

APPROVED

**Trial Court Budget Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2015
Orlando, Florida**



Attendance – Members Present

The Honorable Mark Mahon, Chair
The Honorable Robert Roundtree, Vice Chair
The Honorable Catherine Brunson
The Honorable Jeffrey Colbath
The Honorable Ronald Ficarrotta
Mr. Tom Genung
The Honorable Frederick Lauten
The Honorable Diana Moreland
The Honorable Debra Nelson
The Honorable Gregory Parker
Ms. Kathy Pugh

The Honorable Anthony Rondolino
Mr. Grant Slayden
The Honorable Elijah Smiley
The Honorable Bertila Soto
The Honorable John Stargel
The Honorable Margaret Steinbeck
The Honorable Patricia Thomas
Mr. Mark Weinberg
Ms. Robin Wright

Attendance – Members Absent

The Honorable Robert Hilliard
Ms. Sandra Lonergan

The Honorable Wayne Miller
Mr. Walt Smith

Special Note: It is recommended that these minutes be used in conjunction with the meeting materials.

Chair Mahon called the Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The roll was taken with a quorum present.

Agenda Item I: Approval of March 31, April 13, and June 26, 2015, Meeting Minutes

Judge Mahon presented the draft meeting minutes from the March 31, April 13, and June 26, 2015, TCBC meetings and asked if there were any changes necessary before approval. Tom Genung moved to approve the minutes as drafted. Judge Nelson seconded and the motion passed without objection.

Agenda Item II: FY 2014-15 Year-End Wrap-Up

A. Salary Budgets

Dorothy Willard provided an overview of the trial court salary budgets for FY 2014-15 as of June 30, 2015, noting the year-end financial closing was not complete, which may revise the final fiscal year reports. The salary liability for the trial courts General Revenue (GR)/State Court Revenue Trust Fund was \$4.6 million under the salary appropriation. Of the \$203,467,076 GR salary appropriation, only \$18,069 will revert back to GR.

Ms. Willard reported the Administrative Trust Fund's salary liability was under by \$79,537 and the Federal Grants Trust Fund's liability was under the appropriation by \$80,429.

B. Personnel Actions

Beatriz Caballero provided an overview of the status of reclassifications and other personnel actions, by circuit, as of June 30, 2015. Forty reclass requests totaling \$245,514 have been approved.

C. Positions Vacant More than 180 Days

Beatriz Caballero provided a brief overview of the positions vacant for more than 180 days as of June 30, 2015.

D. Operating Budgets

Dorothy Willard provided an overview of the operating budgets for FY 2014-15 as of June 30, 2015. She noted a review will likely happen in the Lease/Lease Purchase category and she will work with the trial courts administrators to determine if funds will need to be realigned during the next legislative budget request cycle. Ms. Willard also noted that an updated report of expenditures and report of reversions will be provided after the certified forward process, which closes September 30, 2015.

E. Trust Fund Cash Balances

1. State Courts Revenue Trust Fund (SCRTF)

Dorothy Willard provided an overview of the SCRTF cash balance through June 30, 2015, for FY 2014-15. She noted the actual revenues received were below the Revenue Estimating Conference projection, the loan received in March, and the repayment of the loan in June. After taking action to help preserve the cash balance, the SCRTF ended with a \$2.1 million cash balance; however, the estimated 8% general revenue service charge due in July 2015 is expected to be approximately \$1.6 million.

Kris Slayden provided an overview of the Office of the State Courts Administrator's projected cash balance for FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 in the SCRTF. In FY 2014-15, the Legislature provided funding through back-of-the-bill appropriations for FY 2014-15 to repay the loan that was received to address the SCRTF shortfall. The estimated ending cash balance on June 30, 2015, was \$2.1 million.

The FY 2015-16 General Appropriations Act provided for an \$18.5 million fund shift from SCRTF to GR to address the projected deficit. The estimated ending cash balance, assuming the revenues come in as projected, for June 30, 2016 will be \$2.3 million.

2. Administrative Trust Fund

Dorothy Willard provided an overview of the trust fund cash balance through June 30, 2015 for FY 2014-15. She noted that the due process cost recovery funds collected by the circuits are deposited in this fund. The estimated ending cash carry forward to FY 2015-16 was \$1,655,997.

F. Conflict Counsel Cases Over Flat Fee

Kris Slayden provided an overview of the fiscal year-end expenditures for conflict counsel payments over the flat fee. Although the courts are no longer responsible for payment of these expenditures, staff continue to monitor and send reports to the chief judges.

