



**MEMORANDUM  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
ADMINISTRATION  
County of Placer**

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors   DATE: June 27, 2017  
FROM: David Boesch, County Executive Officer  
By: Bekki Riggan, Deputy CEO  
SUBJECT: Primary Indigent Defense Services Transition Update

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Receive an update on the transition of primary indigent defense services to the Law Office of Dan Koukol.

**BACKGROUND**

In the State of California, counties are mandated to provide for legal representation of criminal defendants who are unable to pay for legal assistance. Placer County has used a contract services model for primary and conflict public defender services since 1971 and currently contracts with two firms to provide criminal defense services to indigents.

On November 20, 2015 a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) solicited proposals for the Primary Public Defense services. Firms were requested to submit proposals for a variety of service delivery models for consideration. Proposals were submitted by four firms and on July 26, 2016, your Board approved a four-year contract from August 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020 in the negotiated amount of \$23,962,500 with the Law Office of Dan Koukol for primary indigent defense services

In order to facilitate a smooth transition and continuity of services, a 6-month transition plan and phased approach was established between the previous and incoming defense services providers, as follows:

1. October: General Misdemeanors arraigned on or after October 1, 2016.
2. November: Driving under the influence (misdemeanor and felony), domestic violence (misdemeanor and felony) and elder abuse (misdemeanor and felony) cases arraigned on or after November 1, 2016.
3. December: General Felonies arraigned on or after December 1, 2016
4. January: Juvenile cases arraigned on or after January 1, 2017, Proposition 36, Drug Court track 3, Veterans Court and all (pending and new) Tahoe cases.

In addition, priorities for service improvements were identified and communicated to the incoming firm around the following issues: proactively managing the firm to include: raising concerns early and working with the Courts and CEO to resolve; mentoring the attorneys; meeting with clients prior to court; and minimizing unnecessary court appearances.

This transition was completed successfully, on-time, within budget, and identified service improvements have been accomplished. All public safety stakeholders have expressed their satisfaction with the new contractor and changes that have been achieved.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact as a result of this item.