

Jury Trial & Courthouse Operational Plan Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 6, 2021
11:00 a.m.
Videoconference
Minutes

1. Call to order.

Judge Brantmeier called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. Roll call.

Judge Bennett Brantmeier, Ben Wehmeier, Sarah Rogge, Amber Rumpf, Jennifer Weber, Cindy Hamre Incha, Sharee Behm, Michael Neiman, Donna Haugom, Samroz Jakvani, Monica Hall, Judge Robert Dehring, Sarana Stolar, Judge William Gruber.

3. Certification Wehmeier of compliance with the open meetings law.

Wehmeier confirmed that the meeting is in compliance with open meetings law.

4. Review and approve minutes from December 2, 2020 meeting

Motion by Hamre Incha/Hall to approve minutes from December 2 as presented.
Motion passed.

5. Public Comment

None

6. Masks in courthouse/enforceability

Sgt. Behm said that the deputies have not noticed a problem with people wearing masks. They are offered masks at the security station if they do not have one. No action taken.

7. Evidenced based criteria for reinstating Jury Trials/personal appearances

Wehmeier shared his screen showing the data for determining the Phases for the reinstatement of jury trials and personal appearances. He also showed the COVID-19 Dashboard with more information including Confirmed Case Rates and Combined Confirmed & Probable Case Rates. This information is updated daily.

Samroz Jakvani said that when they look at the same criteria for schools, they allow 2 weeks between phases to eliminate the need to jump back and forth between stages. They look at the 7-day rolling average to determine the phase.

The committee discussed using the 7-day average and waiting for the 2-week average to determine what phase we are in.

Motion by Hall/Rumpf to recommend the court use the 7-day average to determine the phase. Motion passed.

Motion by Hall/Zarwell to recommend the courts implement a 2-week waiting period before moving to a new phase. Motion passed.

Phase	Case Incidence (Avg. Daily/1000)	Capacity	Prioritize	Additional Measures
4	>85	0%	Highly Emergent Cases	Standard Prevention Measures. No jury trials or in-person hearings except for small groups of up to 10 in the main court room and 6 in the commissioner hearing room.
3	80-85	25%	Emergent Cases	Standard Prevention Measures. No jury trials or in-person hearings except for small groups of up to 14 in the main court room and 8 in the commissioner hearing room.
2	15-80	50%	High Priority Cases	Standard Prevention Measures. Limited small jury trials. Limit groups to 15 in main court room and 10 in the commissioner hearing room.
1	5-15	75%	Delay Low Priority Cases	Standard Prevention Measures. Limited full jury trials. Limit groups to 22 in main court room and 12 in the commissioner hearing room.
0	<5	100%	Full Capacity	

Standard Prevention Measures = physical distancing, properly worn masks, sanitation stations, confirmation of no symptoms or recent positive test, maintenance of physical barriers (e.g. plexiglass), unidirectional table and chair orientation whenever possible.

Until Phase 4 is achieved, whenever possible: limit the number of individuals in any given room, have all individuals wear masks or face coverings (if mask order is lifted), avoid crowding closely together.

There remains the problem of the use of Branch 1 courtroom for Jury Trials as the number of occupants are limited. Staff will look at broadcasting and other options to limit the number of people needed in the courtrooms. Judge Dehring stated that there should be a consensus across the board so there is uniformity.

8. Public access to court proceedings

Staff is working on using YouTube Livestream to provide more public access. Hall asked about the technology that will be used to allow remote participation of witnesses. No action taken.

9. Other courthouse issues

No action taken.

10. Future meeting dates (Zoom):

February 3, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

March 3, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

11. Future agenda items

If you have agenda items, please get them to Judge Brantmeier ten days before the meeting.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.