

MINUTES

DEKALB COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

Monday, February 1, 2021 @ 8:00 A.M.

CONVENED: 8:15 A.M. due to technical difficulties

ROLL CALL:

Member Present:

In Person:

Telephonically:

By Video: Mark Olivero, Ron Dicke, Joe Dunn

Members Absent: None

Public in Attendance: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mark Olivero made a motion to approve minutes of November, 6, 2020. Joe seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Reviewed Open Door Policy. Notice was posted online and at the door of the PD Office.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Adam Squiller is now Judge and has been replaced by Randy Coffey as of January 11, 2021.
- Ron asked if Mark gets feedback from the State and/or Commissioners on how we are doing. Mark stated that the PD Commission is not as strict with certain rules because they want the smaller counties to participate, but Dekalb does always get positive feedback.
- Mark also stated that despite the pandemic the PD Commission thinks they are close to convincing the legislature to reimburse for misdemeanor cases.
- All received the Annual Report. Mark stated that this was our 1st Annual Report and that there was not much guidance from the State on the format. He also stated that we shared our format with Brad Weber, the Chief Public Defender in Adam's County. The report was reviewed and noted that our case numbers have been down due to the pandemic.
- Mark asked for feedback on the reports. Ron stated it is nice and concise to keep to one page. Joe stated it is helpful to receive the reports early to review before the meeting.
- Mark asked if either of them have been contacted regarding suggestions for the new Board Member. Mark had talked to Jennifer Shircliff regarding the possibility of Kevin Wallace serving on the board, but Senior Judges cannot serve. Joe feels it would be better to have a person that is disconnected, no relatives. That way there is no appearance of impropriety. Mark stated that he has met with the DeKalb County Commissioners but has not heard back from them. Mark does not want to be too involved in the selection due to the fact that the Board overlooks the

department. Joe suggested that Ron knows a lot of people and could reach out to see who may be interested and make a suggestion to the commissioners.

Board Member Comments:

- Joe asked if we had a breakdown of the type of cases we covered in 2020. Mark stated we have had a Murder case and several higher Felonies. Cheryl volunteered to do a report on the breakdown of cases.
- Joe asked what is being done regarding treatment of defendants. Mark stated that we have two Problem Solving Courts now, Family Recovery Court and Vet Court, and that Drug Court will be added in July. These courts will use a Forensic Diversion Program to help monitor and treat the qualifying defendants. The Courts are holding video training on Friday February 5, 2021 for the Public Defender Attorneys and will discuss how these programs will work together to keep recidivism down.
- Joe asked if there is any longitudinal studies on the defendants. Mark stated that currently there is not but with the addition of Drug Court and the other newly formed Problem Solving Courts there will be information available.
- With no other comments, Mark makes a motion to adjourn the meeting and Joe seconds.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 3, 2021 at 8:00A.M. in person at the Public Defender Office.

ADJOURNED: 8:51 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Bradford