G. Foreclosure Backlog Reduction Initiative

Lindsay Hafford provided an overview of the fiscal year end expenditures for the foreclosure backlog reduction initiative. Almost 90% of the funds were expended and will have final data after the certified forward process closing on September 30, 2015.

Agenda Item III: FY 2015-16 Budget Outlook

A. General Appropriations Act Summary/Outcomes

Dorothy Willard reviewed a summary of the FY 2015-16 conference report and proviso. Ms. Willard highlighted those issues specific to the trial courts, specifically, proviso directing the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) to conduct a review of circuit-level organizational and operational list assessments by December 1, 2015. Judge Mahon stated that the circuits should welcome the OPPAGA review, which he feels will show the courts are efficient and use their resources wisely.

B. General Revenue and Trust Fund Projections

Lindsay Hafford reported on this agenda item stating that the Revenue Estimating Conference for the General Revenue Fund last met on March 10, 2015, and are expected to meet on July 13, 2015, and revise monthly estimates.

The Article V Revenue Estimating Conference last met on February 17, 2015, and expected to meet on July 20, 2015, to review and revise revenue estimates.

C. Salary Budget and Payroll Projections

Dorothy Willard provided an overview of the start-up trial court salary budgets for FY 2015-16. The payroll liability for General Revenue and State Courts Revenue Trust Fund is estimated to be \$2.8 million over appropriation. Historically, the trial courts start each year in a deficit and throughout the year, lapse and other personnel actions have covered the deficit. The Executive Committee made a recommendation to re-distribute the 600,000 chief judge discretionary funds for retention and recruitment issues to the circuits based on a pro-rata FTE basis. Judge Stargel motioned to approve the Executive Committee recommendation. Tom Genung seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

The Administrative Trust Fund liability was estimated to be under appropriation. The Federal Grants Trust Fund liability is projected to be over appropriation; however, is expected to be made up with lapse.

D. Recommendations for FY 2015-16 Budget and Pay Administration Memorandum

Dorothy Willard provided an overview of the changes in the memorandum for TCBC review and approval. In addition to the technical adjustments, Ms. Willard noted the following revisions: section 3-recommendation to strike language holding vacant positions open; section 5-add process to consider overlap of certain positions; and section 7-clarifying language for personnel exception requests.

Ms. Willard reviewed the proposed revised Procedures for Addressing Deficits in Due Process Services Appropriation Category (Attachment V). Current procedure requires a circuit to identify any unobligated funds from the due process services category within the due process elements of expert witness, court reporting, and court reporting. The revised procedures add cost recovery to the list of due process elements.

Judge Smiley motioned to approve: the revised memorandum, revised Procedures for Addressing Deficits in Due Process Services Appropriation Category, and submission to the chief justice. Judge Stargel seconded and the motion passed without objection.

Agenda Item IV: FY 2015-16 Circuit Allotments

A. Previously Addressed Allotment Actions

Kris Slayden reported on this agenda item and stated that due to the timing of Special Session 2015, the regular TCBC June allocation meeting had to be cancelled and rescheduled for July 10, 2015. The TCBC planned to address a limited number of statewide allotments issues by conference call on June 7, 2015; however, that meeting had to be cancelled due to meetings by legislators negotiating the fiscal year 2015-16 budget. Allotment issues that were time sensitive in nature and unable to wait for the July meeting were addressed via conference call by the Executive Committee on June 7, 2015, per the TCBC operational procedures. The following three issues were addressed by the Executive Committee:

1. Statewide Allotments – Court Workload Study

On June 20, 2014, the TCBC approved and allocated \$186,000 in FY 2014-15 and \$184,000 in FY 2015-16 from the trial court expense reserve to fund a thorough review of the judicial workload model and case weights, which included a time study. On June 7, 2015, the TCBC Executive Committee approved the following:

Issue 1 - As a result of changes in the study's timeline, most of the project and associated costs will occur in FY 2015-16, leaving a majority of the FY 2014-15 funds unspent; therefore, an additional \$151,055 in non-recurring funds is needed in FY 2015-16 for the Judicial Workload Study.

