

Minutes of Meeting
Idaho State Public Defense Commission
August 30, 2023
11:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chair Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bruce Mattare met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Clerk Jennifer Locke, Chief Deputy Clerk Grace Blomgren, Staff Accountant – Grants Julina Hildreth, Public Defender Anne C. Taylor, Client Services/Investigations Administrator Jennifer Jenquine, Chief Deputy Public Defender Jeanne Howe, BOCC Executive Assistant Sara Masters, BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Idaho State Public Defense Commission Regional Coordinator Jennifer Roark. Ms. Roark was present via Zoom. Commissioner Bill Brooks was excused.

- A. **Call to Order:** Chair Leslie Duncan called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. **Business:**

Idaho State Public Defense Commission Quarterly Review and Updates with Regional Coordinator Jennifer Roark (Discussion)

Idaho State Public Defense Commission (PDC) Regional Coordinator Jennifer Roark described the ongoing training opportunities available to staff. She provided an update on the funds which would be provided to the Kootenai County Public Defender's Office by the PDC. She reminded the Board of the PDC's annual request for updated contracts, Public Defense Budget, the full County Budget and a list of all attorneys who have performed indigent defense services in the County for the past year. She stated that the information was used to create reports on caseloads, attorney training and attorney experience. She reminded those present about deadlines for the requested information.

Ms. Roark asked about caseload numbers for Public Defenders and whether the County had been able to bring attorneys back under the recommended limits.

Chair Duncan asked whether the PDC had changed the way they calculated caseloads. She remarked that there had been instances in which things had been double or triple counted, which artificially increased the numbers.

Ms. Roark said that no changes had been made. She described the method by which caseloads were calculated.

Public Defender Anne C. Taylor remarked that the new year had begun with staff already over their limits just from continued cases. She stated that excessive cases were conflicted out when possible, to ease the burden.

Chair Duncan noted that the conflict program had increased from 11% to over 22% at the current time. She added that a couple of new conflict attorneys had been added to the roster.

D. Public Comment: This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chair Duncan adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER LOCKE, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk