



MEMO

TO: Judge Chris Hill and Collin County Commissioners

FROM: District Court Judges Hearing Criminal Cases
Judge Angela Tucker, Judge Jennifer Edgeworth, Judge John Roach, Jr., Judge Tom Nowak, Judge Ben Smith, Judge George Flint, Judge Andrea Thompson, Judge Cynthia Wheless
All County Court at Law Judges

DATE: April 11, 2023

RE: Temp Chief MHMC Attorney Position

The District Court Judges Hearing Criminal Cases, and all of the County Court at Law Judges, are requesting creation of a temporary position effective 5/1/2023 to allow the current Chief MHMC Attorney, Alyse Ferguson, time to assist with the operations of the Appointed Indigent Representation Department and the Mental Health Managed Counsel (MHMC) for the courts while a replacement for her position is found, hired, and trained.

MHMC is made up of 2 positions: Ms. Ferguson is the Chief MHMC position for the courts and has given her notice, and the MHMC Case Manager position has already been vacated and has not yet been filled. That means without Ms. Ferguson, there are no other county employees with the current job knowledge and skills to assist in MHMC cases while hiring or completing the necessary training. This leads to concerns that the courts and the jail will be negatively impacted by the absence of this position. The Chief MHMC Attorney, as just a few of her many duties, addresses competency issues, handles the MHMC attorney assignments for court cases, and works directly with the jail and our community partners on these cases.

The Chief MHMC Attorney position has been posted now for 25 days. The Case Manager job for MHMC has been posted for 47 days. Once a new Chief MHMC Attorney is hired, a period of 4 weeks of overlap will be necessary for training.

If approved, this temporary Chief MHMC Attorney position will be non-exempt, paid hourly for time worked, work no more than 40 hours weekly, and will be compensated at Ms. Ferguson's current rate of \$73.649 hourly. This position will also need to include full-time benefits due to ACA requirements. In FY2023, this position was budgeted for Ms. Ferguson's full annual salary and benefits. She and her replacement will only overlap for the 4 weeks necessary for training at a cost of \$15,000.00 for the temporary position for the overlapping weeks at 40 hours weekly. This cost will be offset by the reduced budgetary cost of the replacement Chief MHMC Attorney salary.

Thank you so much for your consideration.