

**IN THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER S-2023-062
(Supersedes Administrative Order S-2018-063)**

**PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Florida's problem-solving courts address the root causes of justice system involvement through specialized dockets, multidisciplinary teams, and a non-adversarial approach. Offering evidence-based treatment, judicial supervision, and accountability, problem-solving courts provide individualized interventions for participants, thereby reducing recidivism and promoting confidence and satisfaction with the justice system process.

In 1989, Florida started the national problem-solving court movement by creating the first drug court in the country. In 1992, the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit implemented its first problem-solving court – the Adult Drug Pretrial Intervention Court. Other types of problem-solving court dockets subsequently followed, using the drug court model, and were implemented to assist individuals with a range of problems such as drug addiction, mental illness, domestic violence, child abuse / neglect, and homelessness.

Problem-solving courts offer a specialized court docket and include, but are not limited to, the following elements:

- **Problem-solving court team.** A broad-based team of justice system stakeholders including judges, case managers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment professionals, law enforcement officers, corrections personnel, and guardians ad litem.
- **Non-adversarial approach.** A commitment to offering alternatives to the traditional adversarial litigation process.
- **Continuum of individualized treatment services.** An array of evidence-based services designed to identify and meet the unique needs of each participant.

- **Judicial leadership and interaction.** A judge who leads the problem-solving team and monitors the court case using an increased number of hearings for monitoring compliance and progress.
- **Responses to participant compliance.** The use of graduated, individualized, and coordinated responses, both for incentives and sanctions, to promote both public safety and the participants' success.

This circuit's drug court and veterans treatment court have historically operated with separate oversight committees to ensure proper training and implementation of the respective problem-solving courts. In addition to drug court and veterans treatment court, this circuit's other problem-solving courts include juvenile drug court, family dependency treatment court, early childhood court, adult mental health court, juvenile mental health court and Marchman Act court. Rather than delegate oversight of the circuit's problem-solving courts to individual committees, it is proper for the efficient and effective administration of justice to create a central oversight committee of all of this circuit's problem-solving courts so that all stakeholders are given a voice about and made aware of issues surrounding the operation of these specialty courts.

By the power vested in the chief judge under article V, section 2(d), Florida Constitution; section 43.26, Florida Statutes; and Florida Rule of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.215(b)(2), it is ORDERED:

1. Problem-Solving Courts Oversight Committee

The mission of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Problem-Solving Courts Oversight Committee (Committee) is to oversee the circuit's problem-solving courts, to recommend strategies to maintain and improve the quality and effectiveness of these courts' operations, and to ensure access to appropriate resources through the collaborative services of the courts, treatment and the community. In addition, the Committee will be responsible for overall policy development that reflects Best Practices Standards as outlined by All Rise (formerly, the National Association of Drug Court

Professionals) and the Florida Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards, as well as, the 10 Key Components of Adult Drug Courts and the 10 Key Components of Veterans Treatment Courts.

2. Composition of the Committee

Upon invitation and consent, the Committee will be comprised of the following members:

- A. The Chief Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit;
- B. The Trial Court Administrator of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit;
- C. The presiding judge of each of the following courts:
 - i. Adult Drug “Recovery” Court;
 - ii. Drug Pretrial Intervention Program Court;
 - iii. Juvenile Drug Court;
 - iv. Family Dependency Treatment Court;
 - v. Early Childhood Court;
 - vi. Veterans Treatment Court;
 - vii. Marchman Act Court;
 - viii. Adult Mental Health Court; and
 - ix. Juvenile Mental Health Court.
- D. The Public Defender of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit plus any designees;
- E. The State Attorney of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit plus any designees;
- F. The Chief Deputy Court Administrator of Court Programs of the Administrative Office of the Courts; and
- G. The Director of Problem-Solving Courts of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

3. Committee Leadership and Structure

A. Committee Chair and Executive Chair

The Chief Judge of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit is appointed as the chair of the Committee. As chair, the chief judge may make decisions that pertain to the Committee with consultation of the executive chair. The Trial Court Administrator of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit is appointed as executive chair of the Committee.

