

OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER



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TO: Montana Public Defender Commission

FROM: Larry Murphy, Contract Manager

RE: Report to Commission

1. Standards Compliance

I continue to work on Standards Compliance interviews and Proficiency Determinations.

2. Client Complaints

I routinely investigate complaints regarding contract attorneys from clients and the judiciary.

3. MOU's

We currently have a total of 234 contract/conflict attorneys MOUs, 19 investigators, and 60 mental health providers. Since the last Commission meeting we have added 12 new attorneys and an additional 10 are pending.

4. Closing Forms

The case closing form that has been in use for some time for FTE attorneys was pushed out to the contractors on July 1. When fully implemented, this will provide more accurate data for the agency.

5. Contract Attorney Fees

The Commission's Contracts Process Committee has been working to develop a new rate for contract attorneys based on solid analysis. Once the rate is established, funding will be considered.