

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY MICHIGAN, Your County Administration Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (“MIDC”) was created by Public Act 93 of 2013; and

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2016, Resolution C1610291 was approved by the Berrien County Board of Commissioners creating the Berrien County Public Defender’s Office and established the staffing levels in response to the MIDC’s task of standardizing the provision of legal representation to indigent individuals charged with a crime; and

WHEREAS, a Compliance Plan (“Plan”), has been submitted annually as approved by the Board of Commissioners, and for the period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 (FY22) Berrien County was awarded \$3,508,379.23 with a local share of \$569,469.67; and

WHEREAS, during annual review of the independent contractor representation for Qualified Juveniles in the Trial Court – Family Division for 2021, it was determined that youth representation in Berrien County could be elevated and this has become a priority for County Administration; and

WHEREAS, the Berrien County Public Defender Office seeks to submit a proposal to MIDC requesting Special Project Funds to develop and create an “Emerging Adult Task Force” in Berrien County that will focus on juveniles in the justice system, both to elevate youth representation in Berrien County and provide data collection to MIDC; and

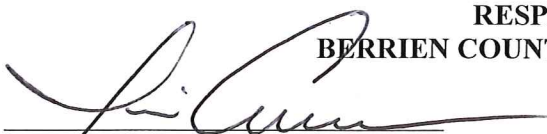
WHEREAS, the Emerging Adult Task Force proposal would request an annual budget from MIDC Special Project Funds of \$502,335.00, prorated to amend the existing FY2022 budget with no increase in Berrien County’s FY2022 local share, with an anticipated orientation of the project in May of 2022, and acceptance of cases by the Task Force commencing in June of 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners authorizes and directs the Chief Public Defender to submit the request for Special Project Funds to MIDC in the amount of \$502,335.00, which shall be prorated for the period June through September, 2022 with no increase in the County’s FY2022 local share contribution for the Emerging Adult Task Force.

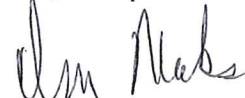
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should this request not be fully funded, modifications may be made and resubmitted by the County Administrator but formal acceptance of any grant remains with the Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any employee positions added in accordance with this funding will be eliminated by the Board of Commissioners should the grant be no longer sufficient to cover the cost of same.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**




Jim Curran, Chairperson



Don Meeks

David Vollrath., Vice Chair



Julie Wuerfel

RESOLUTION APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 4-7-22

Date 4/1/22

Date

Date