

Georgia Public Defender Standards Council

MINUTES

12/6/2013

11:00 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 | Cheryl Karounos, Lucas Brainerd |
| COURT REPORTER | JPA Reporting, 404-853-1811 |
| ATTENDEES | Council members present: D. Sims, R. Cross (by phone), D. Seagraves, G. Hodges (by phone), L. Paris, Hon. A. McGarity (by phone), J. Hankins, K. Beal, C. Karounos. Other attendees included Stefan Ritter, State Dept. of Law, and members of the Southern Center for Human Rights, Circuit Public Defenders, and GPDSC Central Office staff. |

The meeting was called to order 11:02 by Chairman Ron Cross via telephone, Chairman Cross entertained a motion from those present to nominate a chair from the councilmembers present. Councilmember Sims nominated Donna Seagraves, seconded by Council member Paris. Roll call was then taken.

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| APPROVAL OF AGENDA | D. SEAGRAVES | Agenda unanimously approved. |
| APPROVAL OF MINUTES | D. SEAGRAVES | Minutes from prior meeting unanimously approved. |
| DIRECTOR UPDATE | T. SAKRISON | Mr. Sakrison introduced the Appellate Project. Jimmonique Rogers elaborated on this topic. Introduced Moffett Flourney, the newly appointed CPD in the Chattahoochee Circuit. Acknowledged Claudia Saari's appointment as CPD of the Stone Mountain Circuit. Gave the CPD's notice of the upcoming conflicts survey. Congratulated Mr. Tolley on his reappointment to another four-year term on the council. Took notice of the increased number of conflicts declared from last year to this resulting from the Formal Advisory Opinion. |
| BUDGET UPDATE | T. SAKRISON / A. ROSS | Mr. Sakrison and his staff have been meeting with the Governor's Office, legislative oversight committees, members of the General Assembly, and all others involved in the budget process; it seems all who supported the GPDSC before will continue to support us in the future. Preparing for accelerated General Assembly session this year. Mr. Ross explained Clerks and Sheriffs trust account. Decreases in funds from this source, along with the increase in conflicts cases, will need to be addressed in this year's budget. |
| LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | T. SAKRISON / C. KAROUNOS | Ms. Karounos updated the council on the hearings on the burden of proof for mental retardation that took place earlier this year. Updated the council on the Council of Juvenile Court Judges fall seminar. D. Seagraves explained the Juvenile Risk Assessment Instrument. C. Van Dross updated the council on the Criminal Justice Reform Council's most recent activity. |
| OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE | S. RHINEHART | Ms. Rhinehart explained the history of the Office of the Mental Health Advocate and some of its evolving responsibilities. Ms. Rhinehart detailed her office's role in IST and NGRI cases, in legal pre-trial assistance, and in education and training. |
| REMAINING VERIFICATION SYSTEMS APPROVAL | T. SAKRISON / D. SEAGRAVES | No pending applications for systems approval. Ms. Seagraves updated the council on the status of the surveys issued to CPDs to ensure that the indigent determination standards, |

guidelines and procedures are being followed. The single opt-out response to the survey indicated that they are not following the procedures with regard to juvenile court but that they are with regard to superior court. Clarified misunderstanding as to whether or not the Juvenile Code rewrite has an effect on qualification for public defender services. CHINS section of the Juvenile Code rewrite does not obviate the indigency determination requirement of our enabling legislation.

STANDARDS STUDY COMMITTEE

D. SEAGRAVES

The standards study committee will have its first formal meeting after the first of the year.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Council did not agree to its next meeting date, opting rather to send inquiries to absent council members.
