

Item 13 - ADDITIONAL

Date: 15 July 2019

To: Travis County Commissioners Court

From: Roger Jefferies, County Executive, Justice Planning

Re: Recommended Oversight Structure for Public Defender Office – Additional Information for Agenda Item #13 (7/16 Commissioners Court)

Travis County approved an application to the Texas Indigent Defense Commission (TIDC) on May 7 requesting grant funding to partially fund the establishment of a public defender office in Travis County. The application is currently under review by TIDC. TIDC has requested some additional information that county staff are currently working to complete. Among the information being requested is an oversight structure for the public defender office.

For the Commissioners Court's consideration, the following is recommended to form the Organizational Development Committee which will provide oversight during the grant period and possibly beyond.

Size – Seven members.

Charge –

- Committee will exist during term of the grant and its continued existence will be reviewed by Commissioners Court at end of grant
- Will recruit, interview and make recommendation to Commissioners Court to hire (or terminate) the Public Defender
- Assist in the development of expected outcomes of the office
- Assist integration with CAPDS and private attorneys
- Work with Transition Team (PBO, Justice Planning, Criminal Courts, IT, Facilities, Purchasing, HRMD) to onboard office
 - Space
 - HR
 - IT
 - Purchasing
 - Finance and Budget
 - Procedural interface with
 - Private Defense Attorneys
 - Law Enforcement
 - Corrections
 - Prosecution
 - Court Admin
- Will provide periodic reporting to TIDC and Commissioners Court

Categories of Members to Carry Out Charge

1. Academic
2. Private Attorney
3. Public Defender
4. Justice Involved Individual
5. Advocate/Community Activist
6. Retired Criminal Judge or Civil Judge
7. Commissioners Court Representative

Prior to submission to TIDC, the Commissioners Court will be asked to take an action on July 30 on a slate of individuals who have a demonstrated commitment to justice, and also who have demonstrated a reputation for teamwork, problem solving, listening to and balancing competing interests.