



HENDRICKS COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 26, 2017 MEETING

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

CALL TO ORDER

The Public Defender Board met at 9:00 AM on Thursday, October 26, 2017 in the Commissioners' Meeting Room at the Hendricks County Government Center, with the following in attendance:

David Coleman	Hendricks County Public Defender Board, President
David Lawson	Hendricks County Public Defender Board, Member
R. Todd McCormack	Hendricks County Public Defender Board, Member
Jeremy P. Gooch	Hendricks County Chief Public Defender
Mila M. Larose	Hendricks County Administration & Public Affairs

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President David Coleman opened the meeting with a quorum of three members in attendance and presented the minutes of the August 10, 2017 meeting of the Public Defender Board. David Lawson moved to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2017 meeting of the Public Defender Board as presented. Todd McCormack seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.

REVIEW OF CASELOAD ASSIGNMENTS AND PUBLIC DEFENDERS

Jeremy Gooch presented the caseload assignment spreadsheets for review and advised that a requirement to maintain reimbursement eligibility from the Public Defender Commission is for the caseload assignment of each attorney be kept under the allowable threshold. Based on the first quarter review, the prediction of the same number of future case allocations, would result in seven (7) Public Defenders exceeding the allowable threshold. Jeremy Gooch stated he has removed some of those Public Defenders from future allocations to maintain the County's reimbursement eligibility for 2017.

Jeremy Gooch reported he brought Alberto Berrones on as co-counsel for the murder he was appointed to because the defendant does not speak English. Under the Public Defender Commission's standards, Alberto Berrones is not qualified to litigate a murder case on his own yet. Jeremy Gooch stated he's reaching out to the Public Defender Commission to confirm the hours Alberto Berrones puts in working on the case is eligible for reimbursement and to confirm the case is being accounted for correctly on the caseload assignment spreadsheet.

Jeremy Gooch advised the Judges aren't assigning the caseloads correctly and are appointing most cases to himself, resulting in Jeremy Gooch having to file for reassignments on those cases. Jeremy Gooch stated he has provided assignment spreadsheets to the Judges to use when appointing cases during their initial hearings, and hopes the caseload assignments will improve as everyone adjusts to utilizing the new system.

REIMBURSEMENT RESULTS AND MISDEMEANOR REIMBURSEMENT DISCUSSIONS

Jeremy Gooch reported the County received a reimbursement of \$4,398.03 for the second quarter of 2017 and stated the third quarter claim for reimbursement is due in November. The third quarter claim will include reimbursement for Jeremy Gooch's salary, benefits, building use/utilities, and Jeremy Gooch has asked Catherine Haines for the costs associated for interpreters to include them in the claim as well.

Jeremy Gooch stated that during the Public Defender Commission's last meeting, there was discussion of being reimbursed for misdemeanors using the surplus fund, and planned to review the matter again during their meeting in December.

2018 BUDGET AND STAFFING REQUESTS

Jeremy Gooch reported the 2018 Budget and staffing requests for an Office Manager/Legal Assistant and Investigator were presented to the Council and he is awaiting approval. If approved, Jeremy Gooch plans to bring the Office Manager/Legal Assistant on board the first of the year and bring the Investigator on board towards the middle of the year.

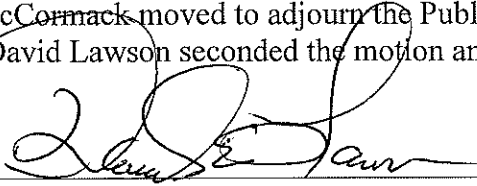
Todd McCormack advised the Budget and staffing requests were approved by the Council and will be sent to the State for final approval and stated the Council saw the addition of the staff as a cost savings measure to help avoid additional attorneys.

DISCUSSION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was the consensus to hold the 2018 Public Defender Board Meetings quarterly on the third Thursday at 9:00 AM, beginning on February 15, 2018, unless modified by the Public Defender Board.

ADJOURN

Todd McCormack moved to adjourn the Public Defender Board meeting at 9:30 AM on Thursday, October 26, 2017. David Lawson seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously 3-0-0.



David Lawson



R. Todd McCormack