



**COUNTY OF LAKE
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
TELEPHONE (707) 263-2580
FAX (707) 263-1012

SUSAN PARKER
County Administrative Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Lake County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Susan Parker, County Administrative Officer
Staff to the Public Defender Program Oversight Committee

SUBJECT: 2022-23 Grand Jury Report Response

DATE: September 26, 2023

The County Administrative Office values the opportunity to respond to the Grand Jury's 2022-23 Final Report, "Appendix A – Public Defender Program Oversight Committee."

As staff to the Public Defender Program Oversight Committee, I further affirm Administration's Commitment to partnering with the Courts to ensure effective and transparent oversight of the County of Lake's Public Defender Office and any other providers of Indigent Defense Services in Lake County.

It was my privilege to partner with Law Enforcement representatives and the Courts, principals from Lake Indigent Defense and others in FY 2022-23 to conduct a comprehensive review of Indigent Defense services, in response to a thorough and independent evaluation conducted by the 6th Amendment Law Center (6AC).

As members of the Grand Jury are aware, the Public Defender Program Oversight Committee has not been actively meeting, due to emphasis on recruitment of a Chief Public Defender for Lake County. However, with the very exciting appointment of Raymond Buenaventura to lead development of this office September 19, 2023, meetings will commence as soon as practical.

Recommendations from the Grand Jury's report are addressed in the order presented.

"Appendix A – Public Defender Program Oversight Committee"

R1. Develop a visible avenue for contact with the oversight committee.

AGREE, will be implemented at the earliest opportunity, and no later than July 1, 2024.

R2. Schedule meetings at regular intervals.

AGREE, will be implemented at the earliest opportunity, and no later than July 1, 2024.

R3. Formal, professional-styled minutes be prepared and times of meetings be better published to satisfy the intent of the Brown Act.

AGREE, will be implemented at the earliest opportunity, and no later than July 1, 2024.