



**Multnomah County District Attorney's  
Citizen Budget Advisory Committee  
Fiscal Year 2014**

March 17, 2014

To: Marissa Madrigal, Multnomah County Chair

From: The Multnomah County District Attorney's Citizen Budget Advisory Committee

**Members of the Committee:** Mike Delman, Cliff Wamacks, Dick Wegner, Charles Wilhoite, Lisabeth Kaufman, and Richard Ladick

**Introduction**

We are pleased that for the first time in recent memory, the county is preparing an existing service level budget. For nearly a decade, county government, including the public safety system, has faced budgetary pressures which threatened essential programs. During the economic downturn, the District Attorney relied on tremendous fiscal stewardship to preserve essential programs whenever possible. While that fiscal stewardship resulted in more efficient and effective policies in many areas, it also prevented the District Attorney from expanding important programs. As the budgetary pressures begin to ease, we look forward to the possibility that additional funding to expand such programs may be available.

To follow is an outline of the District Attorney's out of target requests, along with our ranking of the importance of funding these programs. The requests fall into two general categories: a) programs which aim to reduce costs system-wide by increasing system efficiency and b) programs which provide support to members of the public who need assistance in navigating the justice system. The Prevention, Intervention, and Reentry Program Coordinator position and the Service Coordination/DIA position fall into the first category. These two positions work to assess ongoing programs, find system efficiencies, and promote alternatives to jail/prison whenever possible. The Restitution Recovery Program and the Support Enforcement Division requests fall into the second category. These programs directly serve members of our community who need assistance in navigating the justice system.

**Process**

The District Attorney's Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC) has met with the District Attorney (DA) and his budget staff on two occasions so far in the FY 2015 budget season. We are scheduled to meet three more times before the budget is adopted. The goals of our initial meetings were to learn about the budgetary environment the DA is facing and provide him with input on the ways in which we, as Multnomah County

residents, would prioritize under those conditions. With two new members, we are pleased to have some fresh insight on ways in which the District Attorney can keep our community safe.

Our first meeting covered Multnomah County's budgeting process, the General Fund outlook, and potential external (Fed/State/City) revenue decreases. When compared with recent years, we were pleased to learn that the County is budgeting for an existing service level. Our second meeting covered the District Attorney's approach to meeting the general fund allocation and his plans for additional programs should funds be made available.

### **Major Changes**

The District Attorney has put forth five out of target program offers for your consideration. Four of the program offers represent ongoing funding requests and the fifth is a one-time-only request for a technology upgrade. Here is an overview of the District Attorney's out of target requests:

#### 15001B – Prevention, Intervention, and Reentry Program Coordinator

In December of 2013, the District Attorney began piloting the Prevention, Intervention, and Reentry Program Coordinator (PIRPC) position. The PIRPC is working to identify gaps in efficiencies and improve utilization of Multnomah County's specialty courts, with the goal of reducing recidivism and decreasing jail/prison usage. Given the system-wide cost savings associated with finding alternatives to prison, we strongly support funding for this position. With broad, state-wide conversations taking place in this area, a dedicated resource will allow for more critical analysis and better program development. We support this program offer.

#### 15002B – Server Virtualization/Net App

This one time only request would allow the District Attorney to consolidate IT infrastructure and reduce downtime in the event of a need for data recovery. Acquiring the NetApp is necessary to keep pace with technological innovation and it will reduce IT infrastructure costs over time. We support this request.

#### 15005B – Restitution Recovery Program

The Restitution Recovery Program (RRP), which began as the Restitution Pilot Project in 2011 with funding from the State of Oregon, has successfully increased the rate of collection of court ordered restitution. Staff and attorneys assigned to the RRP assist victims in identifying loss, help prosecutors present restitution-related information to the court, and assist victims in the collection of court-ordered restitution. This fall, the District Attorney learned that the State would discontinue funding for this important program. We agree with the District Attorney that this is a very important program, and we support his request for General Fund backfill.

### 15010B – Support Enforcement Division

The District Attorney’s Support Enforcement Division establishes, modifies, and enforces paternity on child support and medical support orders for families in Multnomah County. This program has a long track record of success, collecting over \$30 million in FY 2013. The District Attorney was recently made aware of an additional 2,200 cases eligible for support enforcement. These cases had been incorrectly assigned to the Oregon Department of Justice and will most likely be shifted to the District Attorney’s Office. In order to accommodate this additional caseload without any impact to the current level of service, the District Attorney needs two additional support enforcement agents. With 2/3 federal match on this program, the cost to outcome ratio is well worth the county’s investment - \$50,000 in county funding would result in approximately \$2 million for Multnomah county families. We support this program offer.

### 15018B – Service Coordination/DIA Deputy District Attorney

Late in the FY 2014 budget cycle, the District Attorney learned that the City of Portland was going to cut funding for the SCT/DIA Deputy District Attorney. Because of the value in having a position dedicated to working with system partners to reduce the quality of life crimes associated with open air drug delivery and use, the District Attorney has continued this position unfunded. We are glad the District Attorney has continued this position because it directs necessary resources at the most prolific offenders while also diverting addiction affected individuals in need of appropriate treatment resources. We feel that this is a very important program and we support the District Attorney’s out of target request.

### Recommendations

Understanding that resources are limited, we have ranked the District Attorney’s out of target requests. However, our position is that all of these programs are important to the public safety system and will either a) improve system efficiency and reduce costs or b) support vulnerable members of our community who need help in navigating the justice system. We did not include the one time only request in this ranking because it does not require ongoing funding, but we recommend that the county fund the program because it will save money over time.

| Rank    | Program Offer Number | Program Offer Title                                       |
|---------|----------------------|---|
| 1 (tie) | 15001B               | Prevention, Intervention, and Reentry Program Coordinator |
| 1 (tie) | 15018B               | Service Coordination/DIA Deputy District Attorney         |
| 3       | 15010B               | Support Enforcement Division                              |
| 4       | 15005B               | Restitution Recovery Program                              |