

**Court Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**MIDC Michigan Indigent Defense Commission**  
**Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.**  
**Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room**

**DRAFT**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Kevin Osbourne, Court Committee Chair  
John Kozlowski, Commissioner  
Brenda Fournier, Commissioner  
Bill Pfeifer, MAC Administrator  
Russ Rhynard, County Legal Council  
Mary Catherine Hannah, County Administrator  
Judge Ed Black, Circuit Court  
Marcia Burns, Circuit Court Administrator (by Zoom)  
Rick Steiger, Chief Public Defender  
Lynn Bunting, County Board Assistant 1  
Katy Conklin, Attorney (by Zoom)  
Justin Wilson, Attorney (by Zoom)  
Michelle Elowski, Attorney (by Zoom)  
Cristi VanMassenhove, Attorney (by Zoom)  
Sheriff Kieliszewski (by Zoom)  
Undersheriff Erik Smith (by Zoom)  
Marcia Burns, Circuit Court Administrator (by Zoom)  
Kim Ludlow, Treasurer (by Zoom)  
Liz Smigelski, Probate Register (by Zoom)

Chair Osbourne called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**INFORMATION ITEM:** Administrator Hannah gave an update on the information the attorney's sent regarding the hours spent on caseloads and number of cases.

County Legal Counsel Russ Rhynard reported Devin informed him that he may not continue for 2022 and recommended to rotate LGAL and parental defense amongst the attorneys. Russ reported that Cristi stated she does not want to represent adults, only children, and he recommends getting more attorney's onboard for 2022 first and to continue as is and review possible compensation increase in 2023.

Attorney Wilson reported no problem with LGAL and parental work on rotation basis and can take on more cases as he has the time but not able to do workload with only two attorneys.

Attorney Conklin reported if continue on zoom with cases can do but in person is difficult as in court all day makes it difficult to do caseloads. She noted she can reach out to another attorney who may be interested and has over 30 years' experience but not on a regular basis as this attorney plans to retire.

Judge Black reported he can reach out to a few attorneys and if Devin leaves he can find a replacement. Judge Black gave a background of the original contract years ago.

Administrator Hannah reported two issues the Committee need to discuss and resolve: 1) Compensation, and 2) number of attorney's to cover cases.

Discussion on number of attorney's needed, hours worked, and compensation. This is court-appointed counsel work.

Attorney Elowski reported on number of caseloads she acquired since starting on April 1, 2020.

Chair Osbourne recommended the attorney's provide documentation more than once per year this point forward and include as part of the contract.

INFORMATION ITEM: Discussion on an extension of the current contract until documentation is reviewed and contact with other counties to see what numbers they approve for an attorney contract. Legal Counsel Russ Rhynard reported he can do an extension from now until February 15, 2022. Moved by Commissioner Osbourne and supported by Commissioner Fournier to approve a 6-month extension with the current attorneys. Amended Motion by Commissioner Osbourne and supported by Commissioner Fournier to recommend the below Action Item to the Full Board. Motion carried.

**ACTION ITEM #1: The Committee recommends extending the current 2021 Attorney Contract for 60 days (01.01.22 to 03.01.22) and the Court Committee will review and propose a 2022 Attorney Contract to the board at a future board meeting.**

Administrator Hannah will set up a Zoom meeting with the current attorneys to discuss options and a proposed 2022 Attorney Contract.

INFORMATION ITEM: Administrator Hannah reported she will reach out to other county administrators on what they do with their Attorney Contract and compensation.

Chair Osbourne recommended to look at this contract in the future during budget time in October and can modify at that time if needed. Commissioner Kozlowski informed the committee that they need more than one year to review with options for renewal and other funding sources.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to adjourn. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

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Kevin Osbourne, Court Committee Chair

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Lynn Bunting, Board Assistant

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