



Illinois Association of Problem-Solving Courts  
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**Illinois Association of Problem-Solving Courts**  
**Minutes for the May 13, 2020**  
**Meeting of the Board of Directors**

The board members of the Illinois Association of Problem-Solving Courts met via Zoom teleconference on May 13, 2020. The meeting was called to order by Judge Janet Holmgren at 12:05PM. The following board members were in attendance:

Name	Present	Absent
Judge Janet Holmgren, President	X	
Judge Mark Shaner, Vice President	X	
Michael Roman, Treasurer	X	
Darrell Hite, Secretary	X	
Judge Carmen Aguilar		X
Hugh Brady	X	
Judge Jeff Ford	X	
Anthony Foster	X	
Baron Heintz	X	
Bernadine McFarland	X	
James Lane	X	
Michelle O'Brien	X	
Alicia Osborne		X
Lori Roper	X	
Judge Ericka Sanders		
Judge Stephen Sawyer	X	
Jason Sterwerf	X	
Anne Stevens	X	
Chantelle Leachman		X
Judge Robert Zalud		X

Also in attendance: Matthew Kindler, Mary Gubbe Lee, Libby Moeller

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call
- II. Minutes from ILAPSC Board Meeting 4/28/2020
  - a. The minutes from the April 28 board meeting were submitted to the board prior to this meeting. Anne Stevens motioned to approve the minutes as submitted. Judge Ford seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- III. 2020 ILAPSC Conference Discussion
  - a. Marriott Cancellation Options

Judge Holmgren discussed the options for cancellation that the Marriott presented to ILAPSC. She discussed being uncomfortable committing to an in-person event for 2022 as a solution to cancelling this year's in-person conference. She believes there is a possibility that the culture may be changing with the pandemic and people may not ever want to do a large in-person conference again. Hugh Brady noted that he was leaning toward booking for 2022, but based on Judge Holmgren's thoughts, he agrees now that booking for 2022 would not be a good idea. Baron Heintz agreed that booking 2022 is too problematic and ILAPSC would be better off not doing that. Anne Stevens noted that she agreed, and would like to keep the conference tailored to the State of Illinois before thinking about expanding to people from other states. Michelle O'Brien noted that most virtual conferences can hold up to 10,000 people, so expanding outside of Illinois would not hinder the ability of people in Illinois to attend. Discussion was held about other virtual conferences and the size that they are capable of holding. Judge Ford noted that he believes that we need to counter-offer, and keep in mind that this is a discussion between the two parties. Judge Holmgren suggested a counter-offer of \$20,000 to the Marriott, with \$10,000 to be applied toward the 2021 conference. This acknowledges the work the Marriott has done to date on the conference, and the fact that there is a cancellation penalty in the contract, while recognizing that the contract was signed based on historical data that is no longer relevant. Discussion was held as to whether the Association can absorb these fees, which it is able to.

Judge Shaner suggested a motion be put on the table to authorize the negotiation process with the Marriott. Judge Shaner suggested to authorize the Executive Committee to counter-offer \$20,000 with \$10,000 to be applied to 2021 with a range up to some higher

dollar amount. Judge Ford suggested not going any higher than what the Marriott has already offered. Judge Shaner submitted a motion to authorize the Executive Committee to negotiate with the Marriott regarding cancellation fees, initially submitting a counter-offer of \$20,000 with \$10,000 to be applied to the 2021 conference, and up to \$27,000 with \$15,000 applied to the 2021 conference. Hugh Brady seconded the motion. Discussion and clarification were held. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Michelle O'Brien offered to get information as to how the National Center for State Courts is handling conference cancellations and relay that information to Judge Holmgren. Judge Holmgren will submit the counter-offer to the Marriott General Manager as soon as she hears back from Mrs. O'Brien.

b. Virtual Conference Options

Matt Kindler discussed virtual conference options. He has been in contact with a few other virtual conference companies including the company with whom Adult Redeploy Illinois has contracted. The proposal from this company was sent to the board, though Mr. Kindler does not recommend this company as they appear to be a start-up company, and not at the level of professional ability that ILAPSC would require.

Another company, called All Media Productions, who was recommended by Alicia Osborne, was contacted. This company is an all-around virtual production company, including virtual concerts, virtual happy hours, and other virtual events. They are not a company working exclusively with virtual conferences.

