

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES COMMISSION
MAY 24, 2023**

The meeting of the Public Defender Services Commission was convened at 4:32 p.m. in conference room 1008 at the Office of Chief Public Defender, Hartford, Connecticut.

Members Present

Honorable Richard N. Palmer, **Chair**
Honorable William R. Dyson
Michael Jefferson, Esq.
Russell Morin
Honorable Sheila M. Prats
Honorable Elliot N. Solomon (arrived late)

Others Present

TaShun Bowden-Lewis, Chief Public Defender
John R. Day, Deputy Chief Public Defender
Frank DiMatteo, Business Information Systems Manager
Steve Hunt, Financial Director
Paula Lohr, Acting Director of Human Resources
Andy O'Shea, Training Director
Alix Walmsley, Director of Assigned Counsel

Public Comment

Joseph Lopez, Director, Complex Litigation Unit, OCPD
Corrie Mainville, Public Defender, Litchfield Judicial District /
Geographical Area 18 (Torrington)
David Warner, Supervisory Assistant Public Defender,
Geographical Area 14 (Hartford)
Attorney Laila Haswell, Union President, Local 381

Attorney Douglas Ovian, Union Vice President, Local 381
Katie Farrell, Chief Social Worker, OCPD

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by the majority of the Commission to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2023, meeting. The Honorable Elliot Solomon was not present for the vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Frank DiMatteo, Business Information Systems Manager, presented regarding JustWare and caseload data, followed by a Q & A with members of the Commission.

Steve Hunt, Financial Director, presented regarding the agency budget and budget process, followed by a Q & A with members of the Commission.

Andy O'Shea, Training Director, presented regarding the current training opportunities being offered by the Training Unit, followed by a Q & A with members of the Commission.

Paula Lohr, Acting Director of Human Resources, presented regarding on recruitment efforts and plans, followed by a Q & A with members of the Commission.

Alix Walmsley, Director of Assigned Counsel, presented regarding efforts to increase the compensation rates for Assigned Counsel, followed by a Q & A with members of the Commission.

The Commission provided a period for public comments.

Attorney David Warner spoke regarding the merger of G.A. #13 and G.A. #14 and caseloads, followed by a Q & A with members of the Commission.

Katie Farrell, Chief Social Worker spoke regarding the Chief Social Worker's role in the agency.

Attorney Joseph Lopez spoke regarding staffing and morale, followed by a Q & A with members of the Commission.

Attorney Laila Haswell and Attorney Douglas Oviaan of Local 381 spoke on behalf of the union membership regarding the current union contract and the filling of positions within the field offices, followed by a Q & A with members of the Commission.

Attorney Corrie Mainville spoke regarding caseloads and caseload standards.

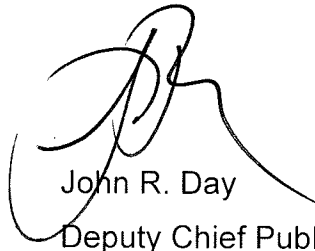
Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously to go into Executive Session at 6:47 p.m. The reason for convening in Executive Session was in accordance with Sections 1-200 (6) (A), (B) and (E) of the Connecticut General Statutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 7:54 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. Day
Deputy Chief Public Defender