

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION**  
**FEBRUARY 4, 2020**

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The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:33 p.m., in the conference room, at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, Connecticut.

**Members Present**

Thomas J. Rechen, Esq., **Chair**  
G. Kenneth Bernhard, Esq. (*Conference Call*)  
Honorable William R. Dyson (*Conference Call*)  
Aimee Golbert, LCSW  
Attorney Ramona Mercado-Espinoza  
Honorable Hillary B. Strackbein (*Conference Call*)  
Honorable Elpedio N. Vitale

**Others Present**

Christine Perra Rapillo, Chief Public Defender  
John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender  
Diane M. Fitzpatrick, Director of Human Resources  
Stephen A. Hunt, Financial Director  
Jonathan K. Gable, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender  
Geographical Area 5 (Derby)  
Thomas J. Paoletta, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender  
Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport)  
David Warner, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender  
Geographical Area 14 (Hartford)

The Chief Public Defender discussed a proposed future attorney position to be shared between the Human Resources and Training departments to focus on diversity, recruitment and training.

Financial Director, Stephen A. Hunt, discussed the current and future status of the Division's budget. The Division is projected to end the year without a deficiency.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2020 meeting. Commission member, Attorney Ramona Mercado-Espinoza abstained from the vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:51 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Section 1-200(6)(A) and Section 1-210(b)(10) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 5:26 p.m.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Rosanna L. Cappetta to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 5 (Derby).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
ROSANNA L. CAPPETTA

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Caroline A. Gallucci to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
CAROLINE A. GALLUCCI

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Kim W. Mendola to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 2 (Bridgeport).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
KIM W. MENDOLA

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to appoint Attorney Michelle Fredericks to the position of Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Geographical Area 14 (Hartford).

APPOINTMENT OF ATTY.  
MICHELLE FREDERICKS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Public Defender Secretary I, Carol Gonzalez, Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Part-Time Public Defender Secretary I, Diana Raouf, Connecticut Innocence Project/Post Conviction Unit, Office of Chief Public Defender, Rocky Hill, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Public Defender Secretary II, Nicole Santiago, Bridgeport Juvenile Matters, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public

PERMANENT STATUS

Defender, Daniel Baker, Geographical Area 7 (Meriden), upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Social Worker I, Kumeh Bestman, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), upon the successful completion of his probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Social Worker I, LaQueshia Clemons, Bridgeport Juvenile Matters, upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Social Worker II, Jodi DeSautels, Geographical Area 21 (Norwich), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Angela Cortese, Geographical Area 12 (Manchester), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Social Worker I, Chaneil

PERMANENT STATUS

Beckford, Geographical Area 4 (Waterbury), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to grant permanent status to Deputy Assistant Public Defender, Justine Whalen, Geographical Area 23 (New Haven), upon the successful completion of her probationary period.

PERMANENT STATUS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Public Defender, it was VOTED unanimously to reappoint the following attorneys to a new four-year term: Assistant Public Defender, Stephanie O'Neil, Geographical Area 18 (Torrington), expiring on 2/5/2024; and Assistant Public Defender, Mark Holmes, Geographical Area 12 (Manchester), expiring on 2/11/2024.

ATTORNEY  
REAPPOINTMENTS

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Assistant Public Defender, David Bothwell, New London Judicial District.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the outside employment request of Public Defender, Beth Merkin, New Haven Judicial District.

APPROVAL OF OUTSIDE  
EMPLOYMENT REQUEST

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the **Proposed Amendment to Chapter 12 of the Public Defender Administrative Manual — Assigned Counsel**.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT  
TO CHAPTER 12 OF THE  
PUBLIC DEFENDER  
ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL—  
ASSIGNED COUNSEL

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the review of the Division's Annual Report until the next meeting to allow the Chief Public Defender to compile the Report.

TABLING OF REVIEW OF THE DIVISION'S ANNUAL REPORT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve a change to the 2020 Commission meeting dates for the month of March. The Commission meeting for March will be held on March 10, 2020.

APPROVAL OF CHANGE TO THE COMMISSION'S MEETING DATE FOR MARCH

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to approve the following Authorizations to Incur Expenses: 22002 and 22003.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to table the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 22004.

TABLING OF EXPENSES

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to deny without prejudice the following Authorization to Incur Expenses: 22001.

DENIAL OF EXPENSES

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John R. Day  
Deputy Chief Public Defender