

MINUTES

DEKALB COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD

Monday, February 5 @ 8:00 A.M.

CONVENED: 8:00 A.M.

ROLL CALL:

Member Present:

In Person: Joe Dunn, Kent Likes, Mark Olivero

Telephonically: Kevin Likes

By Video:

Members Absent: Ron Dicke

Public in Attendance:

AGENDA:

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kent made a motion to approve minutes of November 13, 2023, Joe seconded. Motion passed.

II. QUARTERLY UPDATE

a. Review Reimbursement Report

Mark noted that this is our biggest reimbursement to date. \$98,335.61

b. Review Title IV-E Fund

We have received a little of \$11,000 to date

c. Review Annual Report

III. OTHER MATTERS TO BE PRESENTED BY CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER

a. Update on classification/benefits for deputy PD's

The Council sub-committee will be meeting on February 16, 2024. Mark will be meeting with them. Still working on getting the benefits for all attorneys. The attorneys are keeping track of their hours right now because we are asking that they be made full time status so that they qualify for all benefits.

b. Discuss pilot Misdemeanor Program. Dekalb 1 of 7 counties chosen

The State has been trying to get Misdemeanor Reimbursement passed for some time now. They have proposed to increase the Public Defender Fee from \$50 to \$100 for Misdemeanors and from \$100 to \$200 for Felonies. Half would go to the Commission and half would go to the Supplemental fund. The Commission would then use this money to reimburse for the Misdemeanor cases.

In the Chiefs Meeting, the chiefs of counties not included in the Pilot Program, have voiced their objection to this program. Derrick Mason from the PD Commission attended the last meeting to explain the program and how the pilot counties were picked.

c. Update on LWOP case

The Attorneys have been hopeful about settling this.

Kevin is working on getting an expert, a Human Factors Engineer, that can analyze the action and reaction time of people in an accident. We have to find a person and get an estimate so we can ask for additional money. We were granted an additional \$20,000 for the Mitigation Specialist

IV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Joe asked how many attorneys we are asking benefits for and what is the estimated amount. Mark stated that we have 9 attorneys. He and Kevin already have benefits and of the 7 left a few of them are not interested in receiving them. Last year, the Auditor, Susan Sleeper, did an estimate as if all attorneys were taking the maximum levels, minus 40% reimbursement.

Mark has been working on getting the Prosecutor on board. Our insurance is a cafeteria style and you can choose what options you want.

Kent asked what the surrounding counties do. Allen County attorneys are listed as full time and receive benefits, Steuben doesn't offer benefits to everyone but to some. Noble County attorneys are listed as full time and receive benefits. Even though these attorneys are listed as full time status with the county they still maintain their private practices.

If approved then we will have to track the dollars for reimbursement.

Kevin asked if the re-appointment of the Board Members had been approved. They were approved at the November meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 6, 2024 at 8:00 A.M.

ADJOURNED: Joe made a motion to Adjourn the meeting. Kent seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cheryl Bradford