

Tribal Court State Court Forum (TCSCF)

Quarterly Meeting Summary

March 31, 2023

Hosted by Lower Sioux Tribal Court at [Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel](#) in-person and remotely via Zoom

The purpose of the Tribal Court State Court Forum is to enhance tribal court and state court relationships, provide an opportunity to address issues arising from the courts' concurrent jurisdictions, collaborate on development and delivery of judicial education and training, recommend revisions to Minnesota's procedural rules of court, and work on issues that cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Tribal Court Co-Chairs: Hon. Phil Brodeen and Hon. Vanya Hogen

State Court Co-Chairs: Hon. Denise Reilly and Hon. Korey Wahwassuck

1. Blessing and Welcome

The meeting began with a blessing by President Larsen and was followed by a moment of silence in memory of Judge Sally Tarnowski, along with some words in her honor by Judge Amy Lukasavitz.

Tribal Court co-chair, Judge Phil Brodeen, welcomed everyone, along with fellow Co-Chairs, Judge Vanya Hogen, Judge Denise Reilly, and Judge Korey Wahwassuck.

Introductions were made by forum members as well as by guests who were in attendance. As part of introductions, Becca Vanden Hanen, shared that she was joined by her colleague Judy Peterson who is stepping into the role of providing staff support to this group. Becca and Judy are working together to make the transition as smooth as possible for everyone.

2. Review and Approve December 8, 2022, Meeting Summary



Meeting Summary -
TCSCF - 12-8-2022.pc

The December 8, 2022, Meeting Summary was approved without change.

3. Celebrating State Court Tribal Court Collaborations

Judge Korey Wahwassuck shared that February 22, 2023, marked the 15-year anniversary of the signing of the Joint Powers Agreement between Leech Lake Tribal Court and Itasca County District Court and the installation of the flags in the courtrooms. She shared the following photos from that very special and momentous occasion.



The group celebrated this and discussed other good work happening with the partnerships that have developed across their various jurisdictions. They spent some time talking about how helpful it would be to increase state court participation in the Forum so that judges who share a similar geography could more easily come together in this way.

4. An Inside View of Yellow Medicine County's Restorative Justice Department



Yellow Medicine
County Circles March

Judge Keith Helgeson, and his colleague, Sharon Hendrichs, Restorative Justice Coordinator, [Yellow Medicine County Restorative Justice Department](#), provided an overview of what Yellow Medicine County is doing in the area of restorative justice and how it has helped children and families within the county and the surrounding area. The group then spent some time discussing restorative justice efforts that may be occurring in their area and opportunities to create them where they don't already exist through state and tribal court collaborations.

5. Updates and Future Plans

Judy Peterson provided an update from the CJI ICWA Subcommittee on behalf of Justice Anne McKeig.

The group discussed holding the next meeting in Grand Portage in a hybrid format again, if possible. They also discussed an ICWA agenda item at the meeting, if there's a decision from the U.S. Supreme Court before then.

6. Lunch

Lunch was graciously provided by Lower Sioux Indian Community.

7. Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Judge Brodeen and the other TCSCF Co-Chairs thanked everyone for their presence and participation and invited everyone to participate in a tour of the nearby intergenerational cultural incubator at Lower Sioux Indian Community. He shared that the co-chairs would follow-up by email with more information about the June meeting, including opportunities for further suggestions and conversation about possible agenda items.

Meeting adjourned.

[Click to see agendas and summaries from past meetings](#)

8. Tour of Cansayapi Wicoicage Oti and preview of new court area

After the meeting adjourned, the group took a tour of the nearby intergenerational cultural incubator at Lower Sioux Indian Community. As part of the tour, they got a preview of the work to begin on the new court area scheduled to start in about a month.

Next Meeting: 6/16/2023 – Tribal Court Host (Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa)