

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MEETING MINUTES**

June 30, 2008

1:00 p.m.

Texas Association of Counties

Chair Peter Vogel called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

JCIT Members attending

Chair, Peter Vogel
Vice Chair, Bob Wessels
Honorable Scott Hochberg
Honorable Lamar McCorkle
Honorable Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza
Honorable Edward Wells
Honorable Gary Harger
Honorable Brian Quinn, by telephone
Honorable Linda Penn, by telephone
Honorable Berta Mejia, by telephone

JCIT Liaison Members attending

Carl Reynolds
Honorable David Evans
Penny Redington
Honorable Blake Hawthorne

Others Attending

Mike Griffith
Charles Gray
Gayle Latham
Caren Skipworth
Virginia Etherly
Marc Viteritto
Brittany Hannah
Chris Summers
Connie Pechal
Alice McAfee
Jim Foley, by telephone
Nancy Riser, by telephone

Staff Attending

Margaret Bennett
Bruce Hermes
Yolanda Aleman
Scott Jones

Thomas Sullivan
Amelia Jernigan

Chair Peter Vogel called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

Minutes from the June 15, 2007, meeting were reviewed and adopted unanimously.

Minutes from the April 14, 2008, meeting were reviewed and adopted unanimously.

Mr. Vogel requested consideration of adoption of the NIEM proposed rule change regarding standards for electronic data interchanges, NIEM Rule Adoption Preamble as proposed by staff and as amended with summary of comments received, and the NIEM rule revision after comments as proposed by staff. Motion to adopt was unanimous.

Mr. Vogel discussed possible standard document filing types, possibly based on the new Judicial Council monthly reporting categories. Mr. Vogel suggested the need for standardized categories to be used statewide along with a list for fees, capturing more detailed information and uniformity between counties. Deadline for standard document filing types is December 1, 2010.

Charles Gray of the Conference of Urban Counties (CUC) provided an update on the CUC Tyler Technology Odyssey project. Charles stated that the Odyssey Case Management System 2008 release is currently in testing for civil law, and they plan to be done by end of 2009.

Mr. Gray reported that these counties are already implemented with the criminal justice information system: Collin, Dallas, Fort Bend, Hays, Kaufman, Williamson, and Wise.

Thirteen other counties are underway. Harris and Smith counties are in the contract process and 37 counties are eligible. Hosting options are now also available, but a small software module must be installed on each desktop.

Gayle Latham, Director of the County Information Resources Agency (CIRA), provided an update on TAC's Case Management project. First she recapped the project timeline.

In July 2007, the CIRA IT Advisory Committee brought the proposal to the CIRA Board. In Fall 2007, a survey and feasibility study were conducted. In January, 2008 the CIRA Board approved the next phase of the proposed project. And in April, 2008 the project advisory committee was appointed, consisting of Judge David Field, Chairman, Dallam County; Judge Randy Sims, Brazos County; Judge John Firth, Coryell County; Judge Susan M. Redford, Ector County; Judge Tom Keyes, Gaines County; Judge Frank Summers, Milam County; Judge John Thompson, Polk County; Judge John W. Murrile, Wharton County; and Judge Rosalva Guerra, Zapata County.

In May 2008, a non-binding resolution to participate in the proposed project was sent to counties.

Ms. Latham reported that CIRA's goal for the project is to have 50 counties to participate with commitments of \$800,000.

As of June 27, 2008, 31 counties have committed \$343,492.28.

Participating Counties:

Sterling County	Rusk County	Polk County
Limestone County	Milam County	Falls County
Brazos County	Gaines County	Matagorda County
Nacogdoches County	Ector County	Reeves County
Colorado County	Burleson County	Wharton County
Lee County	Coryell County	Grimes County
McCulloch County	Shelby County	Robertson County
Howard County	Harrison County	Washington County
Haskell County	Armstrong County	Houston County
Fannin County	Dallam County	
Wichita County	Zapata County	

The CIRA board was also meeting June 30, 2008. Following that, updated information on the project will be mailed to counties. The TAC Board of Directors will receive project update at August 2008 meeting. September 30, 2008 set as deadline for resolutions to be adopted by counties wishing to participate in project, and on October 10, 2007 the CIRA Board will review status of project.

Tom Sullivan provided an update on the Automated Registry. The Legislature provided \$3 million to share data from state agencies to the judiciary. The two major agencies involved are the Department of Public Safety and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The vendor that has been selected is Unisys. The first pilot project will begin December 2008 and will be counties in close proximity to Austin.

Mr. Sullivan is currently working with several agencies to seek their participation in the project. They are the Department of State Health Services for vital statistics and mental health data; the Texas Workforce Commission for salary records; the Office of the Attorney General for child support information; and the Department of Family and Protective Services, for basic case information on child protection.

Carl Reynolds and Scott Jones provided an update on TexDECK. Scott Jones provided a brief overview of the Functional Requirements website located at:
<http://www.courts.state.tx.us/oca/texdeck/frd/TexDECK%20Functional%20Requirements.htm>

Bob Wessels reported on the NICS Improvement Act of 2007. It would amend the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993. Mr. Wessels reported that this bill was spurred by campus shootings in recent years. Due to the lack of automation and accurate information in the NICS database, Congress has authorized \$500 million to be appropriated for further, more-complete automation. This amount has not yet been approved.

Bruce Hermes provided an update on Texas Appeals Management and E-Filing System (TAMES). OCA has a contract technical lead and three contract programmers working along with the state staff working on the project. Members of the TAMES group have been visiting with the appellate courts with very positive feedback. Three main areas being focused on are:

- Case Management rebuild,
- in-chambers collaboration, and
- new inflow of e-filing to the appellate courts.

TAMES is currently on schedule. Pilots are planned for early summer of next year in the Supreme Court and the 14th Court of Appeals. Blake Hawthorne with the Supreme Court commended OCA on their outstanding work and great feedback from the appellate courts.

Peter Vogel provided an update on the Task Force to Ensure Judicial Readiness in Times of Emergency. Denise Davis of Austin, special counsel with the Baker Botts law firm, chairs the task force, and Justice Don Willett is the Court's liaison.

There was no new business.

Mr. Vogel adjourned the meeting at 3:30 pm