Judge Lauten motioned to endorse the Executive Committee approval. Judge Nelson seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

Issue 2 - The Supreme Court authorized the Office of the State Courts Administrator to add an addendum to the contract with the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) to conduct a supplemental resource study, hold focus group meetings, conduct analyses, and create a final report. The projected NCSC contractual amount is \$73,842 and meeting and logistical estimates are \$5,000, for a total of approximately \$78,842 in non-recurring funds to be expended in FY 2015-16.

Judge Lauten made a motion to endorse the Executive Committee approval. Judge Brunson seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

2. Statewide Allotments – Integrated Case Management System Funding Request (Eighth, Tenth, Fourteenth, and Eighteenth Judicial Circuits)

The Eighth, Tenth, Fourteenth, and Eighteenth Judicial Circuits requested a total of \$216,440 in recurring funds for the Eighth Judicial Circuit for ongoing programming and support of Integrated Case Management System (ICMS). The Executive Committee approved the request as a non-recurring allocation.

Grant Slayden made a motion to endorse the Executive Committee approval. Judge Parker seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

3. Statewide Allotments – OpenCourt

The Due Process Technology Workgroup recommended for inclusion in the FY 2015-16 LBR, the continued funding of OpenCourt on a recurring basis. This funding request was not approved by the Legislature and as a result, a request for \$175,000 in recurring funds was submitted to the TCBC for consideration. The Executive Committee approved the request as a non-recurring allocation.

Grant Slayden made a motion to endorse the Executive Committee approval. Tom Genung seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

B. Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officers and General Magistrates

Lindsay Hafford reported on this agenda item and reviewed the procedures for determining need to reallocate resources.

1. Child Support Enforcement Hearing Officers

There were no resources in reserve and available for allocation. The Funding Methodology Committee (FMC) voted to direct staff to monitor vacancies and reallocate positions in accordance with the maximum sustained need.

Tom Genung made a motion to approve the recommendation. Judge Brunson seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

2. General Magistrates

There were no resources in reserve and available for allocation. The FMC voted to direct staff to monitor vacancies and reallocate positions in accordance with the maximum sustained need.

Judge Stargel made a motion to approve the recommendation. Tom Genung seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

C. Maintain Existing Allotments: Court Administration, Law Clerks, and Operating Budgets

Lindsay Hafford reported on this agenda item and stated that unless new resources are appropriated or budget reductions required, FTEs and operating budgets are typically not adjusted. The proposed FY 2015-16 allotments were based on FY 2014-15 beginning allotments, adjusted for permanent budget amendments, actions approved by the TCBC, approved personnel actions, non-recurring items, and the new case management FTEs funded and the allocation approved by the TCBC on June 26, 2015.

Judge Brunson made a motion to approve the allocations as presented. Judge Lauten seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

D. Revise Non-Due Process Allotments: Senior Judge Days, Civil Traffic Infraction Hearing Officers, Additional Compensation to County Judges, and Mediation

Kris Slayden reported on this agenda item and stated that each year the FMC and the TCBC review contractual allotments for any new allocations and to consider reallocations due to changes in expenditure trends and variability caused by other factors. Each circuit was provided the proposed FY 2015-16 allotments for Civil Traffic Infraction Hearing Officers, Additional Compensation to County Judges, and Mediation for review and opportunity to provide input.

1. Senior Judge Days

Issue 1 – Regular Senior Judge Day Appropriations

The FMC and the Executive Committee recommended allotments using the official methodology, based on a rate of \$355.08 per day, holding 50 days in reserve, and using a proportional distribution based on circuit judicial need as calculated during the most recent certification process and actual county judges.

Issue 2 – \$120,000 Special Senior Judge Day Appropriation

The Legislature appropriated an additional \$120,000 in recurring funds, which will fund approximately 337 additional senior judge days, to be used to increase efficiency. The FMC recommended placing the 337 days in reserve to be accessed on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Executive Committee recommended pro-rating out the 337 days funded by the Legislature to place the resources where they can be used.

Issue 3 – Reverted FY 2014-15 Regular Senior Judge Day Re-appropriation

The Legislature re-appropriated unobligated FY 2014-15 senior judge funds and unexpended funds for the compensation of retired judges in the FY 2015-16 budget, on a non-recurring basis, to continue the work to resolve the foreclosure backlog. The FMC recommended allocating the 1,700 re-appropriated senior

days based on each circuit's percent of total pending foreclosure cases, and placing any unexpended days beyond the current 1,700 in the statewide reserve. In addition, the Executive Committee recommended a review of the resources midyear, to ensure the additional resources are placed appropriately for use.

