

## DEKALB COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

215 E. 9<sup>TH</sup> ST., SUITE 301 AUBURN, IN 46706  
PHONE: (260) 925-1863 • FAX: 260-927-4787

---

### MINUTES

#### DEKALB COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD

Monday, May 3, 2021 @ 9:00 A.M.

CONVENED: 9:00 A.M.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

##### Members Present:

In Person: Mark Olivero, Ron Dicke, Joe Dunn

Telephonically:

By Video:

Members Absent: Kevin Likes was unable to attend at 9:00

Public in Attendance: None

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ron Dicke made a motion to approve minutes of February 1, 2021. Mark Olivero seconded. Motion passed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Commissioners still haven't appointed the 3<sup>rd</sup> PD Board Member. Mark asked Ron to reach out to the Commissioners to make suggestions.
- Going forward the Board Meetings will be at 8:00 A.M.
- After the last meeting a case breakdown was provided to all members. Some additional information has been added. Mark explained the different levels and how sentencing works with a minimum and maximum for each level. Mark also stated that if a case is moved into a problem solving court in most cases, there is no conviction, therefore no parole/probation. There is never more probation than the maximum sentence and probation can be modified for an early release if the defendant is doing well and probation recommends.
- Problem Solving Courts: Stephanie Hamilton covers Family Restoration Court and will cover Drug Court. John Watkins covers Vet Court

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Ron stated that the State announced it is getting extra funding. How is that funding going to be used. Mark will know more on Friday after a Special Chief's Meeting and will email everyone.
- Ron also stated that the CHINS numbers seem low. Mark stated that the Judge is having DCS settle a lot of these cases informally.
- Joe asked if the County spends a lot of money on sending juveniles to ACJC or placement facilities. Mark stated that he does not know how much is spent on detention but that there seems to be less juveniles going into placement facilities.

- Mark explained that our case load numbers are still down due to Covid 19 and Judge Squiller is being more selective about appointing indigent counsel. If the defendant is borderline Judge does not appoint a public defender at the initial hearing. However, if by the first pre-trial conference the Defendants has not been able to hire private counsel then Judge Squiller may reconsider and appoint a public defender.
- Mark Explained how Court Schedules are working.

**Superior I:** Felony cases all day Tuesday, Misd cases all day Wednesday, PV and evidentiary hearings on Thursdays and Drug Court will be on Wednesday afternoons when it starts

**Superior II:** Mostly on Monday's

**Circuit Court:** CHINS on Monday, Juvenile on Tuesday, JP cases on Thursday, Family Restoration Court and Vet Court every other Thursday.

Mark-conflict cases in Sup II and Circuit and Felonies in Superior I on Tuesday

Joe – CHINS in Circuit Court and Felonies in Superior II to keep most of his cases on one day

Stephanie – CHINS in Circuit Court and low level Felonies in Superior II

Cory – Juvenile Circuit Court on Tuesday Mornings and Superior I Felonies at 10 am on Tuesday

John – Vet Court in Circuit and Superior I Felonies on Tuesday mornings

Kevin- conflict cases in Sup II and Mental Health cases and Felonies in Superior I on Tuesday afternoons

Marcia – Superior I Felonies on Tuesday afternoons

Ben and Randy – Misd on Wednesday and Probation Violations on Thursday mornings.

Misd. Case load is heavy. Mark went to court to see how things are running and we are working though issues to get misdemeanors caught up and working smoothly.

- New Calendaring System. Cheryl explained how we are now using the Outlook calendar and how it works. Some of the benefits from this is to be able to color code and that all users have access instead of just one person.
- Kevin Likes emailed a question: On the Reimbursement Report on line A7 it shows Total Attorney Benefits. Kevin wants to know where this figure comes from since the part time attorneys do not receive benefits.  
Answer: The Chief receives benefits and then the Employer pays a portion of OASDI and Medicare for each part time attorney. These figures all added together makes up line A7, Total Attorney Benefits
- Mark stated that Claramary Winebrenner is going to be giving up her position as Prosecutor after this term. Neal Blythe has announced interest in running with Erik Weber as his campaign manager. Bob Hardy will probably run against Neal.
- Joe asked if there is Staffing and Evaluations done for juvenile and CHINS cases before any placement is done. Mark stated a Pre Dispositional Report is done to make a recommendation to the Judge and sometimes a juvenile is Dual Status (case in CHINS & case in juvenile court).

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, August 2, 2021 at 8:00 A.M. in the White Room, Annex Basement

**ADJOURNED: 9:45 AM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Bradford