

Georgia Public Defender Standards Council

MINUTES

12/12/12

10:00 AM

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

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| MEETING CALLED BY | Chairman Ron Cross |
| TYPE OF MEETING | Regular Meeting |
| FACILITATOR | W. Travis Sakrison, Executive Director |
| NOTE TAKER | Janet Hankins, Jessica Corey |
| COURT REPORTER | Lisa Messina - JPA Reporting, 404-853-1811 |
| ATTENDEES | Council members present: Chairman Ron Cross, David Sims, Hon. Murphy Miller, Gator Hodges, Donna Seagraves, Lee Morris, and Ed Tolley. Representatives from the Attorney General's office and the Southern Center for Human Rights were also present, as were Circuit Public Defenders and GPDSC staff members. |

After a roll call, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Ron Cross 10:08 a.m.

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| APPROVAL OF AGENDA | CHAIRMAN RON CROSS | G. Hodges moved to approve the agenda. M. Miller seconded. Agenda approved unanimously. |
| APPROVAL OF MINUTES | CHAIRMAN RON CROSS | L. Morris moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. E. Tolley seconded. Minutes approved unanimously. |
| DIRECTOR'S UPDATE | W. TRAVIS SAKRISON | W. Travis Sakrison delivered updates on several ongoing projects, including the opening of a Capital Defender office in Athens, the New Evidence Code training in Atlanta, Savannah, and Tifton, and the recent CPD Association Meeting on Tybee Island. |
| 2013-14 BUDGET UPDATE | W. TRAVIS SAKRISON/A. ROSS | W. Travis Sakrison delivered an update on the ongoing budget discussions. Noted that GPDSC has been requested to cut the budget by 3%, and while GPDSC is trying to avoid the cuts, a plan has been developed and will be implemented to cut the budget accordingly. He also observed that the CPDs continue to have local support on the county level, and more will be known when the budget comes out in a few weeks. A. Ross concurred with W. Travis Sakrison's summary of the budget update. |
| 2013-14 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | W. TRAVIS SAKRISON/C. KAROUNOS | W. Travis Sakrison noted that GPDSC has been working closely with the Criminal Justice Reform Council on juvenile reforms, and that several of the most recent proposals are supported by the CPDs. C. Karounos observed that both GPDSC and the Prosecuting Attorney's Council (PAC) will appoint a member to the Committee for Human Trafficking. Both T. Sakrison and C. Karounos noted that GPDSC has attended meetings concerning Title 40 reforms, and noted that the two currently-competing proposals are focusing on decriminalizing certain traffic crimes from misdemeanors to lesser or administrative charges. T. Sakrison noted specifically that he has met with other groups and Councils regarding last session's legislation, and is ensuring they are aware of the additional pressure on GPDSC with the creation of certain Accountability Courts and other entities, and that reinvestment will be part of the discussion. |
| INDIGENCY APPLICATION UPDATE | D. SEAGRAVES | D. Seagraves noted that trainings concerning the new indigency application have been |

successful so far, they continue to answer questions as they come up, and the next scheduled training is set for January. T. Sakrison commended D. Seagraves for her hard work on the indigency application.

D. Seagraves gave a general overview of the statutory provisions governing approval of indigency verification procedures, and what the statute requires of the Council. She noted that the suggested standards and procedures were recently proposed and adopted by the Indigency Verification Committee, consisting of D. Seagraves, Claudia Saari (Stone Mountain CPD), G. Hodges, E. Tolley, and C. Karounos. Discussion focused on the "one year" application date requirement, and the appointment of a committee to consider original and re-applications from Circuits. E. Tolley moved to approve the application and verification forms and procedures. D. Seagraves seconded. E. Tolley and D. Seagraves suggested adding §17-12-80 to form, adding a sentence notifying circuits of the date of annual renewal, adding July 1st as re-approval date, and adding a notification that, if the application is not compliant, the applicant re-submit within 30 days. They further moved that the Chair appoint a standing committee to review applications. The motion included friendly amendments by E. Tolley, L. Morris, and D. Seagraves. After additional discussion, Hon. M. Miller moved to adopt and D. Sims second adopting the motion as amended. Motion approved unanimously.

INDIGENCY VERIFICATION SYSTEM APPROVAL D. SEAGRAVES

W. Travis Sakrison gave a brief summary of the statutes and decision for certain circuits to "opt out" of GPDSC when it was created. He noted that the statute requires GPDSC to perform an annual review of the opt-out alternative delivery systems to ensure they meet GPDSC's standards and procedures. He observed that the reviews may not have occurred as often as they should have, and need to be in place moving forward. R. Cross noted that he would like for the Council to have more information on the requirements surrounding the original "opt out" application before making a decision. T. Sakrison agreed to put together criteria governing the opt-out circuits and deliver it to the Council members at the next Council meeting. E. Tolley volunteered to serve on the committee.

OPT OUT CIRCUIT REPORTS/ANNUAL REVIEW W. TRAVIS SAKRISON/R. CROSS

The Council generally agreed that the next meeting will take place in March.

NEXT MEETING DATE CHAIRMAN RON CROSS

Chairman Cross opened the floor for questions or comments from the public, staff, and Council Members. E. Tolley inquired as to who performs the audits or controls locally retained application fees and funds. D. Seagraves answered that it goes into the general fund, and R. Cross and G. Hodges noted how their individual counties handle auditing. E. Tolley noted he wanted to make sure the Council is exercising its oversight.

OPEN FOR QUESTIONS OR OTHER COMMENTS CHAIRMAN RON CROSS

G. Hodges moves to enter executive session to discuss litigation updates. D. Sims seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting moved into executive session at 11:05am.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

D. Seagraves moved to adjourn the meeting. G. Hodges seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:36am.

ADJOURNMENT
