

Municipal Public Defender



Current Situation

Contract with three law firms to provide legal representation for indigent individuals facing the possibility of jail.

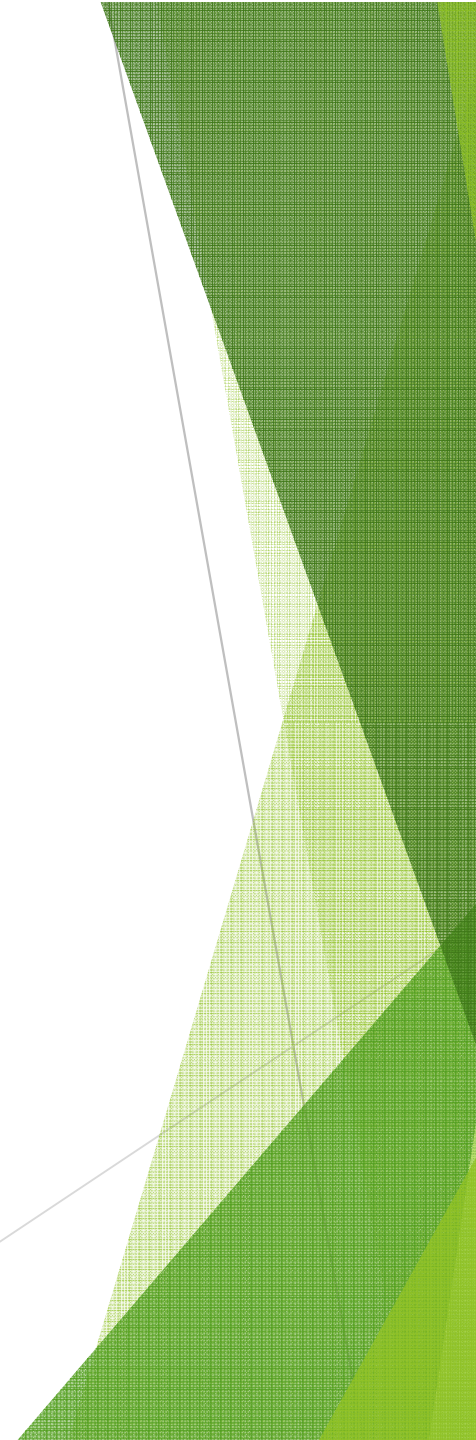
Estimated cost for 2015 = \$861,295

Advantage: Familiar and routine

Disadvantages: Weak position to negotiate contract terms

Administrative oversight is difficult

Flexibility and expansion of services is restricted



Proposed Solution

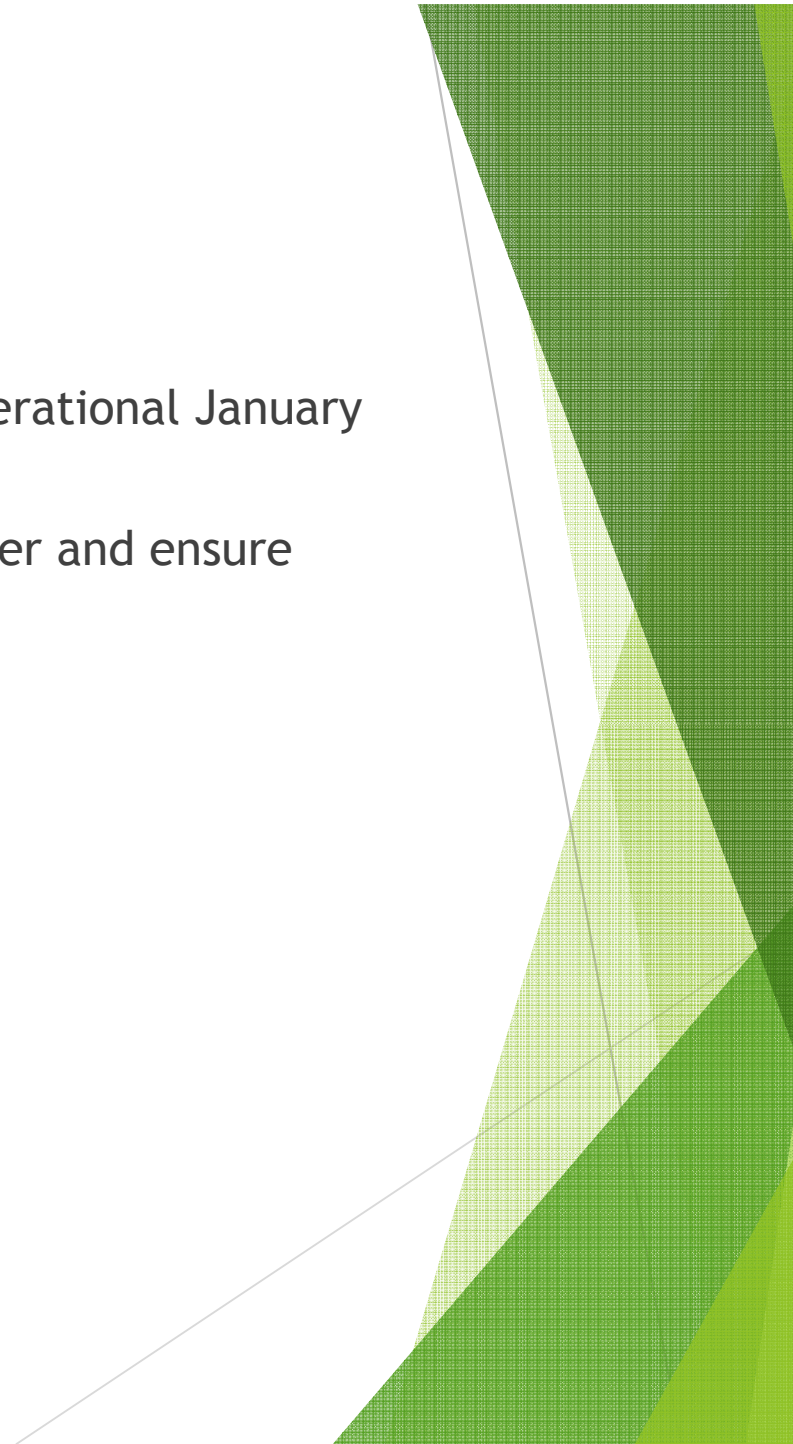
Create a Denver Municipal Public Defender's Office to be operational January 1, 2015.

A five person commission would hire the Chief Public Defender and ensure that indigent defendants are properly represented.

Estimated Cost: \$767,873 operating costs in 2015
 \$114,730 one-time start up costs

Advantages:

- Improved Legal Services
- Increased Accountability
- Cost Control
- Provides Flexibility
- Cost Neutral
- Successful in Other Cities



Next Steps

Presiding Judge appoints commissioners - 3 attorneys and 2 non-attorneys

OHR seeks CSA Board and Council approval for job classifications and pay plan amendment

Commission hires Chief Public Defender

5th Floor of City and County Building is prepared for Office of Municipal Public Defender

Chief Public Defender hires attorney and administrative staff

Cases transition from current law firms to Municipal Public Defender staff

