

**BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes of September 22, 2022**

**Roll Call Present:** Jim Curran, Chairperson  
Jim Martin  
David Vollrath, Vice Chair  
Julie Wuerfel

**Absent:**

**Scheduled:** Brian Dissette, County Administrator  
Mac Elliott, BOC Chair  
Elvin Gonzalez, Family Division  
Lisa Jardine, Friend of the Court

**Others:**

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 9:28 am.

**Family Division Update – Gonzalez**

Gonzalez briefed the Committee on the Pre-Arrest Diversion Program, which he will have data available during the spring report. He noted there is an alarming trend of juvenile firearms offenses with 80 firearms confiscated from the 49022 area this year. He discussed the juvenile center walk-through with Wightman and DLR Group and they noted how advanced the facility was for being built in 1974. He noted there are 12 vacancies for direct care staff and they are using several social media sites for recruiting. Wuerfel noted the Courts made a video for the website and suggested Gonzalez do the same. Discussions ensued regarding population. Gonzalez stated the physical beds are there, but there isn't the necessary staff to run them. He has had to put children in out of state placement. He discussed the partnership with The Box Factory and that it has been well received. Two artists are coming on a regular basis – one teaching photography and the other teaching design. The children are very receptive to the art programs.

**Friend of the Court Update – Jardine**

Jardine reported they are able to collaborate with other County FOCs through their association. Her Deputy Director, Carissa Grimm, has been elected as a board member to the Michigan Family Support Council which helps with community related opportunities such as job fairs and second chance programs. She noted there have ongoing tech upgrades to increase efficiency and stated her appreciation for the I/S department and their work. She currently has two job openings and discussed their positive work environment. The Establishment Division is still located at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and she would like to move them into the Courthouse. She is working on getting quotes to add space for the 4 people. Their grant will reimburse 2/3 of the cost for the move.

**Q & A – Dissette & Elliott**

Wuerfel requested a status update on the procedures for trails. Dissette will provide an update.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Vollrath, supported by Wuerfel, to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2022 meeting.  
Motion Carried.

**Resolutions**

The following Resolutions were signed by the Committee:

A2210361 – Accept DHHS Raise the Age grant for reimbursement related to the costs of adding 17 year olds to juvenile caseload.

A2209363 – Sign work agreement and all reports related to FY23 EMPG.

A2210364 – Authorize annual Performance Resolution for State Highway Right of Way designees.

**Public Comment**

None.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

*J Arent*

Jennifer Arent  
Recording Secretary