

Judicial Committee on Information Technology
May 17, 2024 – Texas Association of Counties

Meeting Minutes

I. Call To Order

Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:01AM.

Voting Members Present

Honorable Rebecca Simmons

Bob Wessels

Honorable Lawrence Doss (virtual)

David Escamilla (virtual)

Honorable Roy Ferguson (virtual)

Honorable Laura Hinojosa (virtual)

Tracy Hopper

Todd Smith (virtual)

Dean Stanzione (virtual)

Mark Unger (virtual)

Honorable John Warren (virtual)

Non-Voting Members Present

Honorable Jeffrey Boyd (virtual)

Honorable Michael Cruz (virtual)

Micheal Cuccaro (virtual)

Doug Gowin (virtual)

Jessica Griffith (virtual)

Honorable Patti Henry (virtual)

Roland Johnson (virtual)

Cynthia Orr (virtual)

Honorable Russ Ridgway

Honorable Nancy Rister (virtual)

Aaron Varner (virtual)

Honorable Deanna Williamson (virtual)

OCA Staff

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services

Others Present

Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies

Amelia Balderama, iDocket

Terry Derrick (virtual), Tyler Technologies

Jamie Gillespie (virtual), Tyler Technologies

Victor Jauregui (virtual), Travis County
Diana Parsons (virtual), Travis County
Chris Ricci (virtual), Tyler Technologies
Steve Schenk, Thompson-Reuters/ProDoc
Stephen Stehling (virtual), Tyler Technologies
Diamond Stinson (virtual), Dallas County
Shay Stroik (virtual), Tarrant County
David Wilms, Easy Serve

II. Meeting Minutes from the Previous meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 2024 meeting by **Bob Wessels**, seconded by **Tracy Hopper**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

III. Program Updates

Evan Acosta with Tyler Technologies provided an update on the program. Mr. Acosta reported that there are now more than 800,000 users that submit approximately 46,000 envelopes each weekday. He mentioned that additional JP offices have been added. He stated that as they onboard a JP, they typically contact the other JPs in the county if they want to participate.

Mr. Acosta reported that the current return for correction rate stands at 6.5%, whole point under the national average. The committee discussed the return for correction rates for different case types.

For Guide and File, Mr. Acosta spoke about the challenges of connecting the interviews to electronic filing. He mentioned in some cases, each county will have different items that need to be completed in addition to the standard forms. He also mentioned in some cases, clerks will reject standard forms. Justice Simmons asked that a small group be put together to look at each interview and review the issues with getting them linked into the eFiling system.

For re:SearchTX, Mr. Acosta reviewed the revenue generated to the counties to date. He mentioned that this should continue to increase as more counties integrated. He reiterated that most requested feature is the addition of orders, judgements, and documents in criminal cases. He also mentioned as criminal is added, counties will be able to retire portal, which is reaching end of life in 2025.

Ms. Orr spoke about an issue where not all documents in criminal cases can be eFiled. Justice Simmons asked that Cynthia Orr, Tracy Hopper, John Warren, Deana Williamson, and Casey Kennedy meet on the topic and search for a solution.

IV. Subcommittee Updates

A. Standards

Bob Wessels summarized the subcommittee's work in making changes to the Technology Standards including changes to case types and additional services.

Motion to approve version 8.5 of the Technology Standards by **Bob Wessels**, seconded by **Tracy Hopper**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Wessels summarized the subcommittee's discussion on adding criminal documents to re:SearchTX to include Information/Indictments, Judgements, Sentences, and Orders of Dismissal. He stated that the committee would need to further explore additional documents publicly available in criminal cases.

Justice Simmons asked why the committee limits to the four types mentioned. Tracy Hopper stated that in Harris County, additional document types are available on the web. She talked about how as long as the CMS has the document correctly labeled then there is no issue. Deana Williamson relayed concerns about sensitive data being released as something the Court of Criminal Appeals may be concerned as well.

John Warren discussed the need to ensure that criminal history records are not attached to records being filed with the court.

Motion to have the standards subcommittee draft a detailed recommendation for consideration at a future meeting to add Information/Indictments, Judgements, Sentences and Orders of Dismissal for criminal cases for counties that are integrated with re:SearchTX by **Bob Wessels**, seconded by **Tracy Hopper**. Opposed by Mark Unger. **Motion carried.**

Justice Simmons asked the standards subcommittee to make the written recommendation for the four documents mentioned earlier. She also asked that the subcommittee look at the other documents in criminal cases that should be available to the public.

Justice Simmons deferred discussion on visiting judges until Judge Hinde is available.

V. Old Business

Justice Simmons

VI. Adjourn

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:01PM.