



AURORA
PUBLIC
DEFENDER

Justice Fairness &
Compassion For All

PUBLIC DEFENDER COMMISSION MEETING

January 28, 12:15 P.M.

PUBLIC DEFENDER'S VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ROOM

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 12:20 p.m.
2. Present were Commissioners Tom Tobiassen, Frances Smylie-Brown, Tom Ashburn, Colette Tvedt, David Kaplan, and Sara Hildebrand along with Chief Public Defender Doug Wilson. A quorum was declared to conduct Commission business.
3. Absent: Johanna Cartledge
4. Guests: Josh Leesman, Katie Adastra, Jarrod Koski from UNCOMN, Elizabeth Cadiz, Reyna Lopez, Tasha Stewart, Anne Morehead, Dustin Klein, and Jordan Culver.
5. Minutes: Motion to approve raised by Commissioner Ashburn. 2nd by Commissioner Hildebrand, all in favor. Motion passes.
6. Introductions
7. Report from the Chief Public Defender:

E-Agenda

Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 31st with Mike Ridder, Julie Heckman, and Judge Day to get an update. We are given assurances to having things done by April 1st. We are working with Legal Server to be able to get direct downloads of discovery and body worn cam. Hopefully this will resolve the big issues we currently have accessing the body cam via links.

City Council Meet and Greet

We have talked to three out of the four new city council member's and had the privilege of having two visit our office. We have not had council members visit and get acquainted with our office till now. We were able to inform them of the work we do and how our department is set up. We have some council member support regarding additional office space.

Workload Analysis

Update from Josh, Katie, and Jarrod of UNCOMN and the workload study. Thirteen weeks of data has been collected and they have been able to graph and display the data as it is as they get to know and understand the information collected. Today's presentation is on case specific time and not time spent on general non case specific work or administrative, supervision, or CLE work.

Commissioner Kaplan asks if drawing out which cases take the most amount of time be beneficial. Josh responds that it is a good point and will make note of that as this moves forward.

Commissioner Hildebrand agrees that the need to track investigative tasks but also tracking how things are broken down for tracking. Josh does state that it is the goal to try and establish some normalcy and get everyone on the same page. They will look at all the details and determine if anything needs to be modified or tracked differently.

Commissioner Kaplan points out that if the ability exists, we should track which cases out of all the ones that took a lot of preparation time were dismissed. Commissioner Hildebrand agrees especially with the horizontal prosecution style of practice. Josh will make note of that request.

Commissioner Tvedt asks how the staff is doing with tracking of time and accuracy. Chief Wilson advises that it is going great. Weekly reports are being sent out and looked at as well as attorney managers tracking their teams.

FSIR

2 Bills are up, one of which is weekend court. This would require court on Saturday or Sunday if passed. We are advocating for the bill and Judicial and the Prosecution is against the bill.

The second bill is regarding juveniles and juvenile delinquency age. Judicial and Prosecution are opposed, and defense is for support of the bill.

Jails and Covid

We have been informed that conditions in the jails are not adequate. No hot meals in over a month. No medical care, no clean laundry in over 3 weeks. Covid wing offers masks but not mandating them. This will impact our office and bail and sentencing arguments in court.

8. From the Commission:

Update on the final wage adjustment pending in our dept.

Next meeting will be held on February 25, 2022 at 12:15 p.m. in the Public Defender's Virtual Conference room.

The Commission meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

Date _____