

Kathy Jenkins ( New Directions)  
William Howsare (New Directions)

-The Homeless Court is a voluntary program created to help individuals who are either currently homeless or homeless at the time charged with a violation of a City of Myrtle Beach ordinance, incarcerated, or with an active bench warrant.

-Provided the participant meets the entry criteria, the participant will not be subject to custody pending an appearance before the Homeless Court, unless the participant has committed new offenses. The Myrtle Beach Public Defender will be assigned to help manage the case.

-New Directions of Horry County will define a treatment plan which may include the following:

- a. 12 step fellowships-AA, NA, Celebrate Recovery
- b. Coping Skills
- c. Criminal and Addictive Thinking

Additionally, New Directions will work with outside agencies to provide housing, medical, mental health, education and employment services.

-Participation in community-based treatment or services is preferred to replace traditional sanctions such as fines and incarceration.

- Participants who are involved in or have completed appropriate treatment or services as determined by the participant's service provider and attorney, and who appear before the Homeless Court, will have charges and fines dismissed or reduced.

Presently the City of Charleston and the City of Columbia operate Homeless Courts. Like those cities, we are required to file a Petition with the South Carolina Supreme Court seeking an Order to establish the Court.

George Cauthen, a Columbia attorney with Nelson, Mullins, Riley and Scarborough, was instrumental in setting up the Columbia and Charleston Homeless Courts. He is a member of the American Bar Association's Committee for Homelessness and also a member of the South Carolina Access to Justice Commission. He served as Chairman for the Columbia Homeless Court Committee. Mr. Cauthen met with our committee and has volunteered his services and those of the Myrtle Beach office of his law firm to help us complete the process by preparing all necessary petitions, Orders, required by the Supreme Court.