

**Legal Services Subcommittee Meeting**  
**1.10.23 12:30 pm- 1:30pm**  
**SCI Community Room**

**In Attendance:** Cathy White, Matthew Costagna, Kaitlyn Bonam, Roger Coleman, Ronnie Rivera, Blair Castro, Lauren Clark, Donna Jacobi-Pruett, Serene Kiek, Dick Baker

**Discussion:** Cathy and Matthew gave a run down of the mental health court. (TEAM- Speciality Court Program) Judge Fredra Hovich is the volunteer judge for the mental health court. This court is for people who have a history of mental health diagnosis and want to enter voluntarily. Part of the criteria is that you have to have a home address, as the whole purpose of the home is that they need to create stability. They discussed where the program's funding comes from and what these funds cover exactly. The coordinator has a current caseload of about 10 people and six more coming in, he refers them to treatment. Typically takes misdemeanor charges about a year, and felony about 24 months. Mental Health court has almost always been in the afternoon on Wednesdays, every three weeks.

Vet's Court gets \$150K for their programs from the state, Drug Court gets \$550K. Okaloosa gets \$225K. The struggle is that it takes a long time to get appointments for clients.

The next step for this subcommittee would be finding out how to plug into the homeless community to the mental health court. Currently the vet court will accept VOA and other transitional housing as an address because they have someone there who helps them make contact. The main criteria is that these people need to be able to be contacted.

The group is considering ways to fill any gaps in services and communications going forward, as well contemplating potential proposed ordinances in our community.