of court, and work on issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Tribal Court Co-Chairs: Hon. Chris Anderson and Hon. Vanya Hogen

State Court Co-Chairs: Hon. Denise Reilly and Hon. Sally Tarnowski

1. Blessing and Welcome

The meeting began with a moment of silence and was followed by a welcome from TCSCF Co-Chair, the Honorable Sally Tarnowski, along with her fellow Co-Chairs, the Honorable Chris Anderson, the Honorable Vanya Hogen, and the Honorable Denise Reilly.

Introductions were made by forum members as well as from special guests who were in attendance.

The Honorable BJ Jones shared an announcement about the 8th Circuit looking for a Minnesota tribal court judge to participate in a panel its putting together for an upcoming meeting. Anyone interested should contact Judge Jones.

2. Review and Approve October 8, 2021, Meeting Summary



Meeting Summary -
TCSCF 10-8-21.pdf

Approved without change.

3. Collaborative Treatment Courts



Interjurisdictional
Collaboration - TC-S

The Honorable Denise Reilly introduced two presentations on treatment court initiatives involving tribal court and state court collaborations. The first was one from the Honorable Korey Wahwassuck and the Honorable John Smith about a collaboration they formed between Leech Lake and Cass County. The second was a presentation from the Honorable David DeGroat and the Honorable Darlene Rivera Spalla who shared about the collaboration between White Earth Nation and Mahnommen County.

Forum members and special guests then participated in a conversation about how collaborative treatment courts are formed, what their data is for success, and what they can do to further support these collaborative efforts.

State Treatment Court Coordinator, Cecilia Bliss, introduced herself and shared what she can do to support tribal courts and state courts in new and existing relationships like these.

4. Updates and Future Plans

The Honorable Anne McKeig from the MN Supreme Court shared an update from the CJI ICWA Subcommittee. As part of her update, she shared information about plans to host another ICWA Courts Summit.

TCSCF Tribal Court Co-Chair, the Honorable Vanya Hogen, facilitated a conversation about possible topics for the next meeting agenda and whether to proceed with an in-person or remote meeting format. The consensus was to meet in-person next time with a remote option, if possible. The Honorable BJ Jones expressed Prairie Island's willingness to host the next meeting and to explore doing so in a hybrid format.

Future topic suggestions included:

- IV-E reimbursement – an overview of how it works, best practices for judicial officers, and resources available to support the work.
- January 25, 2022, Star Tribune article about removals in ICWA cases. The ICWA Law Center was cited in it and perhaps someone from there would be willing to come and speak with the TCSCF group about it.
- [January 24, 2022, article spotlighting Red Lake Nation](#) – perhaps the TCSCF could invite someone from Red Lake Nation to share more about this new approach and the hard work they are doing in this area.
- State court probation revocation issues revisited – a brainstorm of solutions. Would some supervision or other involvement by tribes during probation make a difference?
- Collaborative treatment courts revisited – hearing from someone who successfully completed Leech Lake/Cass County treatment court and/or the White Earth Nation/Mahnomen County Healing to Wellness or DWI Court.
- Training proposals for judge conferences.

- Criminal jurisdiction – intersection between law enforcement and tribal sovereignty – recent MN legislation, U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in U.S. vs. Cooley and other developments that may be producing better outcomes for MN tribes and their members (recent MSBA Appellate Practice Section CLE on the topic).
- Check-in regarding TCSCF strategic priorities.

5. Closing Remarks & Adjourn

TCSCF Tribal Court Co-Chair, the Honorable Chris Anderson, thanked everyone for their presence and participation and shared that the co-chairs would follow-up by email with more information about the next meeting, including opportunities for further suggestions and conversation about possible agenda items.

Meeting adjourned.

[Click to see agendas and summaries from past meetings](#)

Next Meeting: 6/3/2022 – Tribal Court Host: Prairie Island Indian Community