

# Jefferson County Public Defender Board Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

Thursday November 12, 2020 – meeting held via Zoom

Present: Board members; Jason Pattison, Robert Little, Heather Foy  
Also in attendance; Judge Mote, Judge Hensley, Magistrate Jacobs, Diane Barton

- Board member Jason Pattison began the meeting with a review of the goals for the board:
  - To separate public defender contracts from the Judges if possible.*
  - To make sure pay for public defenders is reasonable. This is vital to recruit and retain.*
  - To make sure public defender case load is reasonable.*
- It was noted that the current contracts expire 12/31/20.
- Nancy share additional information about the public defender reimbursement program in Scott County. Their chief PD is a county employee (benefit package is also reimbursable up to 40%). This chief individual does not have to be an employee and could still be hired as a contract employee. Eventually if this position is benefit-eligible, it would have to be determined where to budget for this position with potential budget/office expenses. Nancy also suggested the idea of paying all public defenders 1 month delayed to ensure services are received.
- If hired, the chief PD would handle reporting and administrative duties. Diane typically does this work from home for quarterly reports. If we are not prepared to hire someone to fill this role in January, the idea of offering three or six month contracts for public defenders was brought up. Discussion took place about possibly requiring public defenders to give a 30-day notice if he/she wants out of a contract. Bobby Little also mentioned that the county should have the ability as well to opt out of a contract if needed.
- Next steps were discussed. It was suggested to ask the current public defenders if they are willing to accept a three or six month contract, knowing that the board is working on creating a new chief public defender position. Jason will make this ask of the current public defenders. And Diane will work on sending contracts, adding in a 30-day clause.
- The board will meet via zoom again on Wednesday November 18 at 4:00 PM.

*Minutes submitted by Heather Foy.*