Legal Paraprofessional Pilot Project
Implementation Committee

Meeting Summary
January 27, 2020 | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

# Topic
1. Welcome & February Meeting Schedule
   A. February Meetings
      Committee agreed to meet twice in February to review and finalize the committee report.
   
      B. Review of Regulatory Sandbox draft
      Hard to envision how an option like this could fit into what the Court order requires. One issue of concern is funding for an ongoing regulator FTE position plus possibly more (IT staff, etc.). The model is based on licensing and that is not the approach that we’re taking so it doesn’t quite seem to fit with what is currently contemplated in MN.

2. Confirm possible decision points
   A. Participant Qualifications
      The committee further discussed what “substantive experience” means for the pilot project. The requirements established should not restrict the ability to participate in the pilot. The committee discussed creating a roster process that includes an application and certification guidance for the participants. Will also need a standing committee to oversee the pilot projects. The process should also include some kind of oversight of approved participants that may result in removal from the pilot projects.
   
      B. Areas of Law
         Housing Disputes
         The committee agrees to keep this as an area for pilot project focus.
         In scope: Landlord/Tenant actions under Minn. Stat. § 504B, representing tenants.
         Out of scope: landlord representation, other housing/property case types.
         
         Family Law Disputes
         The committee agrees to keep this as an area for pilot project focus as well.
         In scope: child support modifications, default hearings, paternity cases, informal court processes (e.g., the family law simplification project), and mediations under certain conditions (property, child support).
         Out of scope: disputed custody, cases with allegations of domestic and child abuse, major income/financial/property disputes

3. Discuss Focus Group Report
   The committee received a summary of the sessions and the outcomes. One item that remained unsettled was establishing a goal, or goals for the pilot project. The committee discussed some ideas for goals, including improve court efficiency, increase representation for low to modest income Minnesotans, and access to justice.
4. **Continued evaluation discussion**
The committee agreed that the final report should include high-level recommendations that an evaluation plan be developed before the pilots are launched based on the goals. Some possible evaluation options might include satisfaction survey(s), MNCIS data, feedback from judges, and financial/cost data.

5. **Final report content review**
Some committee members expressed concerns about breadth of feedback received through both the survey and the focus group sessions. The committee discussed options for addressing these concerns in the future.

**Member Roster & Attendance**

- ☒ Justice Paul Thissen Co-Chair
- ☒ Judge John Rodenberg Co-Chair
- ☒ Thomas Nelson MSBA
- ☒ Sally Dahlquist Inver Hills Community College
- ☒ Maren Schroeder Rochester, MN
- ☒ Tiffany Doherty-Schooler Duluth, MN
- ☒ Pamela Wandzel Minneapolis, MN
- ☒ Christopher O. Petersen Minneapolis, MN
- ☐ Bridget Gernander State Court Administrators Office
- ☒ Liz Reppe State Law Library
- ☒ Guests:
  - Ellen Bendewald, SCAO
  - Sarah Welter, SCAO
  - Melissa Kantola, SCAO
  - Sarah Doege, COA
  - Madeline Baskfield, COA