

Georgia Public Defender Standards Council

MINUTES

9/27/2013

11:00 AM

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

MEETING CALLED BY	Chairman Ron Cross
TYPE OF MEETING	Regular Meeting
FACILITATOR	W. Travis Sakrison, Executive Director
NOTE TAKER	Cheryl Karounos, Janet Hankins
COURT REPORTER	JPA Reporting, 404-853-1811
ATTENDEES	Council members present: D. Sims, R. Cross, D. Seagraves, G. Hodges (by phone), L Paris, Hon. M. Miller, Hon. A. McGarity. 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.

After a roll call, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Ron Cross 11:04 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA	R. CROSS	Agenda unanimously approved.
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	R. CROSS	Minutes from prior meeting unanimously approved.
DIRECTOR UPDATE	T. SAKRISON	Mr. Sakrison introduced Doug Smith, newly appointed CPD of Towaliga Circuit. Announced that Jan Hankins is GPDSC contact for CJCC and grant ideas are to go to her for consideration and presentation. Reviewed caseload comparisons as result of application review showing a decrease in total case load of 6% since 2010. Retiring CPD Robert Wadkins was awarded a plaque in honor of his service. Mr. Wadkins made some remarks.
BUDGET UPDATE	T. SAKRISON / A. ROSS	Fiscal year '13 amended budget closed at greater than the Indigent Defense fund for the first time since GPDSC founding. As result of FAO 10-1 conflicts have increased roughly 80% over last year. The Capital Defender reorganization prevented that number and the costs from being even greater. Mr. Sakrison and his staff have been meeting with budget contacts who seem to be supportive in addressing the increased costs resulting from FAO 10-1.
REMAINING VERIFICATION SYSTEMS APPROVAL	D. SEAGRAVES/E. TOLLEY	One initial application for the Northern Circuit and applications for reapproval on addendum. All applications were in order and Ms. Seagraves recommended approval of Northern Circuit's initial application, all the reapprovals and the City of Tyrone. Mr. Sims made a motion for their approval, seconded by Judge McGarity.
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE	T. SAKRISON / C. KAROUNOS	Have had meetings regarding Juvenile Justice, specifically HB 674, a funding bill for ADAs and APDs. Met with Debra Nesbit – ACCG to work on a formula or plan for funding which is having positive response. CPD Christine VanDross was appointed to the CJRC – any issues, questions or concerns regarding Criminal Justice reform can go to Christine or through C. Karounos. Regarding transition support and reentry, CPD Lee Robinson has a special private/public partnership project, contact Lee with ideas or questions regarding expungement/re-entry.
OPT-OUT CIRCUIT REPORTS	T. SAKRISON / J. HANKINS	The committee composed of David Sims, Lee Morris, Sam Merritt and Jan Hankins reviewed all of the annual report materials and did not find any significant concerns. Recommendation

to approve all six opt-out circuits as eligible to continue operations. Motion to approve made by E. Tolley. Seconded by D. Seagraves.

Director Sakrison suggested creating a study committee to review standards. Donna Seagraves to head the committee, Judge Miller also to sit on the committee and the GACPD to name three members.

NEW BUSINESS: STANDARDS STUDY COMMITTEE T. SAKRISON

NEXT MEETING DATE

Council agreed that next meeting will be December 6, 2013.
