

Court Committee Meeting Minutes
MIDC Michigan Indigent Defense Commission
Thursday, September 16, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.
Howard Male Conference Room/Zoom Room

IN ATTENDANCE:

Kevin Osbourne, Court Committee Chair
John Kozlowski, Commissioner
Brenda Fournier, Commissioner
Bill Pfeifer, MAC Administrator
Barb Klimaszewski, MIDC State Representative (by zoom)
Russ Rhynard, County Legal Council
Tammy Sumerix-Bates, County Executive Manager
Lynn Bunting, County Board Assistant
Katy Conklin, Attorney (by zoom)
Chelsea Wallace, Attorney
Devin Pommerake, Attorney
Justin Wilson, Attorney (by zoom)
Richard Steiger, Chief Public Defender
Julie Miller, Chief Deputy Defender

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

INFORMATION ITEM: MAC Administrator Bill Pfeifer recommended to amend the budget for 2021 for the MAC Administrator line item as presented (attachment #1a). Treasurer Kim Ludlow provided a Budget Adjustment report for 2021 (attachment #1b). Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to recommend the below Action Item. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #1: The Committee recommends to adopt the amended budget for the MAC Administrator for 2021.

INFORMATION ITEM: MAC Administrator Pfeifer presented the FY22 MIDC Grant Application/Grant Agreement for approval (attachment #2). Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to recommend the below Action Item. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #2: The Committee recommends to approve the FY2022 MIDC Grant No. 2022-21 (10.01.21/09.30.22) in the amount of \$675,423.47 (State Grant contribution of \$513,660.66) with a County match of \$161,762.81 as presented. This has Grant Review Committee approval and attorney review.

INFORMATION ITEM: County Legal Counsel Russ Rhynard presented the Attorney Contract 2021 update and recommendation and the negotiation for an Attorney Contract for 2022 for discussion. Russ reported the change in the contract would be to make sure the duties and pay are all the same for the attorney's and to extend to December 31, 2022, and to include language

into 2021 contract for all three attorney's (Devin Pommerake, Katy Conklin, and Justin Wilson) and that Cristi VanMassenhove would be taking over Chelsea Wallace's (GAL) duties for 2021. Discussion on adding another attorney and allocation if have five attorneys' instead of four and how this will reduce the workload on the other 4 attorneys with monies being divided amongst the five.

Russ reported that he will prepare the amended 2021 Attorney Contract and send to the Full Board for approval at their Full Board meeting on September 29, 2021. Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to recommend the below Action Item. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #3: The Committee recommends to approve an addendum to the current Attorney Contract for 2021 for Cristi VanMassenhove to take over for Chelsea Wallace remainder part of the 2021 Attorney Contract effective October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 as presented.

INFORMATION ITEM: Discussion on cases with foster care and if funds are available for the attorneys. Chair Osbourne reported that he will meet with Juvenile Officer Janelle Mott to go over funding for attorneys with regards to foster care and will inform the committee.

INFORMATION ITEM: Chairman Osbourne reported the Treasurer sent a projection for the 2022 budget (attachment #3) and presented for discussion and recommendation. MAC Administrator Bill Pfeifer presented his recommendations reporting the MIDC Grant is for FY October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

MAC Administrator Pfeifer informed the committee that he will speak with Treasurer Ludlow and go over the line items for the budget 2022 recommendations. Moved by Commissioner Kozlowski and supported by Commissioner Fournier to recommend the below Action Item. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM #4: The Committee recommends to approve the Budget recommendation for 2022 as presented.

INFORMATION ITEM: MAC Administrator Pfeifer reported the Public Defender Office signed a lease for their new location. Chief Deputy Defender Julie Miller reported that they will try to get in their new office by November of this year and are currently fully staffed and up and running.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved by Commissioner Fournier and supported by Commissioner Kozlowski to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Kevin Osbourne, Court Committee Chair

Lynn Bunting, Board Assistant

llb