



Blaine County
Public Defender's Office
FY 2023

Prepared by:
Blaine County Public Defender's Office
May 31, 2022

FY23 Budget Coversheet

General Information

Office/Department: Public Defender's Office

Budget Contact Person: Doug Nelson

Budget Team Members: Doug Nelson, Cheri Hicks, Tom Curl, Heidi Southward, Esmeralda Palomera

BCC Presentation Date: June 8th, 2022

Office/Department Profile

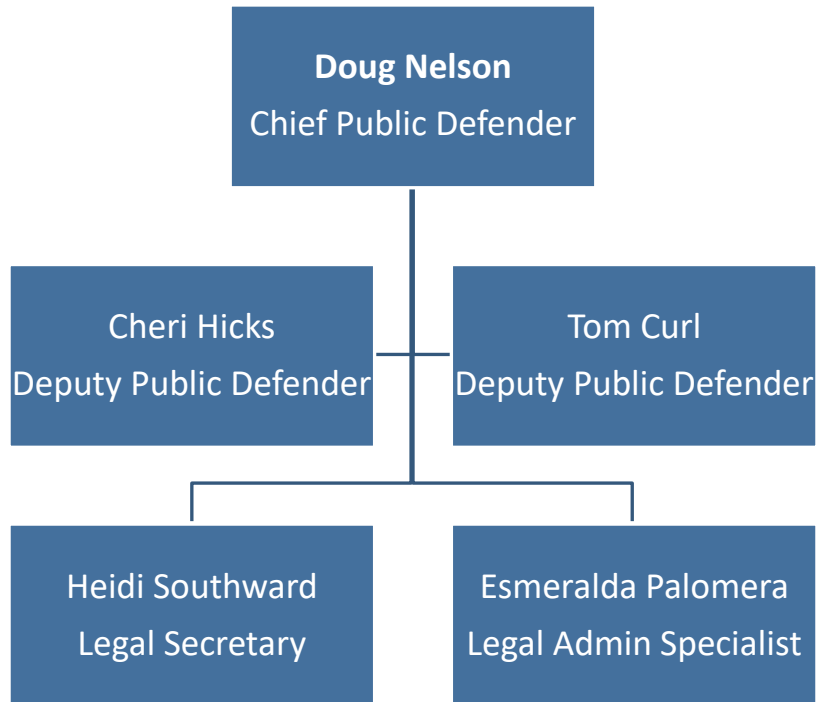
Operational Description

The Blaine County Public Defender's Office provides representation to indigent persons appointed by the Blaine County Courts in criminal, involuntary commitment, juvenile and child protection cases within Blaine County. The Blaine County Public Defender's Office primary function is representing clients in criminal cases. Court-appointed representation includes: initial appearances, arraignments, pre-trial hearings, various motion hearings, pleas, trials, sentencings and post-conviction relief.

Department Mission

The mission of the Blaine County Public Defender's Office is to professionally, efficiently and effectively represent, when appointed to do so by the Court, indigent persons in criminal, involuntary commitment, juvenile, and child protection cases within Blaine County.

Organizational Structure



FY22 Fiscal Year Review

FY22 Performance Metrics

- Metric 1: Strategize and advocate for our clients, providing sound legal guidance in order to ensure proper representation within the Idaho and U.S. Constitutions.
- Metric 2: Maintain client communication and provide Spanish translation.
- Metric 3: Promote excellence in the workplace, personal growth and development opportunities all while fostering healthy 360-degree communication.

FY22 Fiscal Year Highlights

- Hired Tom Curl as Deputy Public Defender, start date November 8th, 2021.
- Appointed 48 felony cases between October 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022, and a total of 32 felony cases have been settled and/or closed.
- Appointed 178 misdemeanor cases between October 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022, and a total of 157 misdemeanor cases have been settled and/or closed.

- Appointed 14 new juvenile cases between October 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022, and a total of 25 juvenile cases have been settled and/or closed.
- Appointed 7 new mental commitment cases between October 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022, and a total of 7 mental commitment cases have been dismissed and/or closed.
- Received \$91,601.00 from the Public Defense Commission Indigent Defense Grant Fund. The County used \$25,000 for Conflict Public Defender fees. Remaining funds were used to hire investigators, expert consultants, obtain mental health evaluations, hire expert witnesses, upgrade office technology and other expenditures to better serve Public Defense Clients.

FY22 Other Highlights

- Hired Doug Nelson as Chief Public Defender, start date April 18th, 2022.
- One (1) dedicated attorney for each of our Blaine County Treatment Courts, DUI Court & Drug Court.
- Successfully assisted clients through COVID-19 Pandemic in adopting to new court procedures via Zoom and taking on the added responsibility of email notices, links, and the additional e-filing of various forms & any/all legal proceedings, while staying within Court & State compliance.
- Our office has gone paperless! This will not only help our office be more modernized, but also allow our office to be more environmentally considerate, and save postage funds within our overall supply budget.
- Keith Roark, previous Interim Chief Public Defender has been added to our Conflict Public Defender attorney list.
- Appointed 247 new total in cases between October 1, 2021 – May 31, 2022, of which we provided Spanish translation services for approximately 50 clients, 20% of our total caseload.

FY23 Fiscal Year Budget Request Highlights

Requested Resources and Associated Costs

- People
 - NA
- Facilities
 - NA
- Furniture
 - NA

- Equipment
 - NA
- Vehicles
 - NA
- Other (describe)
 - NA

FY23 Fiscal Year Anticipated Highlights

FY23 Anticipated Projects, Performance and Highlights

- Chief PD seminar in Washington D.C., if offered and/or other seminar opportunities for Deputy Public Defenders.
- Continued attorney education, procedural and strategically in order to maintain compliance, by attending live Continuing Learning Education (CLE) seminars.
- Anticipating \$69, 957.00 in PDC Indigent Defense Grant funding for FY23.
- Anticipating \$25,000.00 in PDC funding in Conflict Attorney Fees for FY23.