

Howard County Public Defender Board

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Lawrence Murrell

R. Cartwright Ellis

Brian L. Oaks

62nd Judicial District

Public Defenders Office
104 North Buckeye Street, Room 102
Kokomo, Indiana 46901

HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 25, 2023

Meeting held on October 25, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. at the Howard County Public Defender Office.

Present and in person were board members; Board President Larry Murrell, Cartwright Ellis, Brian Oaks, Chief Public Defender Andrew Vandenbosch, and Investigator Scott Comfort.

12:04 p.m. Public meeting called to order.

1st Order of Business/Old Business: Minutes of July 17, 2023. Minutes of July 17, 2023 were reviewed.

Motion to approve July 17, 2023 Minutes by Brian Oaks, seconded by Cartwright Ellis. Minutes of July 17, 2023 approved.

2nd Order of Business/Old Business: Minutes of Special Meeting of August 17, 2023. Minutes of Special Meeting of August 17, 2023 were reviewed.

Motion to approve August 17, 2023 Minutes by Brian Oaks, seconded by Cartwright Ellis. Minutes of August 17, 2023 approved.

New Business:

3rd Quarter Reimbursement Report:

The reimbursement for the 3rd quarter is \$178,639.49. The caseload numbers were within the limits of 70%, with the exception of the CHINS public defenders. The two CHINS Public Defender's will be increased to 80% at the beginning of 2024 in order to be in compliance rather than hiring new CHINS public defenders. Scott Comfort advised that the Auditor's Office is now providing Utility information and that the amounts have been added to the report.

Motion to Approve Quarterly Reimbursement for 3rd Quarter by Cartwright Ellis, seconded by Brian Oaks; Quarterly Reimbursement Report approved.

Andrew Vandenbosch advised the Board that the Office is fully funded for Fiscal Year 2024, including all required raises to bring the Deputy Public Defenders into Full Time Equivalent (FTE) compliance with the salaries of the Prosecutor's Office. Scott Comfort advised that Derrick Masson, Public Defender Commission, was advised of the salary compliance and that this Office will not be audited for FTE compliance during 2024.

Andrew Vandenbosch advised the Board that Rebecca Vent, CHINS Deputy Public Defender, is leaving the Office as of December 31, 2023. Rodney Shrock, Deputy Public Defender, will be assuming the CHINS vacancy effective January 1, 2024. Brant Parry has been hired, effective January 1, 2024, to fill the vacancy in Superior Court IV created by Rodney Shrock moving to CHINS.

Next Board Meeting is January 17, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., in the Public Defender's Office.

Brian Oaks moves to adjourn meeting, Cartwright Ellis seconds.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:30 p.m..



Chairman, Lawrence Murrell
Howard County Public Defender Board