



Montana Legislative Services Division
Office of Research and Policy Analysis
David D. Bohyer, Director

January 25, 2016

TO: Members of the Task Force on State Public Defender Operations
FROM: Dave Bohyer, LSD Research Director
RE: Survey of stakeholders

The Task Force at its December 10, 2015 meeting requested staff to conduct a survey of individuals who currently or in the past have participated in legal processes in which attorneys employed by or contracted by the Office of the State Public Defender functioned as legal counsel. Please accept this memorandum and attachment in partial response to the request.

The survey instrument was constructed with guidance from Task Force Chairwoman Dudik on the SurveyMonkey platform. Direct access to the survey by individuals wishing to complete the survey is provided on the Task Force's main internet page, at the "Survey" tab. Anyone having difficulty with the link can copy the site URL -- <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PublicDefender> -- directly into the internet browser.

The survey was opened for responses on January 21 and responses began to be submitted the same day. I notified representatives of various entities of the survey and asked that they notify their respective entity's current and former members so a broad cross section of individuals can respond. Participants of the entities I contacted include current and former:

- judges at all levels in all jurisdictions;
- county attorneys and deputy county attorneys;
- city attorneys and deputy city attorneys;
- PDO-employed and PDO-contract attorneys;
- sheriffs and sheriffs' deputies through the ranks; and
- chiefs of police and police officers through the ranks.

While the list above indicates various professionals associated with services provided by the OPD attorneys that were specifically notified, anyone who accesses the Task Force's web page can respond. I will provide an update on survey responses at the February 1 Task Force meeting.

Respectfully submitted.

Improving Public Defender Operations

Improving Public Defender Operations

The 2015 Legislature created the Task Force on State Public Defender Operation in an effort to determine what works well with the State Public Defender Office, what doesn't work well with the State Public Defender's Office, and what changes could improve the functioning of the State Public Defender's Office. Please take a minute to share with the Task Force your ideas regarding the State Public Defender's Office. The Task Force will be better able to consider your ideas if you are specific and provide sufficient details. Thank you!

1. What works well with the Office of the State Public Defender?

2. What is not working well with the Office of the State Public Defender?

3. What changes could improve functioning of the Office of the State Public Defender?