



OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER STATE OF MONTANA

January 15, 2015

To: Montana Public Defender Commission
From: Peter Ohman, Training Coordinator
Re: Training Report (11/1/2014 – 1/31/2015)

Since the last report we have conducted three training events.

On December 4th and 5th OPD managers, including those from the central, conflict and appellate offices, gathered in Helena for a two day management conference and training. The first day was devoted entirely to training managers on HR issues such as the Family Medical Leave Act, Americans with Disability Act, Equal Employment Opportunity, and Fair Labor Standards Act. There was also a segment devoted to interviewing and hiring procedures. The second day of the conference consisted of a meeting between Chief Hooks, the regional deputy public defenders and managing attorneys.

On October 30, 2014, Andy Hudak, MSOTA from Kalispell presented a one hour webinar on recent developments in sex offender research. The training focused on the varied levels of therapy required for different sex offender risk levels; testing processes; static factors; skills development; when a sex offender is no longer a sex offender; data on when sex offenders become lower risk than those on probation for non-sexual offenses; SORNA compliance; secondary victimization due to family member's registration; and appropriate tests to use for SO evaluations;

On December 12, 2014, Mike Scollati, Ph.D. presented a one hour webinar on issues related to competency and fitness to proceed evaluations. Dr. Scollati talked about the *Dusky* standard for competency; the questions evaluators ask when assessing issues of competency; how rules of patient/client confidentiality operate in court ordered evaluations; what counsel can do to assist the evaluator with performing an accurate evaluation; the need for collateral sources; general characteristics of restorable and non-restorable clients; the "UARC" method – understanding, appreciation, reasoning and communication; and other information related to clients and their ability to assist in their own defense.

Two attorneys attended the National Juvenile Defender Center's Leadership Summit in Louisville, Kentucky. One attorney received a full scholarship to the training and the other a partial scholarship. Both attorneys presented at the Summit.

With respect to operations Jennifer Streano, formerly of the Major Crimes Unit, accepted a position with the Training Office. She will remain in Missoula and will work on sentence review cases in addition to helping develop stronger internship programs with the University of Montana and assisting the office's developing orientation program.

Future training events include monthly webinars, the annual support staff conference at the end of April, a two day training on defending clients charged with sexual offenses in May, and continuing orientation for new attorneys.