The mission of the Public Defender’s Office is to provide competent and professional legal counsel to indigent defendants in criminal cases, minors brought before the juvenile court, those alleged to be in need of restriction due to mental illness or a developmental disability, and other cases of people entitled to representation in the courts of Santa Barbara County. The cost centers of the Law Office of the Public Defender are Administration, Adult Legal Services, Juvenile Legal Services, Investigative Services, and Support Services.

All employees are located in offices adjacent to Court facilities in Santa Maria (Superior Court and Juvenile), Lompoc (Superior Court), and Santa Barbara (Superior Court and Juvenile). The Law Office employs 35 FTE attorneys including three that have varying degrees of administrative functions and a support staff of 37 FTE’s, including a business manager, departmental analyst, information systems administrator, investigators, social service practitioners, paralegal, legal secretaries, accounting assistant, interpreters, and data entry operators.

**Administration:**
Responsible for general department issues including but not limited to accounting, budget, computer systems, facilities risk management, and personnel.

**Adult Legal Services:**
Provides legal counsel to indigent adults accused of criminal actions and those alleged to be in need of restriction due to mental illness or a developmental disability. A small portion of this caseload is devoted to clients eligible for Mental Health Treatment Court and Therapeutic Court.

**Juvenile Legal Services:**
Provides legal counsel to juveniles accused of criminal activities.

**Investigative Services:**
Provides investigator activities and services in support of the Department’s attorneys preparing to represent their clients.

**Support Services:**
Provides support of Legal Secretaries, Legal Interpreters, and data entry operations in support of Attorneys, Investigators, and Management.

The trend of Therapeutic Court caseload shows a corresponding increase in the number of cases due to the changes in legislation that has increased the number of offenders assigned to these specialty courts.

The number of cases closed highlights the trend of increasing cases handled by the Public Defender’s Office since the measure was identified in FY 2000-01.

Complete appropriate file documentation within 10 working days of an estimated 25,500 cases closed.
To ensure an efficient and responsive government, the County will maintain the rate of General Liability claims filed at no more than 90 - 100% of the previous year's actual claims filed. As an efficient and responsive government, the County will maintain the cost of workers’ Compensation claims filed to $1.17 per $100 payroll (salaries including overtime). To improve workers’ safety, the County will conduct its operations in order to maintain the rate of Workers’ Compensation incident claims to 12 or less per 100 FTE employees Countywide. As an efficient and responsive government, the County will maintain the rate of Workers’ Compensation claims filed between 90 - 100% of the previous year’s actual claims filed.

As an efficient and responsive government, the County will maintain a productive workforce through a countywide Lost Time Rate of 5.9% or less. As an efficient and responsive government, the County will maintain a quality workforce through completing 95 - 100% of departmental Employee Performance Reviews (EPRs) by the Annual Due Date.

Coordinating with the Courts and District Attorneys for an annual accounting of the number of cases handled (Adult and Juvenile, felony, misdemeanor, probation violation and Prop. 36) so that they are reported in the budget book and to the public in a consistent manner.

Consult with the Judge/Courts on 100% of cases to determine the ability of the defendant to pay Public Defender fees.

List number of clients placed in alternative sentencing programs and cost.

The Public Defender will hold an annual strategic planning session with the presiding Judges, Court administrator, Court fiscal staff and CEO’s office to assess the quality, representation and service to the Courts by this division.

If of cases settled for a lesser charge than originally filed.

100% of (number) Attorneys will attend at least three criminal law and education programs. Public Defender will meet annually with 14 judges to assess quality, representation, and service to the Courts.

Collaborate with Criminal Justice and County government partners on 6 projects (list projects and goals) annually to accomplish systemic improvements.

Public Defender will hold an annual strategic planning session with the presiding Judges, Court administrator, Court fiscal staff and CEO’s office to assess the quality, representation and service to the Courts by this division.

NOTE: This cost center is for fiscal tracking purposes only.