

MINUTES

Joint Meeting House Appropriations Subcommittees on Judiciary and Licensing and Regulatory Affairs/DIFS

DATE: Wednesday, September 13, 2017

The subcommittee meeting was called to order by Representative VerHeulen at 12:00 p.m. Attendance was taken. Present - Representatives VerHeulen, Brann, Miller, and Pagan
Absent - None

I. Michigan Indigent Defense Commission

Jonathon Saks, Executive Director of the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission, and Marnie Wills, Deputy Director, Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs at DLARA, appeared before the subcommittee. Mr. Saks provided an overview of the Commission.

The National Legal Aid and Defender Association found that Michigan failed to provide competent representation to poor people in criminal courts and ranked 44th out of all 50 states in per capita indigent defense spending. As a result, the Commission was created in 2011, and has a mandate to collect and compile data for the review of indigent services, propose minimum standards to ensure all systems meet constitutional obligations, work with counties to implement plans to meet approved standards, and award state-funded grants to county systems to bring their systems into compliance.

Standards 1, 2, 3, and 4 were approved by DLARA in May 2017 and all indigent defense delivery systems are required to submit compliance plans and cost projections by November 2017. Standards 5, 6, and 7 have been proposed and will be reviewed by members of the public and the criminal justice community through October 2017.

Discussion ensued (questions and answers).

II. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, Representative VerHeulen adjourned the subcommittee meeting at 12:40 p.m.