

Georgia Public Defender Council

MINUTES

12/13/2017

11:00 AM

MEETING CALLED BY	Chairman Ron Cross
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular meeting conducted at GPDC central office
FACILITATOR	Bryan Tyson, Executive Director
NOTE TAKER	Cheryl Karounos
ATTENDEES	Council members present: R. Cross, D. Sims, C. Cohilas, L. Morris. Hon. A. McGarity, via phone: D. Seagraves. Others present & seated at the table: B. Tyson, J. R. S. Rodgers, B. Bullard, C. Karounos

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ron Cross at 11:02 AM

APPROVAL OF AGENDA	R. CROSS	Agenda unanimously approved.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	R. CROSS	Minutes from prior meeting unanimously approved.
DIRECTOR UPDATE	B. TYSON	Introduction and welcome to Commissioner Cohilas. CPD update: Angela O’Conor appointed Paulding CPD. Completed visits to all 43 circuits. Completed Regional CPD visits. Announced Chuck Spahos leaving PAC and Pete Skandalakis to be next Executive Director of Prosecuting Attorneys Council. Congratulated Terry Raiford, Budget Director on her completion of her Certified Public Manager Program. Central Office managers completed Carl Vinson Leadership Training. Mary Ellen Simmons named State Level Services Director. CPD Institute Training to be held.
ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY SYSTEMS	B. BULLARD	Mr. Bullard recapped the Houston County Commissioners’ decision to dismiss Nick White as head of their Alternative Delivery System.
BUDGET	B. TYSON	First time since financial crisis that the agency is on budget at this time of the year. Will not require emergency funds thanks to support of General Assembly and Governor Deal. Chairman Cross commended Mr. Tyson on his “amazing progress” on the budget and the drastic improvement under his leadership. For comparison purposes, he noted that when Governor Deal took office the agency budget was \$39 million and is now \$58 million. The budget has increased over 25% during Mr. Tyson’s tenure.

PROJECT UPDATES

J. R. S. RODGERS

Ms. Rodgers explained the evaluation of the agency intranet that led to a ground-up revamp and gave a virtual tour of the new intranet, The Loop. She also reviewed the RFP process for a new Case Management System to replace the current JCATS that is outdated and limited. There is a workgroup attending demos from the top three vendors. As part of the procurement process there will be a validation meeting, rating of vendors. Currently negotiating and checking references. Mr. Cohilas asked if the new system would include Document Management which Ms. Rodgers affirmed. Mr. Cohilas said he'd like to see a system that is similar to TRACKER – the DAs' system. The bond for the new system will have to be approved by the council next July.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
FOUNDATION &
CRIMINAL JUSTICE REORM
UPDATES

B. TYSON

Legislative Session to start first Monday in January. As always, biggest priority is budget. Also pursuing an update to the agency statute. Jim Grubiak has agreed to chair the Georgia Public Defense Foundation. Anne Lewis is also a board member. Continuing to build the foundation with the goal of recruiting lawyers for rural circuits. Criminal Justice Reform Council zeroing in on misdemeanor bail issues; CJRC to vote on Monday, 12/18/2017. Implementation of prior efforts, mental health issues in jails, CJ e-filing pilot program to be in three counties in February 2018 with the goal of going statewide.

VOTING ITEMS

Indigency Verification by Video Conference
Donna Seagraves made a motion to amend the application process to allow for verification of indigency via video as this would be a simple and effective method that would not require a physical signature. She noted that is important to maintain integrity without unnecessary restriction to approve applications. Her motion was seconded by Lee Morris. Chairman Cross explain that the amendment gives the CPDs flexibility and is more time effective. Judge McGarity asked if there is a follow up that requires signature to be added at a later date. Ms. Seagraves said there was not, and that the video would not be recorded as the information would be privileged. After much discussion and debate by the council, CPD Kate Mason, Mr. Tyson, and Mr. Bullard, Mr. Morris made a

motion to table the issue until a future meeting. Mr. Cohilas added that people are very seldom prosecuted for falsely attesting to indigency. Unanimous vote to table issue for future meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session by Mr. Sims, seconded by Mr. Cohilas. At 12:44 PM Executive Session adjourns.

Motion to adjourn Council meeting by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Sims.

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Cross at 12:45 PM