

April 24, 2020 Meeting

Commission on Indigent Defense Services

Quarterly Meeting – April 24, 2020 Meeting, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Virtual Meeting

Commissioner Attendees: Darrin Jordan (Chair), Dorothy Hairston (Vice Chair), Mark Hullender, Art Beeler, Brian Cromwell, Joseph Crosswhite, Caitlin Fenhagen, Staples Hughes, Channing Jones, Chris Mumma, Lisa Menefee

Staff Attendees: Mario Richardson (Contract Administrator), Susan Brooks (Public Defender Administrator), D. Tucker Charns (Chief Regional Defender), Jeff Connolly (Regional Defender), Kristen DeSimone (Legal Associate), Whitney Fairbanks (Interim Executive Director), Angela Henderson (Juvenile Contracts Administrator), Susan Perry (Legal Associate), Elisa Wolper (Financial Officer), Joy Zhao (Programmer)

Local and State Public Defender Program Attendees: Dawn Baxton (District 14), Glenn Gerding (Appellate Defender), Jonathan McInnis (District 16A), John Neiman (District 18), Laura Powell (District 29A), Wendy C. Sotolongo (Parent Defender), Beth Stang (District 29B), Deonte Thomas (District 10), Dolly Whiteside (Chief Special Counsel), Eric Zogry (Juvenile Defender)

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Darrin Jordan, who then proceeded with the welcome and conducted a roll call of members participating.

State Government Ethics Act Reminder

Jordan reminded the Commissioners of their responsibilities under the State Government Ethics Act. Commissioner Hughes reminded the Commission that he also served on the Board for North Carolina Prisoner Legal Services, a contractor with IDS.

Updates

Fiscal Update

CFO Wolper provided the Commission with an update on spending calendar and fiscal year to date, spending projections for remainder of FY 20, and spending projections for FY 21.

COOP in Pandemic

Fairbanks provided the Commission with an update on IDS' efforts to support the public defense during the ongoing pandemic, including attempts to streamline payment, moving fee application review and approval to electronic, and encouraging local judicial officials to consider interim fee applications.

2020 Legislative Session

Fairbanks updated the Commission on the ongoing 2020 legislative session. She reminded the Commission that the State was still operating under the 2018 continuing budget and that it was impossible to tell what if any impact the current public health

crisis would have on the possibility of a veto override or a new budget. She updated the Commission on the General Assembly's health emergency related requests.

Commission Business

2020 Commission Meeting Calendar

Considering the ongoing public health emergency and the understaffing in the agency, the Commission elected to tentatively meet again on July 17, 2020.

The IDS Commission went into Executive Session at 11:30am to discuss litigation matters. The minutes of the Executive Session are being withheld from public inspection pursuant to and to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). It returned to open session at 12:00pm.

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 12pm.