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Minutes of August 12, 2021, CCOC Legislative Committee Meeting

Approved by the Legislative Committee at their meeting on September 7, 2022.

The Legislative Committee of the Clerk of Courts Operation Corporation (CCOC) held a meeting via WebEx on August 12, 2021. An agenda and materials were distributed in advance of the meeting and posted on the CCOC website. Provided below is a summary of staff notes from the meeting. These staff notes are designed to document committee action, not to be a full record of committee discussions. All motions adopted by the committee are in **bold** text. All action items based on committee direction are in **red** and bold text.

1. Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Clerk Carolyn Timmann, Chair of the Legislative Committee called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Jason L. Welty, CCOC Deputy Executive Director, called the roll.

Present for meeting [via WebEx]: Honorable Carolyn Timmann, Chair; Honorable Joseph Abruzzo; Honorable Barry Baker; Honorable Tom Bexley; Honorable Doug Chorvat, Jr.; Honorable Gary J. Cooney, Exp.; Honorable Tara Green; Honorable Crystal Kinzel; Honorable Kevin Madok; Honorable Gwendolyn Marshall Knight; Honorable Harvey Ruvín, Esq.; Honorable Donald Spencer; Honorable Cindy Stuart;

Absent from the meeting: Honorable Laura Roth; Honorable Angela Vick

2. Agenda Item 2 – Approve Agenda

Clerk Carolyn Timmann opened the floor to review the agenda as presented.

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Clerk Carolyn Timmann and seconded by Clerk Gwendolyn Marshall Knight. The motion was adopted by consent.

3. Agenda Item 3 – Approve Minutes from the 1/22/21 Meeting

Chair Timmann opened the floor for review and approval of the minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Clerk Marshall Knight and seconded by Clerk Baker. The motion was adopted unanimously.

4. Agenda Item 4 – Legislative Recap / Legislative Agenda Ideas

Chair Timmann explained the reasons behind two Legislative Committees, the FCCC, and the CCOC legislative committees. First, the CCOC and FCCC continue to work closely together, although they have separate functions. For instance, CCOC has specific duties outlined in the statute that this Legislative Committee handles.

Clerk Timmann turned over the floor to Jason Welty, CCOC Deputy Executive Director. He discussed the 2021 Legislative Recap and the Legislative Agenda Ideas.

He began by thanking the legislative partners on the call. He continued by pointing out the 2021 Session was unusual; at the beginning of session, there was a \$3 billion budget gap. However, by the end of session, there was a \$6 billion surplus.

Mr. Welty recapped Legislative items of importance for the clerks, including:

- \$6.25 non-recurring general revenue for temporary staffing to help with the pandemic recovery plan.
- \$2.4 million in additional funding for 2021-2022 for Jury Management expenses.
- \$11.7million recurring general revenue for jury management.

No comments or questions were raised on Jason Welty’s presentation

5. Agenda Item 5 – Other Business

Looking Forward

Chair Timmann asked Mr. Welty to discuss the issues for inclusion in the upcoming legislative budget request. The first issue is the reimbursement petitions for protection. This issue is a request for reimbursement of petitions related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence, repeat violence, and stalking. For those five issues related to injunctions for protection, the statute allows the clerks to receive a \$40 reimbursement for each petition and the sheriff’s office to receive \$20 of the \$40 reimbursement.

The estimated reimbursement amount is \$3.2 million.

There was discussion about including the injunctions for protection in the CCOC legislative agenda. Clerk Timmann pointed out that continuing to bring these issues forward accomplishes several goals. First, it provides us an opportunity to receive funding for the work that the clerks do and can talk about this critical piece of the work they do every day on behalf of constituents. Additionally, there was discussion about

how the CCOC interacted with the FCCC as some clerks also raised the injunction for protection issue at the FCCC Legislative Committee.

Clerk Chorvat moved to include the injunction for protection issue in the CCOC legislative agenda. Clerk Baker seconded the motion, and it was adopted without objection.

Pandemic Recovery Plan

The second issue for consideration for the CCOC legislative agenda was the Pandemic Recovery Plan. CCOC proposed the issue during the 2021 Session, and the Legislature funded it for \$6.25 million.

The Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) recommended a second year of funding for Pandemic Recovery funding. Mr. Welty recommended that the CCOC Legislative Committee approve the Pandemic Recovery Plan – Year 2, in line with the TCBC request for additional services for the Fiscal Year 2021-22.

Clerk Cooney moved to include the second year of Pandemic Recovery Plan Funding. Clerk Baker seconded the motion, and it was adopted without objection.

Jury Funding

The final issue for consideration for the 2022 CCOC legislative agenda was additional funding for jury management. Clerk Timmann explained this issue was similar to what occurred last year, where jury funds were reverted and appropriated for the same purpose. However, as things continue to develop with the pandemic and the impacts on court processes and jury is very difficult to predict this would provide additional flexibility for clerks.

Clerk Marshall Knight moved to include the jury management issue in the 2022 legislative agenda. Clerk Chorvat seconded the motion, and it was adopted without objection.

Other Items

Finally, Clerk Timmann discussed a couple of Other Business items. One issue was a referral by the FCCC Legislative Committee related to the uniform chart of accounts proposed by Clerk Doggett of Lee County.

Clerk Maloy requested the committee consider an issue tying budgets to the cost of inflation.

Clerk Burke brought up the issue of clerk funding when the Legislature creates new judgeships. There was a discussion about the issue. Clerk Timmann stated that this is an issue she has been working on for over a year. Clerk Timmann asked Jason Welty to comment further on this issue. Mr. Welty stated that he is working with the

Association on additional statutory language. This is an ongoing issue where the CCOC and FCCC will have close legislative agenda tied together.

Clerk Timmann asked the committee members for additional ideas or issues and opened the floor for public comment. **Clerk Chorvat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Without any objection, Clerk Timmann adjourned the meeting at 2:02 PM.**