

SUPREME COURT OF COLORADO

STATE JUDICIAL BUILDING
2 EAST 14TH AVENUE
DENVER, COLORADO 80203-2116

MARY J. MULLARKEY
CHIEF JUSTICE

(303) 837-3771

April 9, 2008

Dear Problem Solving Court Advisory Committee Member:

Nearly two decades have passed since the first drug treatment court was introduced as an innovative strategy to solve the problem of increasing court cases that involved individuals who were abusing and/or dependant on drugs. Viewed by many as a "fad" that would fade away, problem-solving justice has withstood the test of time and their effectiveness has begun to be validated by a growing body of research literature.

Problem-solving justice has evolved into other areas such as mental health, truancy, domestic violence, child dependency and neglect to name a few. Today there are over 2,500 problem-solving courts in the United States; of which there are nearly 50 problem-solving courts operating in our State of Colorado.

Historically, problem solving courts in Colorado have been created at the local level with little coordination with other judicial districts regarding staffing models, funding models, treatment, case management, and other policy and practice issues that impact the sustainability and effectiveness of these courts.

In order to provide policy guidance and support for problem solving courts in Colorado, I am establishing the Problem Solving Court Advisory Committee. Enclosed you will find a copy of an Order Establishing the Problem Solving Advisory Committee and a Charge to the Committee.

The Problem Solving Court Advisory Committee will convene April 25, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM in the Supreme Court Conference Room.

In my anticipated absence to the April 25th meeting I wish to thank you in advance for your willingness accept the appointment to serve on this committee. Your dedication to improving the manner in which Colorado Courts pursue challenges and opportunities will be recognized for decades to come.

Sincerely,


Mary J. Mullarkey

SUPREME COURT OF COLORADO
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE

ORDER

**Establishing the Problem Solving Court Advisory
Committee and Charge to the Committee**

Problem Solving Courts (Drug Courts, Juvenile Drug Courts, DUI Courts, Mental Health Courts, and Family Treatment Courts) continue to be developed in judicial districts throughout Colorado. Drug treatment courts provide an alternative to traditional case management of substance-abusing clients and have demonstrated better outcomes for the clients. Clients who participate in treatment courts are more likely to complete treatment successfully, are more likely to have positive outcomes, and are less likely to have subsequent cases in the court system.

Drug treatment courts and other problem solving courts have been established primarily at a local level with little coordination with other judicial districts regarding staffing models, funding models, availability of treatment, use of case management systems, and other related policy issues impacting the continuous operation of these courts.

An effective evaluation of problem solving courts that will guide future development of these courts cannot be undertaken without an oversight body to make specific recommendations to the Court regarding best practices in the problem solving court field.

The State Court Administrator's Office has collaborated with individual courts and judicial districts to provide advice, evaluation, and training concerning treatment courts but has not had adequate resources to establish model problem solving courts and seek state-wide funding for model courts.

Therefore, the Problem Solving Court Advisory Committee is hereby established and charged with the task of developing effective procedures and evidence-based practices for developing and maintaining these courts throughout the Colorado Court System.

To this end the Problem Solving Court Advisory Committee is assigned to:

Study and attempt to address the concerns that not all drug treatment courts conform to the 10 key components recognized by the Drug Court Program Office of the Office of Justice Programs of the United States Department of Justice. These 10 key components are:

- (a) Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system processing.

- (b) Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
- (c) Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program.
- (d) Drug courts provide a continuum of alcohol, drug and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
- (e) Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
- (f) A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance.
- (g) Ongoing judicial interaction with each participant is essential.
- (h) Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
- (i) Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation and operations.
- (j) Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community based organizations increases the availability of treatment services, enhances drug court effectiveness, and generates local support.

Develop a staffing model for treatment courts that reflects the needs of the Trial Court, Probation, District/County Attorneys, Public Defenders (Defense Bar) and treatment organizations to effectively operate these specific dockets within the 10 key component guidelines.

Assist in the development of a strategic plan that will lead to the sustainability of problem solving courts in terms of judicial, community, and adequate financial support.

Develop a funding model reflective of an approved staffing model and all other expenses associated with the operations of problem solving courts.

Assist in the development and design of an evaluation strategy including design of a statewide automated Drug Treatment Court management information system consisting of identified core data collection elements for day to day management of drug treatment courts and long-term outcome evaluation.

Assist in the development of a benefit-cost evaluation model that will assist the State Court Administrators Office in assessing the effectiveness of problem solving courts in improving outcomes for court clients, the judicial branch, and the justice system as a whole.

Provide guidance and support for problem solving courts through identification of best practices, identification of training and education needs, and the formulation of a problem solving court professional organization to facilitate communication and ideas among interagency stakeholders.

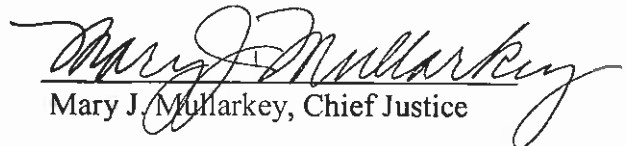
Take on other duties and responsibilities as directed to promote and coordinate the development and implementation of problem solving courts.

The following are appointed to serve as members of the Treatment Court Advisory Committee for a term of two (2) years with the option of extending appointment:

	<u>District</u>
Jaelyn Senese, District Administrator	1
Honorable Larry Naves, Chief Judge	2
Honorable Karen Ashby, District JV Court Judge	2
Honorable Lisa Kirkman, Magistrate	4
Honorable Martha Minot, County Judge	6
Honorable J. Steven Patrick, Chief Judge	7
Honorable Daniel Kaup, District Judge	8
Paul Cooper, CPO	8
Honorable James Boyd, Chief Judge	9
Lisa Lane, CPO	11
Honorable John Kuenhold, Chief Judge	12
Steven Proctor, CPO	13
Caren Stanley, District Administrator	15/16
Honorable Katherine Delgado, District Judge	17
Laurie McKager, District Administrator	18
Honorable Gilbert Gutierrez, District Judge	19
Kevin Nelan, CPO	19
Honorable Roxanne Bailin, Chief Judge (committee chair)	20
Eric Hogue, District Administrator	6/22

Additional persons may be asked to serve as sub-committee members when deemed appropriate by this advisory committee as related to the goals and objectives assigned in this charge.

Done at Denver, Colorado this 9th day of April, 2008.


Mary J. Mullarkey, Chief Justice