

**Minutes of Meeting
Public Defense Commission
September 14, 2021
3:00 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios and Commissioner Leslie Duncan met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Prosecutor Barry McHugh, Public Defender Anne C. Taylor and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present was Idaho State Public Defense Commission Regional Coordinator Jennifer Roark. Commissioner Bill Brooks was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion):**

Idaho State Public Defense Commission Updates with Regional Coordinator Jennifer Roark

Idaho State Public Defense Commission Regional Coordinator Jennifer Roark outlined their upcoming trainings that would be available at no cost to the County or to the participating defense attorneys. She noted that these could be used to fulfill continuing education requirements for the State of Idaho.

Ms. Roark asked what challenges the Kootenai County's Public Defender's Office was facing at this time.

Public Defender Anne C. Taylor stated that her department was having great difficulty in attracting and retaining staff members. She explained that her attorneys would have to exceed their caseload limits because of this.

Ms. Roark provided details of the Public Defense Commission's funding allocations for the coming fiscal year, particularly for the Workload Grants.

Ms. Taylor remarked that she felt it would be beneficial if she and Ms. Roark could meet again in the near future to discuss these and other challenges facing her department.

Commissioner Leslie Duncan confirmed that the Board was aware of the problems the Public Defender's Office was facing and had been doing all in their power to assist. She described the salary adjustments that had been approved and the new salary matrix which would be implemented for FY22. She said that a number of departments in the County were facing similar staffing issues, partly due to high housing costs in the area. She affirmed that the Board felt justice-related services must be treated as a priority.

Ms. Roark remarked that the problems Kootenai County was seeing were being experienced all over the state and the country. She stated that she would be seeking more detailed information which she could present to the legislature in order to increase

funding. She announced that there would be a public hearing on temporary omnibus rules that had been brought into effect. She praised Ms. Taylor's involvement in the processes the PDC had been researching. She suggested that the Commissioners participate in the public meeting or send any written comments to her.

Commissioner Duncan stated she would be attending the meeting September 17, 2021 via Zoom call.

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): Chairman Fillios adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk
