

OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER



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November 29, 2012

TO: Montana Public Defender Commission

FROM: Larry Murphy, Contract Manager

RE: Report to Commission

1. Standards Compliance

Since the last Commission meeting in August, I have not been able to travel to complete any Standards Compliance interviews. As soon as I am able to travel again, I will be in a position to complete the attorneys who have not yet been interviewed.

2. Proficiency Determinations

We continue to request that the Regional Deputies complete these determinations. Since the last Commission meeting I have not received any new Proficiency Determinations.

3. Legislative Performance Audit

One focus of the performance audit was on contract work. We met with the Audit Committee and are addressing the issues related to contract work.

4. Mental Health Consultant

Dr. Scolatti's contract is in the process of being renewed as it expires on December 31, 2012. The renewal will be for another one-year term effective January 1, 2013.

5. CLE Affidavit Requirements

With the renewal of the MOU for the next two fiscal years, contractors must now submit a copy of their most recently filed CLE affidavit to our office. There are approximately 15 attorneys that still need to send in their CLE affidavit, all other attorneys have completed this requirement.

6. Client Complaints

I am continuing to monitor a number of contract attorneys due to client or judicial complaints and/or excessive billing practices.