

What was represented in Wednesday's meeting was not correct.

When Ms. Yuille spoke to me about the question of where the coordinator position should be placed and told me that the committee had recommended the DA's office, I asked about the reasoning behind that. I told Ms. Yuille that I thought we should at least explore whether Community Corrections or Health and Human Services would be more appropriate and requested County Administrator Tim Johnson and Ms. Yuille to follow up.

The majority of counties have placed the administration of this program in their Health and Human Services departments or with private treatment providers. A far smaller number have placed it in law enforcement.

During that same meeting with Ms. Yuille, I asked to see the notes of the subcommittee meetings in order to better understand how they arrived at this recommendation. I was astonished to learn that no notes were taken, and that the meetings had not been noticed as required by public meetings law. Four elected officials were at that table — a judge, the district attorney, the sheriff and a county commissioner. I am still baffled why they allowed this breach to take place.

I understand you also requested to attend these meetings. Ms. Yuille notified LPSCC and the subcommittee (which we did not authorize) that the meetings were subject to open meetings law.

At the Board of Commissioners' direction, Mr. Johnson prepared a deflection report for the commissioners' review so we could offer input to him prior to his making this decision. He collected what information he could but was hampered by the lack of meeting minutes.

As mentioned at the Wednesday meeting, there are an estimated three cases a month that would qualify.

Claire Elizabeth Hall
Lincoln County Commissioner