

# INDIANA PUBLIC DEFENDER COUNCIL

Board Meeting  
March 16, 2007  
Marriott Courtyard  
Indianapolis, IN

## MINUTES

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Indiana Public Defender Council (IPDC) was called to order by Chair Mike McDaniel at 6:10 p.m. in the Indiana Room at the Marriott Courtyard, Indianapolis, Indiana. Board members present were David Cook, Bob Hill, Micki Kraus, Mike McDaniel, Neil Weisman, Lorinda Youngcourt, and Sonya Scott. Present by phone were Doug Garner and David Hennessy. Staff present were Larry Landis, Teresa Campbell and Loretta Jackson.

### **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 19, 2007, meeting were unanimously approved with two corrections: adding Bob Hill to the list of attendees and correcting a typographical error.

### **III. BUDGET**

Larry Landis reported that the House has approved the proposed IPDC budget with no changes and we are now waiting for the Senate mark-up. He reported that the Public Defense Fund is funded with an additional \$6 million. He also reported that the DOC budget, which includes forensic diversion funding, has been straight-lined. They will receive no more funds than last year.

Larry Landis announced that the ICJI grant has been approved for \$74,000, with the bulk of the funding to be used to expand on-line training. IPDC conducted seven programs last year, and the evaluations were positive.

### **IV. TRAINING CALENDAR**

Teresa Campbell reported on the seminar schedule for 2008. Because October and November are so heavy in seminars, it was decided to switch TPI to April in 2008. She also reported that Bob Burke of the Federal Public Defenders is interested in sending his attorneys to TPI and is willing to pay \$750 per person. She then asked for suggestions for seminar topics for November and December 2008. Topics proposed included discovery and data management, motions practice to include requests for funds, FOIA, and Lexis training. It was decided to refer this topic to the training committee who will report at the board retreat on July 21, 2007. Mike McDaniel agreed to chair the meeting for Lorinda.

Neil Weisman asked whether it would be possible to provide training to Public Defender Boards, chief and deputy public defenders, and supervisor training. Larry Landis said that Don Murphy does annual training for public defender managers and administrators, but that we do not provide training for county public defender board members.

## **V. LEXIS/WESTLAW**

Larry Landis reported on proposals by Westlaw and Lexis to provide their services to our members. Westlaw offered two options: one at \$15.39/month/person to include their full library; the other at \$18/month/person which included their full library and all manuals and publications that are in electronic format. Lexis's proposal was \$20/month/person, and also included their full library. Both proposals put no cap on the amount of money paid, but rather a per person cost.

Bob Hill asked whether Board members will be required to pay, and Larry responded that they would. IPDC does not have the funding available to absorb the cost.

After a discussion by the board, it was decided to stay with Lexis because of IPDC's long term relationship with them and the fact that there would be no learning curve for our members. IPDC members who wish to continue to use Lexis will pay \$20/month, to be paid for the entire year, with 2007 being pro-rated to \$180, beginning April 1, 2007. A letter explaining the situation and invoices will be sent to our members, with payment due by May 1.

## **VI. VACANT BOARD POSITION**

The seven applications received for the vacant board position were reviewed. After a discussion of the qualifications of the applicants, it was the unanimous decision of the board members to appoint Zaki Ali, Anderson, to complete the term of Terry Harper.

## **VIII. LEGISLATION**

Larry Landis reported that he is working on an amendment a bill on school records that would expand the options for expungement. He reported that the truth in sentencing law appears to be dead.

Larry Landis reported on a database showing that of people convicted of A felony drug offenses in Indiana, 75% are black. In Wayne County, 100% of those convicted of A felony drug dealing are black. He suggested it would be a good idea to get a social scientist involved to collect data to show the racial disparity sentencing for drug offenders.

Larry reported on the status of creating a state-wide public defender system. Included in the materials was a bill introduced in 1981 which was the state's first attempt. He reported that property tax reform, which could have included the state funding for indigent defense, has stalled after the last election.

**IX. NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next board meeting will be the annual board retreat at French Lick on July 21, 2007.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

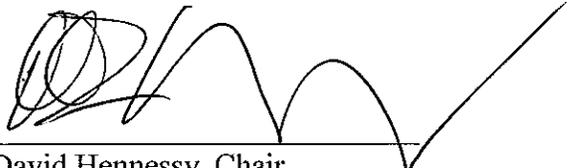
Prepared by Loretta Jackson

Respectfully submitted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sonya Scott, Secretary

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Hennessy, Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_