B. Operational and Strategic Planning Subcommittee

The Operational and Strategic Planning Subcommittee is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on screenings and assessments, wait lists, case staffings, incentives / sanctions, phases, developing specialized dockets or tracks for each of the problem-solving courts, compiling and analyzing sufficient data from problem-solving courts, treatment providers, and the Clerk of the Circuit Court, reviewing performance measures for problem-solving courts established by the National Center for State Courts and the Office of the State Courts Administrator, recommending specific performance measures to be used in each of the problem-solving courts, prioritizing the use of resources, setting concrete goals for the future of the circuit's problem-solving courts, developing training programs, and establishing community partnerships.

The Director of Problem-Solving Courts of the Administrative Office of the Courts is appointed as chair of the Operational and Strategic Planning Subcommittee and the Director of the Forensic Behavioral Health Unit of the Public Defender's Office and the Chief of Problem-Solving Courts of the State Attorney's Office, or their designees, are appointed as co-chairs of the Operational and Strategic Planning Subcommittee.

C. Treatment Service Providers Subcommittee

The Treatment Service Providers Subcommittee is responsible for identifying best practices for screening and assessment tools, including co-occurring tools. In addition, treatment service providers will be responsible for identifying national evidence-based treatment practices, including for co-occurring disorders and trauma-informed care. Each treatment provider will maintain a participant database and written drug testing policy that will be submitted to the Administrative Office of the Courts annually. All court reports will include therapeutic and behavior responses so that the judge may reinforce on the record. The Treatment Service Providers Subcommittee will solicit input from and disseminate information to community-based treatment providers that are utilized in the circuit's problem-solving courts. The Director of Problem-Solving Courts of the Administrative Office of the Courts is

appointed as chair of the Treatment Service Providers Subcommittee.

D. Adult Drug Courts Subcommittee

The Adult Drug Courts Subcommittee is responsible for overseeing operations in the Drug Court and making recommendations to improve the quality and effectiveness of Drug Court's operations. The presiding judge of Adult Drug Courts is appointed as chair of the Drug Court Subcommittee. Representatives from the Public Defender's Office, State Attorney's Office, Department of Corrections, and Administrative Office of the Courts will serve as members of the Drug Court Subcommittee upon invitation and consent.

E. Drug Pretrial Intervention Program Court Subcommittee

The Drug Pretrial Intervention Program Court Subcommittee is responsible for overseeing operations in the Drug Pretrial Intervention Program Court and making recommendations to improve the quality and effectiveness of Drug Pretrial Intervention Program Court's operations. The presiding judge of the Drug Pretrial Intervention Program Court is appointed as chair of the Drug Pretrial Intervention Program Court Subcommittee. Representatives from the Public Defender's Office, State Attorney's Office, Department of Corrections, and Administrative Office of the Courts will serve as members of the Drug Pretrial Intervention Program Court Subcommittee upon invitation and consent.

F. Juvenile Drug Court Subcommittee

The Juvenile Drug Court Subcommittee is responsible for overseeing operations in the Juvenile Drug Court and making recommendations to improve the quality and effectiveness of Juvenile Drug Court's operations. The presiding judge of Juvenile Drug Court is appointed as chair of the Juvenile Drug Court Subcommittee. Representatives from the Public Defender's Office, State Attorney's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, Hillsborough County School Board, and Administrative Office of the Courts will serve as members of the Juvenile Drug Court Subcommittee upon invitation and consent.

G. Family Dependency Treatment Court Subcommittee

The Family Dependency Treatment Court Subcommittee is responsible for overseeing operations in the Family Dependency Treatment Court and making recommendations to improve the quality and effectiveness of Family Dependency Treatment Court's operations. The presiding judge of Family Dependency Treatment Court is appointed as chair of the Family Dependency Treatment Court Subcommittee. Representatives from the Children's Legal Services, Office of Regional Counsel, the community-based care agency or case management organization, and Administrative Office of the Courts will serve as members of the Family Dependency Treatment Court Subcommittee upon invitation and consent.

H. Early Childhood Court Subcommittee

The Early Childhood Court Subcommittee is responsible for overseeing operations in the Early Childhood Court and making recommendations to improve the quality and effectiveness of Early Childhood Court's operations. The presiding judge of Early Childhood Court is appointed as chair of the Early Childhood Court Subcommittee. Representatives from the Children's Legal Services, Office of Regional Counsel, the community-based care agency or case management organization, and Administrative Office of the Courts will serve as members of the Early Childhood Court Subcommittee upon invitation and consent.

I. Veterans Treatment Court Subcommittee

The Veterans Treatment Court Subcommittee is responsible for overseeing operations in the Veterans Treatment Court and making recommendations to improve the quality and effectiveness of Veterans Treatment Court's operations. The presiding judge of Veterans Treatment Court is appointed as chair of the Veterans Treatment Court Subcommittee. Representatives from the Public Defender's Office, State Attorney's Office, Department of Corrections, Veterans Affairs, and Administrative Office of the Courts will serve as members of the Veterans Treatment Court Subcommittee upon invitation and consent.

J. Adult Mental Health Court Subcommittee

The Adult Mental Health Court Subcommittee is responsible for overseeing operations in the Adult Mental Health Court and making recommendations to improve the quality and effectiveness of Adult Mental Health Court's operations. The presiding judge of Adult Mental Health Court is appointed as chair of the Mental Health Court Subcommittee. Representatives from the Public Defender's Office, State Attorney's Office, Department of Corrections, and Administrative Office of the Courts will serve as members of the Mental Health Court Subcommittee upon invitation and consent.

K. Juvenile Mental Health Court Subcommittee

The Juvenile Mental Health Court Subcommittee is responsible for overseeing operations in the Juvenile Mental Health Court and making recommendations to improve the quality and effectiveness of Juvenile Mental Health Court's operations. The presiding judge of Juvenile Mental Health Court is appointed as chair of the Mental Health Court Subcommittee. Representatives from the Public Defender's Office, State Attorney's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, Hillsborough County School Board, and Administrative Office of the Courts will serve as members of the Juvenile Mental Health Court Subcommittee upon invitation and consent.

L. Marchman Act Court Subcommittee

The Marchman Act Court Subcommittee is responsible for overseeing operations in the Marchman Act Court and making recommendations to improve the quality and effectiveness of Marchman Act Court's operations. The presiding judge of Marchman Act Court is appointed as chair of the Marchman Act Court Subcommittee. Representatives from the Office of Regional Counsel, Mental Health Clerk of Courts, and Administrative Office of the Courts will serve as members of the Marchman Act Court Subcommittee upon invitation and consent.

4. Meetings

The Committee will meet quarterly to review the operations of the problem-solving courts in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. The

respective subcommittees will meet at least quarterly at the discretion of the subcommittee chair.

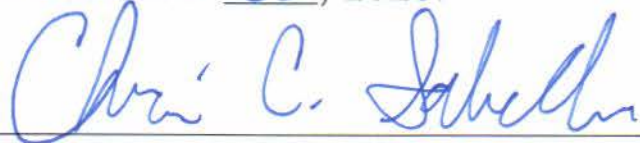
5. Previous Administrative Order Superseded

This administrative order supersedes Administrative Order S-2018-063 (*Problem Solving Courts Oversight Committee*).

6. Effective Date

This administrative order is effective January 1, 2024.

ENTERED on December 20th, 2023.



Christopher C. Sabella, Chief Judge

Original to: Cindy Stuart, Clerk of Court

Copy to: All Presiding Judges of Problem-Solving Courts
Susan "Suzy" Lopez, State Attorney
Julianne Holt, Public Defender
Gina Justice, Trial Court Administrator
K. Angela Smith, Chief Deputy Court Administrator of
Court Programs, AOC
Julia Schilling, Director of Problem-Solving Courts, AOC
Kelly Hammersley, Department of Juvenile Justice
Jonathan Jenkins, Regional Counsel's Office
Sarah Hawk, Managing Attorney, Children's Legal
Services
Michelle Farquharson, Quality Management Director,
Children's Network of Southwest Florida
Department of Veterans Affairs
Department of Corrections
Hillsborough County School Board