

APPROVED - MINUTES	
Committee	UTAH INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION
Date, Time Location	Thursday, April 16, 2026, 2 PM – 4 PM 370 E South Temple, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, UT 84111. Also, virtually via Zoom.
Commissioners Present	Chair John Kwarm, Michael Zimmerman, Aaron McKnight, Lorene Kamalu, Wally Bugden, Richard Mauro, Pam Vickrey, Paul Dodd.
Commissioners Excused	Mary Corporon, Kendall Thomas, Margaret Lindsay, Tom Ross, Michael Drechsel, Todd Weiler, Stephanie Gricius.
Staff	Matthew Barraza, executive director; Adam Trupp, assistant director; Joshua Buhay, financial analyst; Daniel Lancaster, Capital Mitigation & Forensic Social Work; Katriina Adair, Grant program manager; Zoraya Gappmaier, Managing and Training Attorney; Leslie Howitt, Data Analyst; Debra Nelson, Chief Appellate Officer.
Guests	Candace Reid, Southern Utah Regional Managing Defender.
Agenda Item	Welcome & Introductions
	Chair John Kwarm welcomed the attendees and asked them to introduce themselves.
Agenda Item	Approval of Minutes
	Commissioner Zimmerman put forward a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner McKnight. The motion was passed unanimously.
Agenda Item	Staffing Update
	Matthew Barraza announced to the Commission that Leslie Howitt was departing from the Indigent Defense Commission to move back east to be closer to family. He and several commissioners thanked her for her 6 years of service and for all the good work provided to the IDC during her tenure.
Agenda Item	Southern Utah Update

	Candace Reid updated the IDC on regional managing public defender onboarding and pain points. She noted that Sevier and Sanpete had more public defenders than other rural regions which acted as a built-in conflict system. She noted that some of the contracts had too long of terms and that she had reached out to the county attorney to revise those contracts. Candace Reid noted that the IDC and Zoraya Gappmaier were immediately ready to assist with a capital case out of Wayne which was an example to be used to encourage other counties to join the Aggravated Murder Fund. She noted that in Kane County only one attorney is working on all case types and that she was working to split that workload in order to achieve better specialization. She also noted that Zoraya had done a good job in managing Grand County which made her onboarding there much quicker and easier.
Agenda Item	Aggravated Murder Fund Update
	Zoraya and Daniel give an update on the Agg. Murder fund. Daniel started his presentation with a summary of the IDC gaining stewardship of the AMID fund in 2024 and detailed the inherited cases and appeals and the new cases and appeals opened since 2024. Daniel discussed the timeline of the inception of the Mitigation program, starting with the AMID contracting attorneys' identification of difficulties in finding mitigation specialists for Agg. Murder cases. He continued to summarize the IDC's proposal for an in-house mitigation specialist which resulted in his hiring at the IDC and the progress to full operational capacity by December 2025. Daniel discussed his work as primary mitigation specialist in more detail, including the Agg. Murder case resolved in January 2026 and four active cases and two active appeals. He continued to summarize the mitigation process and its impacts on the currently active cases he was working on. Commissioner Bugden asked about Utah County's participation in the AMID fund. Matthew Barraza stated that Utah County asked for \$2 Million in one time funding from the State Legislature to cover the case since it was high profile and that they were granted \$1 Million, but none of those funds came from the AMID Fund. Commissioner Bugden asked if there had been any blowback from the Legislature for Utah County having to request these funds due to not joining the AMID Fund, to which Matthew Barraza stated they had not due to the high profile nature of the case. Commissioner Kamalu asked if Utah County was planning to join the fun now, to which Matthew Barraza responded that the UTCPD was planning

	to take on Aggravated Murder cases internally again, similar to how LDA handles them.
Agenda Item	Child Welfare Legislative Highlights
	Adam Trupp started his legislative review with SB141 from Senator Harper, which removed DCFS's exemption from the requirement to serve any documents they file on any other parties which would allow defense attorneys to no longer be behind on information. The bill also added a 14-day deadline from the date of court order to complete evaluations on a non-custodial parent or guardian and a change to a law that now gives authority for the court to order a postadoption contact agreement between natural parents and adoptive parents in private termination of parental rights cases. He continued to review changes to guardian ad litem reporting and disclosure requirements introduced by HB372, the extension of the IDC's interdisciplinary parental representation program pilot project by five years in HB35, and a change that allows a parent to return to the court to ask that the court modify an order of permanent custody and guardianship given to the other parent when the first parent was involved in a child welfare case in HB105.
Agenda Item	Other Business
	None
Agenda Item	Public Comment
	None
Next Meeting	Thursday, June 4, 2026.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned.