



## PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRUST COMMISSION

### *Committee on Alternatives to Court Appearances*

Meeting Minutes  
April 30, 2009

Those in attendance:

Hon. Elliot Solomon, Chair  
Hon. David Borden  
Hon. Patrick Clifford  
Atty. Susan Quinn Cobb  
Mr. Brian Coco  
Family Support Magistrate John Colella  
Hon. Emmet Cosgrove  
Atty. Joseph Del Ciampo  
Atty. Lucio DeLuca  
Atty. Joseph Garrison  
Ms. Marilou Giovannucci  
Atty. Eric Groody  
Atty. Scott Hartley  
Hon. Arthur Hiller  
Mr. David Iaccarino

Hon. Christine Keller  
Ms. Natalie Latulippe  
Mr. Ronald Macchio  
Mr. Richard Miele  
Dr. Michael Norko  
Atty. Adele Patterson  
Atty. Maureen Platt  
Atty. Nancy Porter  
Atty. Norman Roberts II  
Atty. Jennifer Robinson  
Mr. Scott Rosengrant  
Ms. Betsy Rosser  
Atty. Robin Smith  
Hon. Hillary Strackbein  
Hon. David Tobin

Not Present

Atty. David Belt  
Hon. Thomas Bishop  
Hon. Patrick Carroll III  
Ms. Linda Cimino  
Atty. Mark Ostrowski  
Atty. Norman Pattis

Mr. O'Donovan Murphy  
Dr. Thomas Kirk  
Ms. Pamela Sarno  
Hon. Lynda Munro  
Mr. Gary Roberge  
Hon. O. James Purnell

The Committee on Alternatives to Court Appearances met on April 30, 2009 at 1 pm at 99 East River Drive, East Hartford, in the 7<sup>th</sup> floor conference room 707.

The meeting was called to order by Judge Solomon at 1:02 pm. He made preliminary remarks about the committee's progress and discussed the agenda for the meeting. This meeting was primarily used for demonstrated the various videoconferencing technology and equipment available. Scott Rosengrant introduced the vendors who provided the product demonstration. The presenters provided demonstrations on the Jaco carts system, and the various Tanberg

videoconferencing equipment. The videoconferencing equipment is being utilized by many states across the country. One location is Collin County, Texas and the presenter played a video outlining how the Courthouses in that county utilize the systems. The representatives also provided a demonstration on the bridge capability by having a representative remote in from a hotel lobby in Baltimore Maryland. The presenters then called their headquarters in Richmond Virginia where a representative went demonstrated videoconferencing equipment for correction facilities, document cameras, and desktop units. Finally, the presenters arranged a videoconferencing with government officials in Westchester County, New York who presently use the videoconference equipment for various court proceedings. Their impression of the system was positive and instrumental in reducing the administrative and security costs in transporting defendants to court.

The overall impression of the committee was positive with the technology presented. So much that it reopened the debate for a possible pilot program to be introduced. Based on the presentation provided, the arguments against the technology were eased regarding confidentiality, acoustics, and video clarity. Judge Solomon recommended that the Purposes Subcommittee form a new committee to look into the possibility of a pilot program. Judge Strackbein will organize and develop a committee to discuss a pilot program.

Court Support Services Division has conducted approximately 20 interviews by videoconference. Feedback from both probation officers and inmates has been extremely positive. CSSD has calculated that each interview conducted with this technology has saved the state \$100 in travel expenses.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm. The next meeting of the Full Committee will be May 28, 2009 at 1pm at 225 Spring Street, Wethersfield, in room 4B.