



**STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES**

896 West Nye Lane, Suite 202 | Carson City, NV 89703-1578
Phone: (775) 687-8490 | dids.nv.gov

OVERSIGHT REPORT

Churchill County

Visit date: May 20, 2022

I. Brief Narrative.

Executive Director **Marcie Ryba** and Deputy Director **Thomas Qualls** traveled to Fallon, Nevada for an oversight visit, to meet with **County Manager Jim Barbee**, soon-to-be Appointed Counsel Administrator **Sue Sevon**, and **Churchill County Public Defender Jacob Sommer**.

We met with all parties in County Manager Jim Barbee's office. We discussed and clarified the following items:

- **New Indigent Defense Structure:** Churchill County has elected to create a 4-tier indigent defense system. Moving forward there will be a Public Defender's Office, an Alternate Public Defender's Office, and two conflict contracts.
- **Timekeeping** – The County Manager declared that all offices will be required to do the necessary timekeeping and data recording which are mandated by the *Davis* settlement and the Regulations. There has been some historical resistance by the PD's office, which has been documented elsewhere, and was the subject of a previous corrective action report. It appears this resolves the matter. Even Jacob Sommer stated that his office has already begun to get caught up. We will follow-up.
- **Appointed Counsel Administrator:** Sue Sevon will be the County's Appointed Counsel Administrator. Our previous Oversight Report from December of 2021 noted that Churchill's Plan calls for an Appointed Counsel Administrator, but that one had not yet been hired. This, too, appears resolved.
- **Churchill County Attorney List:** Sue Sevon noted some frustration with some (unnamed) persons on the conflict list. But with a 4-tier system, the county will rarely need to resort to the appointed list.
- **Maximum Contribution Formula & Fiscal Reporting:** Churchill County wishes to change its Maximum Contribution numbers, stating that it did not submit accurate reporting previously, as it did not know what to include or not include. Accordingly, the county has significantly changed its reporting from the last 3 quarters. The county seeks Board approval for the change in maximum

contribution. It also asks that we request re-imbursement from the State for this quarter. Here's what the numbers then and now look like:

2 year avg	plus inflation	FY21 budgeted	difference
\$ 521,398.57	\$ 530,470.91	\$ 956,107.00	\$ 434,708.43
Requested Modification			
\$ 345,719.86	\$ 351,735.39	\$ 956,107.00	\$ 610,387.14

III. Next Steps.

1. We will keep tabs on all these matters and update these reports as needed.

IV. Photos

No photos at this time.