

June 18, 2020 Meeting
Commission on Indigent Defense Services

Quarterly Meeting – June 18, 2020, 9:00 AM – 11:00 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)

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.

The IDS Commission went into Executive Session at 9:00am 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 10:30am.

Updates

Fiscal Update

The Commission was provided with the written report of the Budget Committee meeting.

2020 Legislative Session

Fairbanks updated the Commission on the ongoing 2020 legislative session. She advised that a veto override seemed unlikely but that the General Assembly would return to session in September. It was unknown whether they would take the budget back up or restrict the session to Covid-19 related issues.

Commission Business

Review Committee

After reviewing the application for the Capital Roster, the applicant's materials, and the Capital Defender's reason for denying the application, the Review Committee voted to uphold the Capital Defender's decision to deny the application.

Appointment Committee

Considering the President Pro Tempore of the Senate had recently included Morganton attorney Brian Jones in the Senate's appointment bill, the Commission discussed whether someone should approach the Speaker of the House. It was decided that the Commission would wait.

Meeting adjourned by acclamation at 12pm.