



OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER STATE OF MONTANA

July 22, 2014

To: Montana Public Defender Commission

From: Peter Ohman, Training Coordinator

Re: Training Report (2/24/2014 – 8/1/2014)

Since I took over the training position we have provided 7 desktop training CLEs on topics including juvenile defense, sentencing, case law update, DN practice, evidence, DUI and procedural and ethical matters related to mentally ill clients. Copies of the PowerPoint presentations and actual recordings of the CLEs have been posted to the “Moodle” site and the brief bank. On July 10, OPD, with help from a grant provided by the Court Administrator’s Office, sponsored an all-day Child Welfare Law and Practice training. There was a mix of attendees of full-time public defenders and contract attorneys. The reviews were quite positive.

From April 30 to May 1 we held our annual support staff conference in downtown Helena. Approximately 70 support staff from around the State attended. Training was conducted on JustWare and the new eligibility policy among other matters.

One full-time attorney attended the Capital Case Defense Seminar in Monterey, California in February. Three full-time attorneys and one contract attorney attended the Western Juvenile Defender Summit in Las Vegas, June 13-14. Another attorney attended the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative conference sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in Philadelphia in early June. Finally, one full-time attorney attended a week-long immersion training program in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the National Juvenile Defender Center.

The investigator conference is scheduled for August 21-22 in Livingston. We have speakers lined up to discuss interview protocols for children, cell phone forensics, toxicology and basics of cellular evidence and cell tower information.

The Boot Camp is scheduled for September 9-11. The annual conference is set for October 8-9 in Missoula – again at the Doubletree. We are in the process of determining the most effective way to deliver training to our attorneys defending sex crimes. I have also been working on an orientation program for new attorneys. Chris Thomas, who just started in the training office, has begun to develop the same for support staff.

We posted the computer based training (CBT-V) to the FTE attorneys on May 9. Madison Mattioli has been doing a great job with the brief bank and will assist with the Boot Camp – in particular making sure we have a mock jury panel. Ed Sheehy is busy with sentence review but is also available to help attorneys with regular questions that come in directly or via the OPD attorney email system. Cathy Doyle, John Coulthard and Kyle Belcher have been extremely helpful with IT issues, arrangements for trainings and other matters that have come up in the last few months.