

**Minutes**  
**Court Technology Committee**  
**Friday May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**  
**9:15 am**

Members Participating:

Hon. Jerod Tufte, Supreme Court Justice  
Hon. Lonnie Olson, Judge - Northeast Judicial District  
Hon. Robin Schmidt, Judge – Northwest Judicial District  
Rod Olson, District Court Administrator – Unit 2  
Petra Hulm, Chief Deputy Clerk of Supreme Court  
Michele Bring, Clerk of District Court – Burleigh County  
Kristen Erickson, Recorder – Cass County  
Lee Ann Barnhardt, Director of Education & Communication  
Susan Hoffer, Clerk of District Court – Ward County

Members Absent:

Hon. Stacy Louser, Judge – North Central Judicial  
Hon. Rhonda Ehlis, Judge – Southwest Judicial District

Guests:

Chris Iverson, Assistant Court Administrator – Unit 2

Staff:

John Tassava, Director of Technology

The meeting was called to order by Chair Justice Tufte.

**Approval of Minutes from November 6th, 2020 Meeting**

**Rod Olson moved to approve the November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes. Petra Hulm seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

**Odyssey User Group Update**

Chris Iverson stated there has not been any formal action taken recently, however, members have been working with Joint Procedures regarding rules 3.4 and 41 on confidentiality settings in Odyssey. Additionally, some members have been working with DOT regarding information sharing. There is also work being done regarding the pretrial diversion business practice. She is working on scheduling several shorter meetings for the User Group in the next couple of months.

**Odyssey 2019 Upgrade**

John stated we are in the process of testing the latest version of Odyssey 2019. The first round of testing has been completed. The programmers are in the process of testing the interfaces. There is not yet a date set for upgrading but anticipating early fall. This new release will also allow for a link to cases from within the dashboard.

## **General System Status Updates**

### **Initial Criminal**

All counties, who are on Justware, with the exception of 2, are using the initial criminal e-filing process.

### **Zoom**

52 of the 53 Dtns have been distributed. These were funded by the Cares Act. XLR connections have been installed to connect the courtroom sound and recording systems.

### **Electronic Warrants**

Usage and the approved warrants continues to rise. 31 of the 53 counties are active on the system. Several changes are being piloted in the next few months including PRTT and GPS tracking.

### **Juvenile Dashboard**

The juvenile dashboard was released to users on August 19, 2020. Enhancements were completed in December and January. Hyperlinks from the dashboard to Odyssey cases will be available with the installation of Odyssey 2019. They are also working to include on the dashboard graphic representations of trends in data.

### **Courtroom Recording Software**

CourtSmart installation was completed in the courtrooms in the end of March. The old VoicelQ recorded files were converted to CourtSmart. A request to search by name in the docket is currently being tested. The next phases are additional remote recording, transcripts and remote camera control.

### **Sound Mixer Upgrades**

Sound mixers in all courtrooms are now standardized using the same model. The last few CLR plate installs for sound from external devices is being finished up. This enables the ability to record zoom sessions easier in the court recording software and with more clarity with devices like the Dten.

### **Software Upgrades**

The BCI warrant integration is currently in the user acceptance testing phase. Pilot agencies are being planned for the end of summer. BCI stated it is taking longer due to some bugs and enhancements which were not anticipated. Phase 1 is limited to BCI receiving the data electronically and automatically from Odyssey when a warrant is added or updated. Phase 2 will be receiving service updates from BCI and updating Odyssey with that information.

### **Instant Messaging**

The IT department tried several instant messaging packages. Ultimately Zoom was selected. It does not require paid licensing and many court users have already been using it. John would like Zoom to be recognized as the instant messaging software for the courts. He is also looking for input on the length of time the messages should be

kept. Petra stated that for the Supreme Court the retention period for administrative records is 7 years. Justice Tufte suggested creating a one page summary of general guidance of when to use instant messaging. Lee Ann Barnhardt expressed concern of instant messaging being similar to texting and stressed that professional etiquette should still be used.

**Petra Hulm motioned to approve Zoom as the official tool for instant messaging. Lee Ann Barnhardt seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

John stated a suggested naming convention document will be added to Wiki along with other general guidelines of when to use Zoom. Training will be done by the education department and records will be retained for 7 years.

### **New Technology Thoughts**

Rod Olson discussed a concern of there being enough staff to support the existing technology and would be hesitant to add new technology projects prior to stabilizing the current ones.

Petra Hulm stated she would like to see a question and answer type interface for the public to use similar to a Turbo Tax concept. This would more quickly direct the public to the appropriate place to get answers. Rod also suggested investigating different camera systems.

### **Legislature Budget Updates**

The Zoom rooms/polycom replacements that were in the budget for \$360,000 was taken out and moved into House Bill 1395 and must be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2021.

The \$157,000 for the Wi-Fi access points also got taken out of the budget and moved into House Bill 1015 which needs to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. John stated we are actually ahead in this project as the wires have already been pulled and installation is the only thing remaining.

### **For the Good of the Order**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.