

MINUTES
DEKALB COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD
Monday, February 7, 2022 @ 8:00 A.M.

CONVENED: 8:00 A.M.

ROLL CALL:

Member Present:

In Person: Mark Olivero, Joe Dunn, Kevin Likes, Kent Likes

Telephonically: Ron Dicke

By Video:

Members Absent: None

Public in Attendance: None

AGENDA:

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kent made a motion to approve minutes of November 1, 2021. Joe seconded. Motion passed.

II. QUARTERLY UPDATE

a. Review Reimbursement Report

Discussion was made how this was the first time a quarterly report had a reimbursement amount greater than \$80,000. A discussion was made about how we were able to claim a percentage of money from the new windows put in the annex building. No other comments were made regarding the reimbursement report

b. Review Annual Report

Discussion was had about how we are still getting 40% reimbursements as promised by the state. There was a discussion how the case loads in the fourth quarter dropped a bit for each attorney, which is still as a result of the pandemic and case filings by the prosecutor's office.

III. OTHER MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

a. Review Comprehensive Plan

A copy of our current comprehensive plan was given to each board member. Mark explained to the board that the last time he had a conversation with the public defender commission it was suggested that we amend our comprehensive plan and get it updated. For example: the hourly rate on attorneys getting assigned conflict cases or appeals is no longer \$60 an hour and has increased to \$90 an hour.

It was also discussed about the need to amend the plan to include benefits for the chief public defender which were recently approved by the DeKalb County commissioners.

The three (3) board members, Kevin and Mark all agreed to review the current comprehensive pan and discuss potential amendments at the next Public Defender Board Meeting.

b. Review Standard E and F Qualifications

A discussion was had about how a public defender attorney has to complete so many trials or years of service before qualifying to do certain type of assigned cases in the public defender's office. The more serious the charges, the more qualifications are necessary for the assigned public defender attorney.

c. Update on state proposed changes to weigh caseloads

The state is moving forward and changing the way cases are to be weighed for each public defender. Currently all felony case levels including murder are weighed the same with the exception of F6 felony cases which are weighted slightly less than the others.

The change will not take effect until after next year.

It was also discussed how this change that will take place should not affect the number of public defenders needed in DeKalb county.

d. Update on Deputy Public Defenders Benefits

It was discussed, again, how Kevin is now getting benefits as the chief deputy public defender of DeKalb County to be consistent with State public defender commission guidelines.

IV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Joe inquired about whether we had an investigator. Even though the prosecutor has an investigator, we only have a budget line of \$1,000 for an investigator.

Discussion was had at the end of the meeting about the need to add funds for possible experts in our budget this coming fall. Kevin currently has a case where he will need to ask the court for experts on a shaken baby case.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 2, 2022 at 8:00 A.M.

ADJOURNED: Joe made a motion to adjourn and Kent seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Bradford