

MULTNOMAH COUNTY
FY 2025 Budget Work Session Follow Up

District Attorney's Office

May 7, 2024

Due **May 16, 2024**



Commissioner Meieran (District 1)

1. Please provide a history of civil commitment (FTE, \$, caseloads etc) and how Multnomah County compares to other jurisdictions and how they do the work (which office it is located in etc).

Response:

The current set up that MCDA does civil commitments, and not the County Attorney, is because of an agreement made over 20 years ago between a previous DA and the County, but specifics of that arrangement or why that has continued to present date are unknown.

MCDA covers civil commitment hearings every day of the week (unless a hearing is not scheduled). MCDA does not have a dedicated civil commitment deputy. Our Mental Health (MH) Court Deputy is 1.00 FTE and his responsibilities include covering civil commitments 2-3 days a week in addition to extensive court obligations related to Mental Health Court and the Aid and Assist Docket. The MH Court DDA position has substantially grown over the years - requiring more work each and every year - with no additional budgeted FTE. The Misdemeanor Trial Unit (MTU) handles civil commitments the

remaining two days of the week, and sometimes a third day for the MH Court DDA. MTU does not have an FTE budgeted for civil commitments. This work falls to DDAs who have heavy criminal caseloads, or to certified legal interns (law students), to handle.

In terms of comparison to other counties, the DA's offices in Marion and Washington Counties do not handle civil commitment proceedings, while the DA's offices in Columbia and Clackamas Counties do.

2. Please provide more information on how the outcomes for the clients served in the new program [Community Reinvestment Coalition \(15107\)](#) funded by SHS funding fit into the JOHS housing work (including coordinated access). What type of FTE are providing the work.

Response:

This program is not standing up new services. But, instead weaving legal services within the current services provided by matching people with those legal services. This program funds 2.00 positions.

1.00 DDA FTE: Assist people experiencing homelessness by addressing low-level court matters in an effort to lower barriers to housing placement or housing retention.

- Work with the court and the involved person to clear outstanding misdemeanor warrants that create barriers to housing, and to dismiss pending low-level misdemeanor cases upon engagement with the service team.

- Partnering with service providers to streamline communication between individuals and available services.
- Clients with pending court matters who engage with the service team can seek a dismissal of pending low-level misdemeanor cases and/or the clearing of existing warrants.

1.00 Victim Advocate FTE: Advocacy services targeting the homeless and housing unstable victim populations that we serve throughout the criminal justice system

- Provide information, assistance and referral services including assessment, case planning, education, follow-up, advocacy and triaging; establish initial case files and plans for agencies and staff.
- Determine appropriate program referrals for clients including protective services, housing providers and community resources; utilize Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) classification assessment process, methodology and criteria.
- Evaluate client needs and eligibility for health and social services; report complaints of suspected abuse and neglect; assist elderly, vulnerable or disabled persons with access to social or health services.

Commissioner Brim-Edwards (District 3)

3. Please provide a list of DDA's that are funded by other jurisdictions. Please include jurisdiction, total number of FTE and cost.

Response:

Below is a list of DDA positions funded by IGAs with other jurisdictions. This does not include grant funded DDA positions or non-DDA positions that are funded by IGAs with other jurisdictions.

1.00 FTE DDA2 funded by Trimet in PO 152500 Strategic Prosecution \$212,462

1.00 FTE DDA3 funded by Trimet in PO 152500 Strategic Prosecution \$246,287

1.00 FTE DDA2 funded by Port of Portland PO 152500 Strategic Prosecution \$245,346

1.00 FTE DDA3 funded by PPB and GPD (50% Each) PO 15207 MAAP \$256,642

Commissioner Stegmann (District 4)

4. Please provide an update on legal services days.

Response:

Legal Services Days are a collaboration among Metropolitan Public Defender, MCDA, and the Courts. These actually happen virtually year-round through what is now known as Project Reset, where each month 60 individuals are selected to have their Multnomah County fines and fees waived. In addition, an in-person event typically happens once a year where people

can get help with a number of legal services, including fines and fees and expungements.

We believe this is an extremely beneficial program for the citizens of Multnomah County and it has helped hundreds of individuals to move forward with their lives. Not only does it help to alleviate the financial burden on these individuals, but it also allows them to move forward with clearing their criminal records. This helps to remove barriers to housing and employment, in addition to the stigma associated with being labeled a criminal / felon.

We are also working with MPD on the EASI program, which has to do with expungements. Please let me know if you receive any questions about that and need assistance in answering. It is also a very important program from our perspective.