Judge Smiley made a motion to approve as recommended by the Executive Committee and to conduct a midyear review. Judge Nelson seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

2. Civil Traffic Infraction Hearing Officers

The FMC recommended approval of Option 3: allotments based on applying the percent of total average contractual expenditures to the total allotment using the three-year average expenditures for each circuit and including circuit requests.

Tom Genung made a motion to approve the FMC recommendation. Judge Parker seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

3. Additional Compensation to County Court Judges

The FMC recommended approval of Option 1: allotments based on using the current methodology, which distributes the \$75,000 appropriation (less \$100 in reserve) based on each circuit's percent of the total statewide expenditures using three years of historical expenditure data.

Judge Brunson made a motion to approve the FMC recommendation. Judge Thomas seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

4. Mediation

The FMC recommended approval of Option 2: allotments based on using the current methodology, circuit requests, and holding those circuits above their funding ceiling partially harmless by: 1) reducing the 6th and 13th Circuits' contractual authority by one half the amount in which they exceed their funding ceiling; and 2) providing \$38,439 in contractual funds to the 16th Circuit. This amount, in addition to the amount for salaries, benefits, and expenses, will bring the 16th Circuit's FY 2015-16 estimated budget to the funding floor (\$208,645). A 5% cushion was applied to each circuit as long as it did not cause the circuit to exceed its funding ceiling and place the remaining funds (\$338,578) in the statewide reserve.

Judge Stargel made a motion to approve the FMC recommendation. Tom Genung seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

E. Revise Due Process Contractual Allotments

1. Due Process Management and Strategy Issues

Kris Slayden reported on this agenda item stating that during FY 2014-15, multiple circuits with due process deficits, due to increased expenditures, sought access the due process reserve to cover expenditures through year-end. As a result, the due process reserve was depleted and the TCBC activated steps to replenish the reserve through a transfer of unobligated funds from the circuits. The chairs of the TCBC and Trial Court Performance and Accountability Commission have created a joint workgroup to perform a study on due process standards, practices, expenditures, funding, and allocation of resources, to identify any possible issues.

In the interim of the workgroup recommendations, the FMC recommended Option 1: to distribute 75% of circuit allotments at the beginning of the fiscal year and the remaining 25% at the beginning of the last quarter, on April 1, based on expenditures-to-date and assessed need. A plan for disbursing the remaining 25% and addressing deficits in advance of the April 1 distribution would need to be developed. The Executive Committee directed the Budget Management Committee to develop a plan to implement the decision.

Judge Smiley made a motion to approve the FMC recommendation and Executive Committee direction for the Budget Management Committee to develop a plan to implement the decision. Judge Lauten seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

2. Court Interpreting, Expert Witnesses, Court Reporting, and Cost Recovery

Kris Slayden reported on this agenda item and provided the following:

- a. Remote Interpreting** – The Due Process Technology Workgroup determined that recurring funds in the amounts of \$15,526 for statewide network bandwidth and \$12,314 for pilot equipment ongoing maintenance and support are necessary to maintain the pilot. The FMC recommended approval of the request.

Judge Stargel made a motion to approve the FMC recommendation. Tom Genung seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

- b. Court Interpreting** – The Legislature appropriated an additional \$750,000 in due process contractual funding to support court interpreting resources as part of the FY 2015-16 budget. The FMC recommended

Option 1: to place the additional funds in the statewide reserve to be accessed as needed, due to the uncertainty of circuit-specific need for additional funding as a result of the new certification requirements.

Judge Brunson made a motion to approve the FMC recommendation. Kathy Pugh seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

- c. **Circuit Allotments** – As indicated in the prior agenda item for Due Process Management and Strategy Issues, the TCBC approved to distribute 75% of circuit allotments at the beginning of the fiscal year and the remaining 25% at the beginning of the last quarter, on April 1. Ms. Slayden reviewed the proposed allocation charts for the Court Interpreting, Expert Witness, and Court Reporting elements.
- d. **Cost Recovery** – Elizabeth Garber reported on this agenda item stating that each year, the FMC and the TCBC review the due process cost recovery contractual allotment for reallocation, due to changes in revenue collections or expenditure trends and variability caused by other factors involved within each methodology. The cost recovery allotments represent budget authority only. Spending is allowed based on the availability of cash carried forward from the prior fiscal year and revenue collected in the current fiscal year (cumulative revenue), up to the amount of the budget authority allotment.

