

GEORGIA PUBLIC DEFENDER COUNCIL

MINUTES

08/21/15

11:00 AM

GPDC CENTRAL OFFICE, SUITE 200
104 Marietta Street NW, Atlanta GA 30303

MEETING CALLED BY	Chairman Ron Cross
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Meeting
FACILITATOR	Bryan Tyson, Executive Director
NOTE TAKER	Kari Kitchens
COURT REPORTER	Chairman Cross began the meeting with an announcement that the Court Reporter originally scheduled to record the meeting minutes for this date had to leave as her daughter was in labor. After conferring with the Director, it was confirmed that recorded meeting minutes were not mandatory and Chairman Cross made the executive decision to proceed without the reporter.
ATTENDEES	Council members present: D. Sims (via phone), R. Cross, D. Seagraves, L Paris (via phone), Hon. M. Miller, Hon. A. McGarity

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ron Cross at 11:00 AM

APPROVAL OF AGENDA	R. CROSS	Agenda unanimously approved.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	R. CROSS	Minutes from prior meeting unanimously approved.
DIRECTOR UPDATE	B. TYSON	Mr. Tyson presented his vision for the agency as "Define vs. Defend" introducing the mission statement "To ensure each indigent defense team has the guidance and support necessary to provide effective and zealous client representation." Core values described as: stewarding of public funds; empowering Public Defenders to pursue justice; recognizing key roles among offices; valuing each client and exceeding expectations. Mr. Tyson reported that CPD Michael Edwards is leaving his position in the Eastern Judicial Circuit to accept a public defense international position in Sheffield England. CPD Robert Persse has been selected to replace Mr. Edwards.
BUDGET	B. TYSON	Mr. Tyson provided the FY 2015 (amended) and FY 2016 budgets and highlighted that between FY 13 through FY 16, the biggest shift included conflict funds. Mr. Tyson stressed the importance of building partnership with counties and stated that such relationships are important to the budget process. Chairman Cross recalled the "beginning days" of requesting funds through previous administrations and appreciated the current administration for a "different view of council."
PROJECTS UPDATE	J. R. S. RODGERS	Chairman Ross stated his appreciation to Ms. Jimmonique Rodgers during her role as interim Executive Director before she gave updates on the following: <i>Technology Project</i> – The current system has been replaced to expand data capacity. The migration is in process and the E-document system is currently being developed. <i>Internal Operating Procedure</i> – The IOP is under revision and will incorporate identified best practices. <i>Employee Handbook</i> – The Employee Handbook has been enhanced and will be ready for distribution and use soon.
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE	C. KAROUNOS	Ms. Karounos gave updates on HB 279, pertaining to the increased salaries for CPDs, and HB 328 part of Governor Deal's Criminal Justice Reform that, among other important items, renamed the agency.

VOTING ITEMS

COUNCIL

Chairman Cross announced the voting items as follows: A motion and a second were made to adopt the official name. The motion passed unanimously. A motion and a second were made to approve the recommendation of the Retention of Funds subcommittee, which was to approve all applications in compliance. The motion was unanimously passed.

NEXT MEETING DATE

TBD

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The council meeting broke for the executive session at 11:51 AM, and adjourned at approximately 12:15 PM.