Mr. Kindler has also been in continued contact with Streamlined Communications, which is the company that the National Association of Drug Court Professionals has contracted with for their virtual conference. They are supposed to be submitting a proposal any day. Mr. Kindler also participated in a Zoom Webinar training so he can be comfortable knowing how Zoom Webinar works, and what is and isn't possible with Zoom Webinar. He briefly discussed the abilities of Zoom Webinar. The Zoom Webinar attendance cut-offs go from 500 to 1,000 people, so Mr. Kindler recommends using the 1,000 person plan, which would cost \$340 per month per host, and recommends purchasing two months to allow for plenty of time for training speakers.

Mr. Kindler discussed the benefits of having a third-party company run the conference if it is to be virtual because they can develop an all-inclusive website to host the conference as well as the sponsor and exhibitor areas.

Darrell Hite noted that he believes that the ability to ask questions live is beneficial regardless of the platform the Association ends up going with. Michelle O'Brien discussed how NCSC has done some of their live virtual trainings recently. Mr. Kindler discussed features that Zoom Webinar has to allow for live question and answers during sessions.

Michelle O'Brien noted that based on discussions that are being held, that there really is no option for an in-person conference this year. Judge Holmgren agrees based on the current scientific information and cautionary warnings being issued, and stated that she is not in favor of an in-person conference because it will not be safe. Judge Holmgren submitted a motion for ILAPSC to change the format of the conference from a face-to-face conference to a virtual conference to be determined. Darrell Hite seconded the motion. Baron Heintz noted that this is only for the 2020 year. Judge Holmgren agreed to that amendment. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Judge Holmgren asked Matt Kindler what next steps are in this process. She noted that the current 2020 contract with the Marriott needs to be dissolved. Mr. Kindler noted that he hopes to have the last two quotes from virtual conference companies soon. It was noted at the last board meeting that the board would take a pause on any further action until after the NADCP and ARI conferences to see how those virtual conferences work. Mr. Kindler asked if board members were planning to attend these conference, which a number of board members stated they are.

Mary Lee noted that she would like to contact speakers to let them know that the conference will not be live and they can cancel travel arrangements. She would also like to take a poll to see if speakers would like to present live or recorded. Also, she would

like to cancel contracts at the other hotels where ILAPSC has room blocks for the conference. Judge Holmgren would like to hold off on contacting anyone else about the cancellation before finalizing the Marriott cancellation.

Matt Kindler also noted that the board needs to decide how to handle sponsorships since the benefit of being a sponsor has changed. He gave some ideas about what a company may see as a benefit for sponsoring a virtual conference. He also noted that the board needs to set a final attendee cost since the attendees will not be getting meals from the cost of the conference. Judge Shaner noted that it may be beneficial to see how NADCP has handled sponsorships and exhibitors. Michelle O'Brien offered to reach out to NADCP to ask questions about their virtual conference. Mary Lee offered to compile a list of questions for NADCP.

Baron Heintz suggested that we should have an idea about what we would like our conference to look like and prices that we will incur before setting attendance prices. Mr. Kindler offered some preliminary answers to the questions that Mr. Heintz posed.

Judge Holmgren noted that Anthony Foster figured out that NADCP has dropped its attendance cost from \$795 for its in-person conference to \$495 for its virtual conference. She agrees that some reduction in conference fee is warranted given the change in type of conference. Judge Holmgren motioned to reduce the cost of the ILAPSC conference from \$295 to \$250. Michelle O'Brien suggested that it is too early in the process to set a rate given the uncertain costs that we will still incur. Judge Holmgren withdrew her motion.

c. Changes to Conference Budget

IV. Old Business

a. No old business

V. New Business

- a. Matt Kindler sent the board an email that was received through the ILAPSC website from a judge in Illinois who had questions about romantic relationships between drug court attendees. Mr. Kindler is looking for a member of the board to reach out to this judge to offer assistance. Judge Ford offered to reach out to that judge.

VI. Next Meetings

- a. May 27, 2020 at noon via Zoom teleconference
- b. July 28, 2020 at noon via Zoom teleconference
- c. September 8, 2020 at noon via Zoom teleconference
- d. October 15, 2020 at the conference
- e. November 19-20, 2020 ILAPSC retreat

VII. Adjourn

Judge Holmgren adjourned the meeting at 1:11pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matthew Kindler