



Minnehaha County Public Defender

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, February 27th, 2024

TIME: 8:00 AM

LOCATION: Human Resources

Call to Order

- **Public Defender Advisory Board Meeting**
- **Meeting to Discuss**
 - Agenda
- **Attendee Names**
 - Traci Smith, Betsy Doyle, Ryan White, Joseph Kippley, Patrick Schroeder, John Hinrichs, Patrick Schroeder and Tessica Severson
- **Not Present –** Dean Karsky

Call the Meeting to Order:

Commissioner Kippley 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 and a copy of the Advisory Board Meeting minutes from the meeting held on 11/28/2023.

(1) Minutes were approved from the 11/28/2023 Meeting.

(2) Personnel Updates: Betsy Doyle spoke about staff training scheduled for 2024. Betsy Doyle spoke about the PDO hospitality committee, how it was set up and what the goals are for the PDO office with this new committee. Betsy Doyle spoke about the Summer Internship Recruitment. Betsy Doyle explained they went down in the fall for interviews, and this year have three 2L's, and one 1L accept internship positions this summer. Traci Smith also attended an on-campus job fair with our investigator. Traci Smith spoke about Minnehaha County standards, policy and procedures that were created for the Investigation position.

(3) Commissioner Kippley moved on to item three on the agenda, Review of the Public Defender Financial Report. Traci Smith gave an update on the Budget, Traci Smith talked about procedures required to request competency evaluations in the office, no action required.

(4) Commissioner Kippley moved to Item number 4 on the agenda, 2023 Caseload Data. Traci Smith discussed a summary of highlights of what we have found in our case load data. Traci Smith explained that our budget request for 2024 is based on data from 2023. Traci Smith explained that she did a four year look back at our data, and our case load per



Minnehaha County Public Defender

year on average goes up 2.34%. Traci Smith discussed the significance of the state office opening and how that would help our office. John Hinrichs spoke about what he has seen happening with our Juvenile system and not having room or availability for adolescents. Traci Smith spoke about our case loads under the National legal aid and defender guidelines and their recommendations for how many attorneys should be on staff to meet the national standards. Traci Smith also explained we are out of space and even if authorized more attorney positions, we wouldn't have the space to house them in our current office. Traci Smith is hopeful the state office taking certain cases will help with the immediate need for attorney positions. Traci Smith explained she would like to see the commission consider other options, possibly renting office space, or helping to facilitate conversations with the Office of the Public Advocate to see if there is any opportunity to have cases assigned more equitably, rather than just having them accept conflict cases.

New Business:

Betsy Doyle spoke about the Supreme Court Decision which gives extremely good guidance on how to handle Competency cases and Competency hearings.

Opportunity for Public Comment: There were no requests for public comment.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:51am.