

Indigent Commission Application Evaluation and Award Meeting

Applications for IPR funding and staff recommendations

Statutory definition of purpose from SB 181

78B-22-805. Interdisciplinary Parental Representation Pilot Program.

(1) As used in this section:

- (a) "Program" means the Interdisciplinary Parental Representation Pilot Program created in this section.
- (b) "Social worker" means an individual who is licensed as:
 - (i) a clinical social worker;
 - (ii) a certified social worker;
 - (iii) a marriage and family therapist; or
 - (iv) a clinical mental health counselor.

(2) (a) There is created within the commission the Interdisciplinary Parental Representation Pilot Program.

- (b) The purpose of the program is to enhance the legal representation of a parent in a child welfare case by including a social worker as a member of the parent's interdisciplinary legal team.

Requirements for effective implementation

- A system with an administrative structure and child welfare caseload size that is adequate to demonstrate the benefits, and challenges of interdisciplinary legal teams.
- An MPD who will monitor the working relationship between the social worker and the parent's attorney to ensure the practice standards are implemented in each case.
- An administrative structure which will ensure that the IDC requirements for activity timekeeping and reporting are timely
- A pay structure that is adequate to enable the system to recruit and hire experienced workers
- A strong likelihood that the system will be able quickly to locate workers who would be appropriate for the role

System Applications

Iron/Kane/Beaver: Request is for one full-time worker at 75,000 divided between the three counties

The worker would be a contractor. MPD holds the contract for parent representation and specializes in Juvenile Court practice. Caseload justifies a full-time worker.

Weber: Request is for two full-time workers at 80,000 each

The workers would be county employees. There is an MPD for the Juvenile Division and child welfare attorneys who are county employees. The caseload justifies more than one social worker and would ensure that both would have full-time work.

Box Elder: Request is for one part-time worker at 25,000.

The worker would be a contractor. The MPD has held the child welfare contract. The application shows a strong understanding of the purpose of the interdisciplinary team. The caseload is adequate to employ a full-time worker

Uintah: Request is for 10,000 for a part-time worker

The worker would be a contractor. The proposal is to hire at least one, and possibly more to contract with the system to handle some of the cases. MPD acknowledged that he is not certain this structure is possible given the small number of experienced workers in the area. Caseload would justify a part-time worker.

Sevier/Wayne: Request is for 24,000 for one part-time worker

The worker would be a contractor. MPD acknowledges that there is a shortage of experienced workers in the area, and she anticipates that it would take longer than one month to hire someone.

Tooele: Request is for one part-time worker contracted at 20-45 dollars per hour.

The worker would be a contractor. MPD is not certain of the number of hours that would be required. Caseload justifies a part-time worker at the least.

Recommendation for Funding

Iron/Beaver/Kane: Fund at 75,000

A strong organizational structure has been established and the new MPD has expertise in child welfare practice which will likely simplify the worker and MPD collaboration in the implementation process.

Weber: Fund at 80,000

A strong organizational structure is being developed. The Juvenile Division chief will be able to provide oversight and will support collecting and reporting data through direct supervision.

Box Elder: Fund at 25,000

In FY 2023 the IDC will receive federal funds as reimbursement for costs of parent representation under Title IVE. The total amount is approximately 55,000 dollars. The Commission can allocate 10,000 dollars from that pool to this project to cover the overage if it decides to fund this request.