

# Supreme Court of Florida

No. AOSC22-29

IN RE: STEERING COMMITTEE ON PROBLEM-SOLVING  
COURTS

## ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

Florida's courts are frequently called on to respond to the needs of individuals with serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders who become involved in the justice system. Problem-solving courts, a form of differentiated case management, address the root causes of justice system involvement for these individuals through specialized dockets, multidisciplinary teams, and a non-adversarial approach. Offering evidence-based treatment, judicial supervision, and accountability, problem-solving courts provide individualized interventions for participants, thereby improving public safety, restoring lives, reducing recidivism, and promoting confidence and satisfaction with the justice system process.

The purpose of the Steering Committee on Problem-Solving Courts is to continue addressing the needs of court-engaged individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders

through the use of differentiated case management principles and other evidence-based and emerging best practices.

Over the next two years, the Steering Committee shall perform the following tasks:

1. Continue to develop best practice standards or guidelines for juvenile drug court and driving under the influence court and recommend revisions to approved and previously proposed draft standards or guidelines, as needed.
2. Continue to provide guidance to the Office of the State Courts Administrator on the development of statewide problem-solving court training initiatives on best practices.
3. Guide the Problem-Solving Court Advisory Group with making funding recommendations to the Trial Court Budget Commission, as needed, based on regular updates provided by the Advisory Group.

The Steering Committee shall perform its responsibilities consistent with the *Long-Range Strategic Plan for the Florida Judicial*

*Branch 2022-2027*, including Goal 1.2 (Ensure the fair and timely resolution of all cases through proactive, effective, and consistent case management practices), Goal 1.5 (Encourage the use of consistent practices, procedures, and forms statewide), Goal 2.4 (Collaborate with justice system partners and community organizations to deliver appropriate services), and Goal 2.6 (Promote the use of innovative and effective problem-solving courts and alternative dispute resolution processes).

The Steering Committee is authorized to propose rule changes that are necessary to fulfill the charges in this administrative order. Should the Steering Committee recommend amendments to the rules of court procedure or forms, it shall file such recommendations in petition form with the Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court.

The Steering Committee is also authorized, in accordance with the applicable state court system protocols, to propose for the Court's consideration, statutory changes that are necessary to fulfill the charges in this administrative order along with any statutory

changes previously proposed by the Steering Committee that were approved by the Court but have not yet been enacted.

Should the Steering Committee make recommendations that require additional funding or resources to implement, impact court technology, or impact education and training needs of judges and court staff, the Steering Committee is directed to establish the necessary liaison relationship with the District Court of Appeal Budget Commission, the Trial Court Budget Commission, the Florida Courts Technology Commission, or the Florida Court Education Council, as appropriate. At a minimum, the Steering Committee shall provide the chairs of these liaison groups with copies of those Steering Committee reports and recommendations, prior to the finalization of the reports.

The following persons are appointed or reappointed to serve on the Steering Committee for a term that expires on June 30, 2024:

Ms. Melanie Brown-Woofter  
President/CEO, Florida Behavioral Health Association

The Honorable Shawn Crane  
Circuit Court Judge, Sixth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable David Denkin  
County Court Judge, Sarasota County

The Honorable Ronald N. Ficarrotta  
Chief Judge, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Bonnie J. Helms  
Chief Judge, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Alicia Latimore  
Circuit Court Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Steven Leifman  
County Court Judge, Miami-Dade County

The Honorable Steven Levin  
Circuit Court Judge, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

Magistrate Shannon Lord  
General Magistrate, Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Janeice Martin  
County Court Judge, Collier County

The Honorable Melanie May  
Appellate Court Judge, Fourth District Court of Appeal

Ms. Desiree Meaton-Francisco  
Director, Medication-Assisted Treatment Program  
DACCO Behavioral Health

Ms. Ita Neymotin  
Regional Counsel, Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil  
Regional Counsel, Second District

Dr. Roger Peters  
Professor Emeritus  
University of South Florida

The Honorable Nina Ashenafi Richardson  
County Court Judge, Leon County

Mr. Doug Simon  
Director of Office of Drug Control  
Executive Office of the Governor

The Honorable Michele Towbin Singer  
Circuit Court Judge, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

Ms. Kelly Steele  
Court Programs Manager, Ninth Judicial Circuit

Ms. Alina Stoothoff  
Court Operations Consultant, Fifth Judicial Circuit

Mr. Steven Tillman  
Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 8 Network  
Homeless Coordinator, U.S. Department of Veterans  
Affairs

Mr. Mark Weinberg  
Trial Court Administrator, Seventh Judicial Circuit

The success of Florida's problem-solving courts depends upon effective communication among all stakeholders. Accordingly, the following representatives, or their designees, shall also serve as members of the Steering Committee:

Executive Director, Florida Guardian ad Litem Program

President, Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association

President, Florida Public Defender Association

Secretary, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice

Secretary, Florida Department of Children and Families

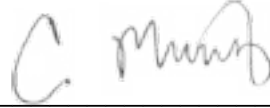
Secretary, Florida Department of Corrections

The Honorable Steven Leifman shall serve as Chair of the Steering Committee through June 30, 2024. Staff support shall be provided by the Office of the State Courts Administrator.

The Steering Committee must be cognizant of the limitations on the resources available to support its efforts as it develops a work plan that will accomplish the important tasks assigned in this administrative order. With regard to meetings, the Steering Committee should strive to utilize the most economical means appropriate to the type of work being accomplished.


The Steering Committee shall submit its reports to the Chief Justice through the State Courts Administrator.

DONE AND ORDERED at Tallahassee, Florida, on July 12,  
2022.



Chief Justice Carlos G. Muñoz

ATTEST:



John A. Tomasino, Clerk of Court

