



MICHIGAN INDIGENT
DEFENSE COMMISSION

Michigan Indigent Defense Commission Meeting Minutes
200 N. Washington Square, 3rd Floor
Lansing, MI 48933
August 9, 2016
Time: 1:00 PM

Commission Members Present

James Fisher, Chair, Thomas Boyd, Thomas Clement (non-voting member), Nancy Diehl, Frank Eaman, Richard Lindsey, Tom McMillin, Shela Motley, Kevin Oeffner, Michael Puerner, David Schuringa, John Shea, and Gary Walker.

Participating via Telephone

Brandy Robinson.

Commission Members Absent

William Swor

Members of the Public Present:

Alfred Carter, Ashley Carter, Josephine Carter, Cheryl Carpenter, Peter Cunningham, Christopher Dennie, Barbara Klimaszewski, Kelly McDoniel, Michael Naughton, Kay Perry, and Brent Turner.

Staff Members Present

Jonathan Sacks, Marla McCowan, Chris Sadler, Jonah Siegel, and Marcela Westrate.

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm.

Public comment

No members of the public wished to comment.

Additions to the agenda

There were no additions to the agenda

Report from the Chair

Chair Fisher reviewed the report he circulated to Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (“MIDC” or “the Commission”) last week. He noted that he and MIDC staff will meet with the State Court Administrative Office to review the way the two agencies work together.

Jon Campbell notified the Commission and Governor Snyder's office that he has resigned from the Commission.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Sacks gave the Commission an update on his activities since the last meeting.

The Complaints and Recommendations Committee has created an accessible process for individuals to file complaints with the Commission. The committee asked staff to respond to personal complaints. Complaints will be compiled and will be presented for that committee to review. Mr. Sacks expects the committee to meet in September. Mr. Puerner asked whether the complaints were subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Language will be added to the complaint materials to note that they may be subject to that Act, depending upon content.

Mr. Sacks has met with each Commissioner individually and thanked them for their time and the input they provided.

Judge Herrington in Huron County is beginning a counsel at first appearance project in his court. He is working with MIDC staff on implementation and data collection. Van Buren, Allegan, and Barry Counties are exploring the potential for regional cooperation. Meetings are on-going and MIDC staff and regional consultants are participating.

Mr. Sacks presented information to the Commission on the Texas Indigent Defense Commission's discretionary grant program. This information was provided as background, the Commission indicated general support for the idea and will discuss it at a future meeting.

Staff reports

Ms. Westrate updated the Commission on the status of the FY 2017 appropriations and the anticipated balance for a FY 2016 work project.

Ms. McCowan gave the Commission a written report on her activities.

Dr. Siegel updated the Commission on the Research Unit's projects.

Regional report

Ashley Carter, MIDC Regional Consultant for south central Michigan gave an overview of her activities.

Approval of June 21, 2016 minutes

Ms. Motley moved that the minutes be approved. Ms. Diehl seconded the motion. The motion carried; all members participating unanimously supported the motion.

New Business

The Commission discussed a draft of legislation to address issues raised in the Michigan Supreme Court's June 1, 2016 order. Members discussed the draft and its implications. The Governor's office and Mr. Clement have been working on the language.

The next meeting date is October 18, 2016.

Mr. Eaman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Shea seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcela Westrate