



Minnehaha County Public Defender

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, March 19th , 2019

TIME: 7:31 AM

LOCATION: PDO Conference Room

Call to Order

- **Public Defender Advisory Board Meeting**
- **Meeting to Discuss**
 - Agenda
- **Attendee Names**
 - Traci Smith,, Mike Miller Jean Bender, Dean Karsky, Ryan White, John Hinrichs, Betsy Doyle and Tessica Severson,.
- **Attendees Not Present**
 - Sid Strange
- **Public Attendees**

Call the Meeting to Order:

Commissioner Karsky called the meeting to order. Traci Smith handed out the Agenda for today's meeting, an updated report of the Public Defender's Office financials, a draft of 2018 Annual report and 2020 Budget considerations, and a copy of the Advisory Board Meeting minutes from the meeting held on 01/15/2019.

(1) Minutes were approved from the 01/15/19 meeting.

(2) Commissioner Karsky moved to the second Item on the agenda which was the updated Public Defender Financial Report. Traci Smith briefly went over the financial report. Traci went over some experts that have been approved and explained our new procedure for tracking experts and what bills are expected to come from those experts. Commissioner Karsky asked if for example, we had excess money in our budget, if that money would carry over to the next year, and Traci explained that no we lose the money if it's not used. Traci also explained with our two new positions that we have to get computers, phones, we also did a walk thru and are updating some furniture, so those bills will be coming through.

(3) Commissioner Karsky went on to Item number three on the agenda which was a review of the PDO 2018 Annual Report and 2020 budget considerations. Traci Smith went through the proposed report. Commissioner Bender had questions about (page 1) the Lien amounts compared to the billable hours total. Discussion took place, explaining when Attorney fees are court ordered vs placing to a Lien, also, Mental Hearings and some A&N cases we are by statue not allowed to bill for services, Juvenile cases also have caps. Traci is going to re-word this section to try to make it clearer. (Page 2) Commissioner Bender suggested Traci put a number to the Time Spent in Alternative Courts, to show in Dollars what it costs the county to staff these positions. (Page 4) Suggestion made to have a ledger for this graph to state what years the graph represents. Mike Miller went over the proposed 2020 Budget request. Suggestions were made to articulate in the presentation how investing in our office will help save the tax



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payer money in the long run. Commissioner Bender stated she was short on time, and wanted more time to evaluate the presentation, and wanted to make sure the other items on the agenda were addressed before she was going to have to leave to make her next meeting. Traci Smith asked that the annual report with corrections be approved. A Motion was made and the Annual Report was approved. Commissioner Bender suggested both reports come in at the same time, rather than presenting separately. Commissioner Bender explained she felt that it would have more impact if they were submitted at the same time.

(4) Traci Smith moved on to the fourth item on the agenda which was Case processing/supervision needs and request to promote one additional Senior Trial Attorney. Traci explained with losing Beau Blouin we are doing an internal posting to promote another attorney into this position. Traci Smith requested permission to ask for an additional Senior Trial attorney to help with supervision. Commissioner Bender explained that the commission would have to approve this, and suggested her request be made off of how many personal we have, and requirement for supervision. Commissioner Bender explained looking personnel numbers, it appears we have a need for another supervisor position. John Hinrichs inquired if the request could also be made to show it would help our turnover problem. Mike Miller agreed this could help. Commissioner Bender suggested Traci work closely with Carey Deaver, on the request. Traci Smith went over all the new hires and their start dates.

(5) Public Comment: There was no public comments

(6) New Business: There was no new Business

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:29 am.