



HENDRICKS COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 MEETING

Hendricks County Government Center
Commissioners' Meeting Room
355 S. Washington Street
Danville, IN 46122

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Defender Board met at 2:33 PM on Wednesday, September 11, 2024, in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Hendricks County Government Center, with the following in attendance:

Jenny Stout	Hendricks County Public Defender Board, Chairperson
Sally Steward	Hendricks County Public Defender Board, Vice Chairperson
Todd McCormack	Hendricks County Public Defender Board, Secretary
Jeremy P. Gooch	Hendricks County Chief Public Defender
Bree Nealy	Hendricks County Public Defender Office Manager

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jenny Stout opened the meeting with a quorum of three members in attendance and presented the minutes of the June 12, 2024 meeting of the Public Defender Board. Sally Steward moved to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion was approved unanimously 2-0-0.

2nd QUARTER 2024 REIMBURSEMENT & PROGRAM-TO-DATE AMOUNT

Jeremy Gooch provided the Board with an update on the current total of reimbursement from the state. The program is currently at a cumulative total of \$4,314,834.38. In the second quarter of 2024, the reimbursement request was \$202,440.93.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Gooch provided the board with information on Scott Knierim cases. Gooch has received two new cases from the attorney as the defendant attacked him. Gooch will also be reaching out to Sherrif Sadler about the meeting room being safer. The current safety button is now by the door in the new jail instead of by the counsel table at the old jail. Deputies do stand outside of the doors when attorneys are meeting with their clients. An email is going to be sent out to all public defenders for ideas to stay safe while in the meeting rooms in the jail.

LWOP UPDATE

Gooch gave an update of the representation of defendant Jones. Currently the program has spent just over of \$100,000. Attorneys for Mr. Jones have requested that a counselor come in and talk with him a couple times a month.

DP UPDATE

The program was just assigned to a death penalty case, Dalonny Rodgers. By law we must have 2 death penalty qualified attorneys. Denise Turner and Spencer Benghe have been assigned. No expenses have been received yet.

2025 BUDGET

The program budget was approved the council. It is the highest it has ever been at 3.4 million. A big portion of the is due to the LWOP and DP case. The council also approved a new employee, the starting pay will be mid 90s plus benefits. Gooch has made the job description that he will post on multiple platforms. He expects to have a big response to the job posting and the position does not require living in Hendricks County.

ADJOURN

Sally Steward moved to adjourn the Public Defender Board meeting at 2:58 PM on Wednesday, September 11, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.

Jenny Stout

Sally Steward

Todd McCormack