

## MINUTES

### DEKALB COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD

Monday, August 7, 2023 @ 8:00 A.M.

CONVENED: 8:00 AM

#### **ROLL CALL:**

##### Member Present:

In Person: Joe Dunn, Kent Likes, Kevin Likes

Telephonically:

By Video:

Members Absent: Ron Dicke, Mark Olivero

Public in Attendance: None

#### **AGENDA:**

##### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Kent made a motion to approve minutes of May 1, 2023, Joe seconded. Motion passed.

##### **II. QUARTERLY UPDATE**

###### **a. Review Reimbursement Report**

Reimbursement for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2023 is \$92,835.20

###### **b. Review Title IV-E Fund**

We have received \$8,182.89 from the state to date.

Kevin reviewed Title IV-D Child Support. We are appointed to cases where there is a Rule to Show Cause or Contempt where the person could face jail time.

Kevin also stated that Mark would like for the office staff to use this fund to become Notary Publics.

##### **III. OTHER MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER**

- a. Ron and Mark's terms expire at end of the year. Mark appointed by the PD Board and Ron is appointed by the Board of Judges.

This will be discussed at the next meeting In November.

- b. Caylen McPherson has been hired as a Misdemeanor Attorney. Randy Coffey resigned and Jacob VanderHorst was promoted to Felony Attorney.

Kevin stated that we have had a few staff changes as noted above.

##### **IV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Kevin stated that in 2024 any meeting that has an open door policy will have to be recorded. He stated that the Commissioners and Council already have those measures in place.

Kevin stated that he and Mark are still working on getting benefits for the attorneys. He stated that a big news article recently came out regarding statistics on the shortage of attorneys in Indiana. At the current time Steuben County is short 2 attorneys and Noble County is short 1 attorney. The shortage is state wide. Kevin stated that several years ago when he took a look at attorneys in the area there were 32. His most recent count only shows 15 and to date he is the oldest full time practicing attorney in the area.

Joe asked about the abuse case that had been discussed at a previous meeting. Kevin stated that the jury trial is over and the defendant is waiting sentencing this week. The female defendant took a plea and has been sentenced. She will do about 15 years at the DOC. The male defendant was a 4 day trial. The court room was packed and there was extra security watching over him. The defendant also had a special shackle that runs under the pant legs and around the knees and can be activated as needed. This was a difficult case to Defend. There were lots of expert witnesses.

We have another difficult case coming up and it has been moved to Wabash county and is set for March of next year.

Joe asked if Indiana still has the death penalty. The answer is yes.

Cheryl informed the board on the bat problem and stated that now that the problem has been taken care of we are going to use supplemental funds and have the office painted.

Kevin stated that we have recently won 2 trials back to back. Kevin won a theft felony case and Mark won a battery felony case.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, November 6, 2023 at 8:00 A.M.

**ADJOURNED: 8:30 AM**

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Bradford