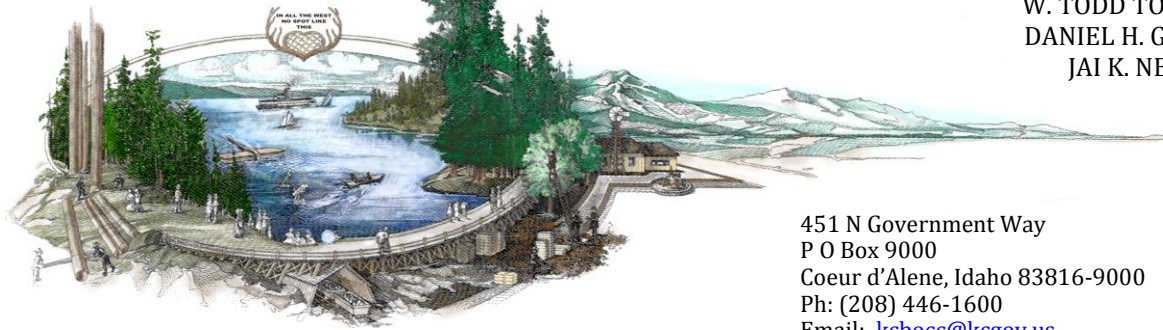


Kootenai County Commissioners



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Press Release

Date: March 25, 2013

Re: COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF PUBLIC DEFENSE DELIVERY SYSTEM

This press release is provided to answer a number of questions that have been asked concerning Resolution 2013-26.

First, the Board has the duty to provide for the legal representation of needy persons in criminal matters. Idaho law requires the Board to fulfill this duty by (1) having an office of public defender; (2) arranging for the assignment of attorneys through a coordinated plan; or (3) adopting a combination of these alternatives.

The Board takes these duties seriously. For example, in recent months, the Board implemented a system of conflict public defenders to be paid on an hourly fee basis to provide more effective representation in those cases. The Board recognized this was potentially a more expensive alternative, but decided that it was important to strive to meet constitutional standards.

In studying the issue, the Board decided that it was important to have an up-to-date and comprehensive study of the public defender system in Kootenai County to most effectively provide for the representation of needy persons.

The Board intends to implement any decisions based upon the study by October 1, 2013.

After consideration of the completed study, the Board may decide that meeting this duty through continuing an office of public defender is the best and most effective option.

The Board recognizes that the current public defender, John Adams, has provided this service for in excess of 16 years and has served his clients well. The term of office for a public defender has a minimum of two years. Mr. Adams continues to serve as Kootenai County public defender and is eligible to be reappointed for another term.