

**County of San Diego Board of Supervisors  
AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**AGENDA ITEM SUBJECT/TITLE:**

AUTHORIZE A-87 EXCEPTION TO COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT TO APPROVE PUBLIC DEFENDER CONTRACT WITH PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE AND ESTABLISH APPROPRIATIONS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**

Yes  No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION §1000.1 REQUIRED:**

Yes  No

**NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING REQUIRED:**

Yes  No

**PROJECT UNDER CEQA:**

Yes  No

If Yes, approval of CEQA document required?

Yes  No

**DECISION WITHIN GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 84308:**

Yes  No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**

October 10, 2023 (12) - RECEIVE AND APPROVE THE UPDATED OPIOID SETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK; DIRECT REPORT BACK ON SIGNIFICANT UPDATES TO THE OPIOID SETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK; AND AUTHORIZE ONE STAFF YEAR FOR TOXICOLOGY SERVICES TO EXPAND SURVEILLANCE OF EMERGING DRUG TRENDS

February 28, 2023 (6) - AUTHORIZE A-87 EXCEPTION TO COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT FOR CONTRACT WITH PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE

October 25, 2022 (20) - A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO THE OPIOID CRISIS AND ADOPTION OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY OPIOID SETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**

A-87 COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**

A-87 - Request for Single Source Procurement of Client Advocate services from Partners for Justice (PFJ) under A-87.3.A1 Unique Capability due to unique knowledge, skills and abilities. Partners for Justice offers staff training specifically trained to deliver person-to-person wraparound services and legal mitigation in public defender offices. Other providers may offer case manager staffing, but case managers do not offer the full range of services that PFJ client advocates provide. Traditional case managers are not versed in identifying and addressing the enmeshed penalties of arrest that arise in the civil, family, and immigration realms. They are also not trained to provide proactive written mitigation that public defense attorneys can use to support legal arguments and achieve improved case resolutions. PFJ client advocates are able to provide a robust suite of services due to the specialized training that client advocates receive, and which is critical for work in a legal environment. This request is also under A-87.3.A. Continuity, as the Public Defender is in its third contract year with PFJ to provide client advocates for its juvenile clients. This contract would expand services to the Public Defender's adult clients. Awarding this contract to PFJ would allow the Public Defender an opportunity to benefit from efficiency and PFJ's critical knowledge of the Public Defender's operations and network of resources available in San Diego County.

Item or Service and Term Period: Procurement of Client Advocate services for one initial year, three option years, with a six-month option if needed.

Benefits to the County of San Diego: Public defense can help address the underlying causes of crime and increase public safety. More than 80% of people facing criminal charges depend on public defenders to protect their rights and prevent wrongful convictions and unjustly severe sentences. These defendants disproportionately consist of Black and

Brown people, and the penalties they face can be catastrophic. A person's housing, employment, parental rights, and educational options, as well as one's ability to borrow student loans, obtain a professional license, vote, or access public benefits/supports, can all be negatively affected by an arrest alone, let alone a conviction. These adverse impacts can often incentivize criminality rather than enhance public safety. Public defenders, as the resource most proximate to defendants, have significant potential to ameliorate these harms.

Client Advocates of Partners for Justice (PFJ) will support Public Defender (PD) clients and help address their needs by connecting them to a network of local services, community organizations, and civil attorneys, offering them the opportunity to heal and engage with the community. They will work with PD's attorneys to reduce jail time, improve case outcomes, and help prevent repeat offenses and promote justice within the legal system and without. In addition, PFJ Client Advocates will connect clients with community-based resources, social services, and economic opportunities to help them sustain themselves during and after experiences with the criminal justice system, as well as to reintegrate themselves back into the community.

Fair and Reasonable Pricing: Fair and Reasonable pricing will be determined through a comparison of other agency invoices paid for comparable services being requested.

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**

N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):**  
PENDING

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** Office of the Public Defender

**OTHER CONCURRENCE(S):** Department of Purchasing and Contracting

**INTERNAL REVIEW COMPLETED:** YES  NO  Cassidy Castiglione  
Digitally signed by Cassidy Castiglione  
Date: 2026.01.28 11:29:17 -08'00'  
Signature

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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