



## LOUISIANA PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD

Thursday, November 21, 2019

Scotlandville Branch Library

12:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

1. A meeting of the Louisiana Public Defender Board, pursuant to lawful notice, was called to order by its Chairman Frank Holthaus on Thursday, November 21, 2019, at the Scotlandville Branch Library in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at approximately 12:10 p.m.

The following Board members were present:

Chris Bowman  
W. Ross Foote  
Donald North

Flozell Daniels  
Michael Ginart  
Chaz Roberts

Patrick Fanning  
Frank Holthaus  
Moses Williams

*Katherine Gilmore*

The following Board members was absent:

Zita Andrus

The following members of the Board's staff were present:

Richard Pittman, Interim State Public Defender  
Barbara Baier, General Counsel  
Natashia Carter, Budget Administrator  
Jean Faria, Capital Case Coordinator  
Anne Gwin, Executive Assistant  
Erik Stilling, Information and Technology Director

2. Adoption of the Agenda. Mr. Flozell Daniels moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Moses Williams seconded the motion which passed unopposed.

3. Call for Public Comment. No one presented for Public Comment.

4. Adoption the Minutes, September 12, 2019 Meeting. Mr. Daniels moved to adopt the Minutes of the September 12, 2019 meeting. Mr. Pat Fanning seconded the motion which passed unopposed.

5. Budget and Financial
  - a. The Financial Report through October 31, 2019 was recommended by the Budget Committee for adoption as presented. Ms. Katherine Gilmer seconded the recommendation which passed unopposed.
  - b. Ratification of FY21 Budget Request. The FY21 LPDB budget in the amount of \$67,217,568 was recommended by the Budget Committee for ratification by the full Board, seconded by Ms. Gilmer and passed unopposed.
  - c. Solvency Projections. No discussion was had on the solvency projections.
  - d. District FY 20 Funding Requests. Mr. Pittman reported the Budget Committee's recommendation instituting an application process for districts to access the remaining residual monies with a December 20, 2019 deadline. Interim State Public Defender (Pittman) was given the authority to review submittals and provide recommendations to the Committee/Board. The recommendation was seconded by Ms. Gilmer and passed unopposed.
    - i. District 25. Mr. Pittman reported that the Budget Committee's recommendation is for District Defender Chanel Long's request for \$103,000 of the residual monies to be vetted through the newly formed application process. Ms. Gilmer seconded the recommendation which passed unopposed.
  - e. Districts being Monitored.
    - i. District 40. Mr. Pittman reported that the funding situation in District 40 remains unchanged and the second installment of the funds previously encumbered for the district at the September meeting is scheduled for distribution.
    - ii. District 41. Mr. Pittman reported that District Defender Derwyn Bunton submitted a last minute request for funding which the Budget Committee tabled for later action.
6. Executive Session. Mr. Moses Williams moved to go into Execution Session. Ms. Gilmer seconded the motion which passed unopposed.

Mr. Fanning moved to exit Executive Session. Mr. Williams seconded the motion which passed unopposed. Regular Session resumed.

7. District Defender Issues.
  - a. Salary Ranges. No discussion was had on the salary ranges presented in the materials.
  - b. Appointment and Salaries of New District Defenders
    - i. District Defender - District 1 (Caddo Parish). Mr. Pittman reported staff recommendation to hire Ms. Michelle AndrePont in the District Defender position in District 1 (Caddo Parish) at a salary of \$115,000. Professor North moved to defer the issue to the next meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion which passed unopposed.
    - ii. District Defender - District 6 (E. Carroll, Madison, Tensas Parishes). Mr. Williams moved to hire Ms. Angela Claxton as the District Defender in District 6 (E. Carroll, Madison and Tensas Parishes) at a salary of \$100,000 with a 90-day period in which to close out her existing private cases. Additionally, Ms. Claxton is required to maintain a fulltime position and her current PDO workload. Professor North seconded the motion which passed unopposed.

- iii. District Defender - District 29 (St. Charles Parish). Mr. Pat Fanning moved to start with a clean slate and reconstitute the Selection Committee to begin the interview process anew. Professor North seconded the motion which passed unopposed. Staff is to report on the progress to the Board at the next meeting.
  - c. Salary Increase Request – District 25. Professor North moved to approve an increase to District Defender Chanel Long’s current salary of \$80,000 to \$95,000. Mr. Williams seconded the motion which passed unopposed. Mr. Ginart clarified that Ms. Long is to maintain her current caseload. It was also clarified that Ms. Long’s original salary was set at \$80,000 by mistake and is being rectified here. Staff was instructed to visit the district and address concerns of the local stakeholders.
  - d. District 9 (Rapides Parish) Forfeiture Suit. No discussion was had on this issue.
- 8. Board Personnel
  - a. Report and Recommendations of the State Public Defender Search Committee. Judge Foote moved that the Search Committee is to deliver to the State Public Defender a list of the Committee’s recommendation of applicants to call back for a second interview to be held before the full Board. Professor North seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Clarification was made that the SPD Search Committee would hold a separate, duly noticed meeting specifically to determine and provide a list of names of the applicants chosen to proceed to a second interview. A subsequent Board meeting would be held for the specific purpose of holding the interviews in Executive Session with the final vote for the new State Public Defender immediately afterward in regular session. There was no further discussion and with no opposition, the motion, as clarified, passed.
  - b. Executive Positions. Mr. Pittman reported that the application deadline to apply for both the Trial Level Compliance Officer and Director of Training positions is December 1, 2019.
- 9. DAF FY21. Mr. Pittman reported that the DAF discussions will reconvene in the near future.
- 10. LPDB Division Reports. The Juvenile and Capital Division reports are in the materials for review.
- 11. Announcements. Mr. Pat Fanning congratulated Ms. Gilmer on the birth of her first child.
- 12. Next Meeting(s). The Board set the following meetings: The SPD Search Committee will select and notice a meeting prior to the next Board meeting. The next Board meeting at which the finalists for the State Public Defender position are to be interviewed in Executive Session and the next State Public Defender vote on in Regular Session is Thursday, January 16, 2020. No other items are to be brought before the board at this meeting. Location to be determined. The next regular meeting of the Board is Thursday, February 20, 2020. Location to be determined.
- 13. Adjournment. Mr. Flozell Daniels moved to adjourn. Mr. Williams seconded the motion which passed unopposed.

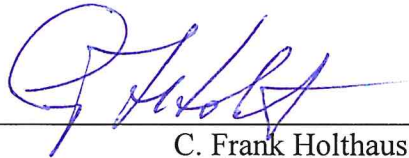
Guests:

Renee Bourg  
Michelle AndrePont  
Raymond Lee Cannon  
Paul Fleming  
John Hogue, III  
Steven R. Thomas  
Wendy J. Williams  
Don Kneipp  
Michael A. Mitchell  
Jee Park

Derwyn Bunton  
Rémy Starns  
Alex D. Chapman, Jr.  
Chanel Long  
Cary Clements  
John W. Lindner  
Don Paul Landry  
Bob Noel  
Lindsey Blouin

Janet Miller  
Alan Robert  
Kyla Romanach  
Angela C. Claxton  
Sadé Lee  
FenwickA. Swann, III  
G. Paul Marx  
Richard Stricks  
Joshua Derville

I HERBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct account of the proceedings of the Louisiana Public Defender Board's meeting held on the 21st day of November, 2019, as approved by the Board on the 20th day of February, 2020, at Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



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C. Frank Holthaus, Chairman