The FMC recommended Option 1: allot the due process cost recovery based on each circuit's prorated share of the FY 2015-16 projected revenue. The allotments for the 2nd, 5th, 7th, 8th, 13th, 16th, and 17th Judicial Circuits were capped at the amount of FY 2015-16 Cumulative projected revenue.

Tom Genung made a motion to approve the FMC recommendations for due process contractual allotments (circuit allotments and cost recovery) as presented for all elements. Judge Parker seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

F. Statewide Allotments

Dorothy Willard provided an overview of the statewide allotments and noted the changes from prior year, and that the senior judges will be adjusted based on the TCBC decision made during this meeting. Judge Brunson made a motion to approve the statewide allotments. Tom Genung seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

G. Allotments for Special Appropriations

Eric Maclure provided an overview of special appropriations authorized by the Legislature.

- 1. Domestic Violence Active Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) Technology**
\$316,000 (recurring) for the 18th Circuit to continue its program to protect victims of domestic violence with Active Global Positioning Satellite technology.

- 2. Post-Adjudicatory Expansion Drug Courts**
\$5,000,000 (recurring) in continuation funding for treatment services in the 1st, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 13th, and 17th circuits. For FY 2015-16, the 14 OPS circuit court case managers were converted to full-time equivalent (FTE) status by transferring OPS funds into the Salary and Benefits category and utilizing existing unfunded FTE in the trial courts.

Tom Genung made a motion to approve the allocations. Judge Brunson seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

- 3. Veterans' Courts**
\$1,425,000 (recurring) in new and continuation funding for veterans' treatment intervention programs in Okaloosa, Escambia, Leon, Clay, Duval, Paso, Pinellas, Alachua, and Orange counties.

- 4. Education and Training on Co-Occurring Disorders**
The courts requested \$100,000 in non-recurring funding for training and education of judges and staff on how to address co-occurring disorders in the criminal justice system. The Legislature did not fund this request; however, proviso language was included in the FY 2015-16 General Appropriations Act that specifies that \$100,000 from funds in the specific appropriation 3164 (Circuit Court Expense category) is provided for this purpose.

Judge Lauten made a motion to recommend adding language to the FY 2015-16 Budget and Pay Administration Memorandum permitting circuits to attend the Partners in Crisis Annual Conference or similar trainings. Judge Steinbeck seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

- 5. Criminal Mental Health Treatment Services**
\$250,000 (nonrecurring) for the 11th Circuit's Criminal Mental Health Project to contract with the South Florida Behavioral Health Network to provide treatment services for individuals served by the project.

Agenda Item V: FY 2016-17 Legislative Budget Request (LBR)

A. LBR Timeline

Dorothy Willard provided an overview of the FY 2016-17 legislative budget request timeline, noting the early submission on September 15, 2015.

B. Priorities/Strategies – Approved for Estimation and Consideration

Eric Maclure reported on this agenda item stating that due to the timing of Special Session 2015, the regular Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) June allocation meeting had to be cancelled. Issues that were time sensitive in nature and unable to wait for the July meeting were addressed via conference call by the Executive Committee on June 7, 2015, per the TCBC operational procedures.

The Executive Committee approved the following priorities and strategies for estimation and consideration in the FY 2016-17 LBR: Employee Equity and Retention Pay; Trial Court Technology Strategic Plan; Case Management Resources; Court Interpreting Resources; Trial Court General Counsel Support; Law Clerks to Support Death Penalty Legislation; Senior Judges; Courthouse Furnishings for Nonpublic Areas; and Problem Solving Courts Education and Training.

Judge Lauten made a motion to endorse the priorities approved by the Executive Committee for estimation and consideration in the FY 2016-17 LBR. Tom Genung seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

The following were the approved issues for estimation:

1. Employee Pay Issue

Eric Maclure reviewed the issue request for \$5,902,588 in second-year implementation funding for court staff salary equity, recruitment, and retention issues. The request also authorizes staff to make adjustments in the amount, as necessary, based on any updated or revised analysis.

2. Trial Court Technology Funding

Kris Slayden reviewed the issue request for \$25,420,467 to fund the first year of a multi-year comprehensive strategy for addressing statewide technology needs of the trial courts and out-year estimated costs. The request also authorizes staff to make minor revisions to the cost estimates as the issue is finalized for presentation to the Supreme Court. The FMC recommended filing the issue.

3. Court Interpreting Resources

Lindsay Hafford reviewed the issue request for \$483,292 in recurring funds, which represents the difference of the requested FY 2015-16 LBR issue and the amount the Legislature funded, to comply with the requirements of Supreme Court Opinion SC13-304 amending the rules for certification and regulation of court interpreters. The FMC recommended filing the issue.

4. Case Management Resources

Kris Slayden reviewed the issue request for \$3,212,634 in recurring funds for an additional 52.5 FTE case managers based on the official needs assessment funding methodology to assist in the processing and management of cases through the judicial system, and to provide an adequate level of services throughout the state. The FMC recommended filing the issue.

5. Law Clerks to Support Death Penalty Legislation

Lindsay Hafford reviewed the issue request for \$2,095,064 in recurring funds for 28.5 FTE law clerk positions to assist trial court judges in processing the often complex and legally significant matters related to a sentence of death and to comply with the Supreme Court Administrative Order AOSC11-32 directing the chief judge of each circuit to review and supervise the preparation of quarterly reports to the Supreme Court on post-conviction matters. The FMC recommended filing the issue.

6. Compensation to Retired Judges

Lindsay Hafford reviewed the issue request for \$1,002,192 in recurring funds to adjust the senior judge daily rate of compensation from \$350 to \$500 to bring senior judge compensation in line with the statewide average compensation of civil traffic infraction hearing officers. The FMC did not recommend filing the issue.

7. Senior Management Service Coverage

Eric Maclure reported that the Executive Committee referred this issue to the Personnel Committee for further review and no action will be taken this LBR cycle.

8. Courthouse Furnishings

Dorothy Willard reviewed the issue request for \$203,395 in non-recurring funds for courthouse furnishing requests related to new courthouse construction or renovations in the 11th and 14th Judicial Circuits. The 2nd and 18th Judicial Circuits withdrew their requests. The Executive Committee recommended to not file an LBR issue due to the size of funding compared to end of year reversions.

(OSCA Note: The TCBC did not vote on these issues individually. However, in agenda item V.D., the TCBC ranked the issues in order of prior and only advanced issues numbered 1-4.)

C. Additional Requests/Priorities

1. Florida Conference of Circuit Judges' Recommendations

Eric Maclure reviewed the Florida Conference of Circuit Judges' 2016 recommended legislative priorities.

2. Education and Training on Co-Occurring Disorders

Eric Maclure reviewed the issue request for \$150,000 submitted by Miami-Dade County Judge Steven Leifman in his capacity as chair of the Task Force on Substance Abuse and Mental Health Issues in the Court. The judicial branch requested \$100,000 in nonrecurring funds as part of its FY 2015-16 trial court LBR to provide statewide training and education for judges and court staff responsible for managing cases involving individuals with mental illnesses and substance use disorder. The Legislature did not provide new funding for this issue. However, the FY 2015-16 General Appropriations Act proviso specifies that \$100,000 from funds in the Specific Appropriation 3164 (Circuit Court Expenses category) is provided for this purpose. The Executive Committee recommended to not file an LBR for this issue.

D. Priority Ranking of LBR Issues

Chapter 216, Florida Statutes requires all state entities to list their LBR issues by order of priority. The members discussed the priority ranking and offered the following:

Judge Steinbeck made a motion to approve the employee pay issue as the number one priority. Judge Nelson seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

Grant Slayden made a motion to approve the trial court technology issue as the number two priority. Judge Nelson seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

Mark Weinberg made a motion to approve the court interpreting resources issue and case management resources issue as the number three and four priorities, respectively. Tom Genung seconded. Judge Steinbeck offered an amended motion to approve the case management resources issue as the number three priority and the court interpreting resources issue as the number four priority, noting that the court interpreting resources issue was requested last year and mostly funded. Judge Nelson seconded, and the motion passed without objection.

Judge Thomas made a motion to advance the top four issues for submission as part of the FY 2016-17 LBR, enabling the trial courts to focus on the top priorities. Judge Steinbeck seconded, and the motion passed, with an objection from Judge Brunson.

**Agenda Item VI: Report from Chief Justice Designee to the Clerks of Court
Operations Corporation Executive Council**

Judge Ficarrota reported attendance at the Clerks of Court Operations Corporation Executive Committee meetings.

Adjournment

With no other business before the commission, Chair Mahon adjourned the meeting at 12:32 p.m.