

OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

AU RECOMMENDATIONS ASSIGNED TO BUDGET COMMITTEE

Summary of Issues, Management Team Results and Committee Action at 9/23/10 Meeting

#4 Budget submission must show accomplishments

- Define “accomplishments” (other than case growth/dispositions)
- Develop reporting
- Brief Commission/OBPP/Legislative Staff

Team Results

- Recommend that in September, the agency will prepare and submit to the Budget Office (OBPP) a statement of major accomplishments of the agency for further submittal to the Legislative Staff for use in their budget analysis.
- This information would come from the regions and departments in the form of a written response to the Chief Public Defender delivered on or before August 31.
- Some examples may include: a reminder of how past public defender services were provided before the System was established and a comparison of how it is now: access by defenders to investigative staff, robust Appellate function, expert training, administrative support staff, etc.

Committee Action

- The committee recommended contacting the University of Montana Journalism Department regarding a film about the agency
- The committee agreed to forward the Team recommendations to the Commission

17 Next biennium budget should begin immediately

- Increase contract attorney rate to \$110 per hour
- Staff attorneys salaries are in line w/state employees
- Strike minimum case load requirement from current law
- Set coalition with contract attorneys to facilitate effort (*)
- Set reporting for external parameters (*)

Team Results

- The agency budget as submitted to the Commission for their approval addresses the contract attorney rate increase and the attorney’s salaries.
- The Chief Public Defender has developed policy to limit caseloads of those that manage
- A request for legislation to the Governor’s administration requesting the minimum caseload be removed from law has been submitted.

Committee Action

- The committee believes this item will be completed when the Commission makes its budget submission

#18 Establish a separate fund for emergency cases

Establish fund

Agency annual review of emergency fund reserve use

Appellate reports court decisions with agency impact

Agency reports on new legislation fiscal impact

Team Results

- The agency currently establishes a fund under the Contract Manager to pay for unanticipated contract costs. The amount reserved in FY2010 was \$300,000. It ultimately was used for excess contract costs in the regions
- The agency also establishes a fund under the Chief Public Defender

Committee Action

- This item is complete