

Draft



**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
CITIZEN'S BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
2007/2008**

**Process:**

The committee has met with the District Attorney and his budget staff on several occasions during this budget process starting in the fall of 2006. The CBAC discussed general fund revenue outlook and preparations for submitting the 2007/2008 budget documents.

In November and December of 2006 the CBAC discussed time lines for the budget submittal, the potential countywide impact of a significant general fund revenue shortfall and generally how the District Attorney's Office will approach submitting their program offers. The CBAC was also provided copies of 2006/2007 program offers to review for discussion and feedback.

During the November meeting the CBAC discussed potential funding issues and remedies for the Child Support Program Offer as the Congress had reduced state and local jurisdictions ability to leverage federal incentive funding received for additional federal matching funds. With the federal changes going into effect October of 2007, program revenues could be reduced by \$600,000 to \$700,000 per year.

In February 2007 the CBAC reviewed the final program offers submitted by the District Attorney's Office and discussed its recommendations to the Safety Outcome Team and the Board of County Commissioners.

**Major Changes:**

The major change in the District Attorney's Office centers on the loss of federal grant revenues for the Child Support Program. In order to minimize this loss to Child Support Programs throughout the State, the Governor and Attorney General have requested a state general fund appropriation which, if adopted, would provide District Attorney's across the state another revenue stream that could be matched federally. This new revenue would cushion the impact of child support funding changes at the federal level.

The District Attorney has submitted program offers that continue to reflect the core prosecution services provided by the office and has not submitted any innovative/new program offers.

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### **Recommendations/Concerns:**

The District Attorney's Office is a lean organization that continues to keep citizens safe by holding those who commit crimes in Multnomah County responsible for their actions. The CBAC is grateful to the Commissioners for recognizing the critical role prosecution services play in the public safety system and strongly recommends that the Commission continue to provide the District Attorney's Office the resources and flexibility necessary to fulfill its legislated responsibility.

The CBAC understands that over the past several years the list of sanctions available to the Court for medium and low level offenders has been drastically reduced as a result of funding restrictions. This situation creates an imbalance in the system which must be corrected. We believe that the criminal justice agencies and Commission should work to develop new sanctions or revive old sanctions such as work release, forest camp and increased misdemeanor supervision.

Many people with mental health issues become needlessly entangled in the criminal justice and jail system because their mental health issues are not addressed due to lack of public resources. The CBAC would like State and local agencies and officials to work collaboratively to develop more programs and housing options to help citizens with mental health issues before they become involved with the criminal justice system.

### **Emerging Issues:**

The methamphetamine (meth) addiction issue continues to permeate the spectrum of crime in Multnomah County. It is estimated that meth is a factor in as much as 80% of the property crime cases issued by the District Attorney's Office and local law enforcement focus has shifted from finding and closing meth labs to busting major distributors who are getting meth through national and international suppliers.

As the Baby Boomer generation hits their 60's the instance of the financial, physical and mental abuse of elders is on the rise. These cases are difficult and complex to successfully prosecute as victims are often either unable to assist due to diminished capacity or unwilling because these crimes are often committed by family members or trusted caregivers.

The State of Oregon and Multnomah County are behind many other jurisdictions in the development of integrated criminal justice information systems. The technology exists to allow criminal justice agencies and their respective data systems to exchange and share information on a real time basis without sacrificing either data integrity or security. This kind of system can enable efficiencies like single point of entry, innovative new processes like electronic filing and provides policy makers with timely accurate data.

District Attorney CBAC members:

Bob Pung- Chair	Mike Greenlick	Dave Simpson
Dick Wegner	Irwin Mandel	Earl Sykes