

GEORGIA PUBLIC DEFENDER STANDARDS COUNCIL

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

May 19, 2006

10:00 AM

The regular meeting of the Georgia Public Defender Standards Council (Standards Council), an independent state agency within the judicial branch, was held on Friday, May 19, 2006, at the office of the Standards Council, 104 Marietta Street, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30303.

Council members present were Emmet Bondurant (Chairperson), Wilson DuBose (Co-chair) [arrived later], Gerald Word, David Dunn (Secretary), Ed Hine, and Paul Kurtz.

Staff members present included Michael Mears (Director), Sarah Haskin (Deputy Director), Paul Kehir (Deputy Director), Nolan Martin (Deputy Director), Susan Teaster (Acting Chief Legal Officer), Sabrina Rhinehart (Mental Health Advocate), Chris Adams (Capital Defender), Cindy Wang, Helen Tate, Christie Crane, Marques Smith, Becky Chase, and Robin Fisher.

Other individuals present included Burt Baker (Cordele Judicial Circuit Public Defender), Lee Robinson (Macon Judicial Circuit Public Defender), D'Andre Berry (Atlanta Judicial Circuit Public Defender Office), Larry Love (West Georgia Regional Conflict Administrator), and Jan Hankins (Metro Conflict Defender Office). The guest sign up sheet is attached.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bondurant called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM after a quorum was declared.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the last Standards Council meeting held on April 21, 2006, were adopted by unanimous consent.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

a. Announcements

Conflict Case Coordinating Manager Robin Fisher introduced the new interns at the Central Office. Senior Appellate Supervising Attorney Leigh Schrope introduced Jimmonique Rodgers as the new Juvenile Appeals Attorney.

Deputy Director Nolan Martin was presented with the framed Resolution given to deputy directors by the Council.

- b. **Sandy Rosenberg from EAP Consultants on the proposed GPDSC employee assistance program.**
Ms. Rosenberg gave a brief presentation on the services provided by the Employee Assistance Program.

V. **ACTION ITEMS**

- a. **Contract with EAP Consultants for employee assistance program**
Director Michael Mears recommended the contract to the Council. Council Secretary David Dunn seconded Director Mears' recommendation and moved for its approval. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously (5-0).

- b. **Contracts/Budget Modifications**
 - 1. **Contract with ASMI for social work services in Cordele Judicial Circuit**
The Council approved the contract as a pilot project. Council member Paul Kurtz suggested that the establishment of an office for social services covering multiple circuits. Council member Ed Hine moved to approve the contract. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously (6-0).

 - 2. **Mercer Criminal Defense Clinic contract renewal**
Macon Circuit Public Defender Lee Robinson informed the Council that the agreement with Mercer School Law may be expanded to other circuits. Tim Floyd will head up the Mercer Criminal Defense Clinic. Council Secretary Dunn moved for its approval. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously (6-0).

 - 3. **Emory Criminal Defense Clinic contract**
Director Mears explained to the Council that the Emory Criminal Defense Clinic will be housed in the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit Public Defender Office. The Council will be providing the office furniture to the director of the clinic. The Emory School of Law is providing the compensation package to the director of the clinic.

- c. **IOP 16-05 Teaching for University System**
Director Mears asked the Council to withdraw the Internal Operating Policy prohibiting teaching for the University System (IOP 16-05) because it is covered by existing state laws (O.C.G.A. § 16-10-9 and O.C.G.A. § 45-10-25). Council member Gerald Word moved to withdraw the policy. It was seconded and approved unanimously (6-0).

d. ACCG Committee

Council Secretary Dunn informed the Council that he and Walker County Attorney, Don Oliver, have discussed forming a committee to come up with indigent defense funding strategies. He moved to have 3 people designated to the committee. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously (6-0). Deputy Director Sarah Haskin, Council Secretary Dunn, and Council member Ed Hine were recommended to participate in this committee.

e. FY 2007 GPDSC Budget

Budget Analyst Marques Smith gave the budget report. The Indigent Defense Fund is expected to reach \$38 million. He informed the Council that the monies in reserve will be utilized to meet the Council's needs. Council member Paul Kurtz moved to approve the changes to the budget. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously (6-0).

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Creation of conflict office in Dublin Judicial Circuit

The conflict office in the Dublin Judicial Circuit will serve some adjoining circuits. Director Mears and Chairman Emmet Bondurant commended Judge Flanders and Judge Smith.

Chairman Bondurant expressed the need to get the message across to the circuit public defenders that the Central Office is available to help any circuit public defender in need.

b. Creation of South Central conflict office (*will serve Griffin, Flint & Coweta Judicial Circuits*)

Deputy Director Paul Kehir gave a presentation on tracking conflict data. West Georgia Conflict Case Administrator Larry Love explained that Meriwether County was chosen for the office because it was the most central location. Council member Word pointed out that they need the judges' help in coordinating the trial calendars since the conflict office will serve multiple jurisdictions.

VII. OTHER REPORTS

a. Capital Defender Report

Capital Defender Chris Adams gave his report to the Council. He is expecting \$4.1 to \$4.2 million in expenditures.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Mears informed the Council that his report contains confidential personnel and litigation matters.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council member Ed Hine moved to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation matters. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously (6-0).

X. FUTURE MEETINGS

The next Council meeting will be Friday, June 23, 2006 at 10:00 AM.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

These minutes are respectfully submitted this ____ day of June, 2006, and adopted this 23rd day of June, 2006.

David Dunn, Secretary