

****Ms. Fuller's comment was received past the deadline for the July 2025 meeting, but within two days of the meeting. Included in the August public comment packet.**

SHELLEY L. FULLER, P.C. ATTORNEY AT LAW

July 15, 2025

Kenneth Sanchagrin, Interim Executive Director,
Kenneth.Sanchagrin@opdc.state.or.us

Emese Perfecto, Deputy Director
Emese.Perfecto@opdc.state.or.us

Mona Riesterer, Executive Assistant
Mona.Riesterer@opdc.state.or.us

Mara Hoaglin, Executive Assistant
Mara.Hoaglin@opdc.state.or.us

Ralph Amador, Finance Manager
Ralph.H.Amador@opdc.state.or.us

Jennifer Nash, Oregon Public Defense Commission Chair
Jennifer.Nash@opdc.state.or.us

Re: In Support of \$75/hr for Investigators

Dear Oregon Public Defense Commission:

My name is Shelley L. Fuller and I have been a defense attorney since 1998. During that time, I have worked with many skilled defense investigators as an essential part of my criminal defense practice. Since I started my practice, I have watched as criminal defense investigators have been underpaid and undervalued in the criminal justice system.

This needs to stop.

Our investigators need to be paid a living wage. When I started practicing in 1998, my investigator was only being paid \$28 per hour. Right now, they are only paid \$55 per hour. The cost of living has skyrocketed. The cost of running your own business has skyrocketed. The wages being paid by OPDC have not kept up with these skyrocketing costs in the slightest. The result of this is that it is increasingly difficult to find qualified investigators willing to work on our cases.



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shelley@shelleyfullerlaw.com
tara@shelleyfullerlaw.com

I cannot do my job without qualified investigators by my side. When I ask experienced investigators to work on an OPDC case, they frequently decline because of the low pay. Federal cases pay investigators almost double OPDC's rates, and retained cases typically pay three times as much. The state's current hourly rate and proposed rate of \$59 per hour lags behind inflation, cost of living, and standard industry rates and is outrageous.

Pay our investigators what they deserve!

They are currently asking to be paid \$75.00 per hour. This is a pittance of what they should be paid and what they are worth. The use of an experienced and respectably paid investigator will save us all money and guarantee that defense attorneys are able to do an ethical job for their clients. When you pay investigators a lower hourly rate, the good ones decline our case, and we have to resort to hiring less experienced investigators or doing the work ourselves. Neither of these options is ideal and will ultimately cost the criminal defense system more money.

You have the power to pay these hard-working people a decent wage. I strongly urge the Oregon Public Defense Commission to pay investigators the \$75/hr rate that they are demanding if not more.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelley Fuller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shelley L. Fuller
Attorney at Law

View results

Respondent

75

Anonymous

04:39

Time to complete

1. Full Name *

Jennifer L. Myrick

2. Organization/Entity Name *

Myrick Legal (Contractor with Columbia County Indigent Defense Consortium)

3. Email *

Jennifer@MyrickLegal.com

4. Phone Number *

503-710-4334

5. Public Comments must be directly related to agenda items for this meeting. Please specify which agenda topic your comments will relate to below. *

Contracts for Provider Changes

6. What type of public comment are you submitting? *

☒

Written

☐

Verbal - Virtually Via Zoom

7. Written Public Comment

If you'd like to submit attachments, please send them to info@opdc.state.or.us in addition to filling out this form

Dear Commission,

We are often tasked with holding the government's feet to the fire in our matters, whether it be a prosecutor or police. What model of working of working with OPDC will provide us the most independence from their oversight and "enforcement" now that we are a part of the Executive Branch. Retaliation against public defenders for doing a good job isn't unheard of.

Thank you for your service,

Jennifer L. Myrick

8. Additional Notes

View results

Respondent

78

Anonymous

1296:34

Time to complete

1. Full Name *

Carol James

2. Organization/Entity Name *

PCRP

3. Email *

pcrp-cm@charter.net

4. Phone Number *

541-380-1899

5. Public Comments must be directly related to agenda items for this meeting. Please specify which agenda topic your comments will relate to below. *

PCRP Contract 25-27

6. What type of public comment are you submitting? *

☒

Written

☐

Verbal - Virtually Via Zoom

7. Written Public Comment

If you'd like to submit attachments, please send them to info@opdc.state.or.us in addition to filling out this form

Written comments submitted today.

8. Additional Notes

Carol James

Parent Child Representation Program (PCRP) Case Manager

pcrp-cm@charter.net

August 18, 2025

Oregon Public Defense Commission

Subject: Request for Increased Compensation and Caseload Adjustments for Parent Child Representation Program (PCRP) Case Managers

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to formally request an increase in compensation to **\$60.00 per Hour** in recognition of the growing complexity of my responsibilities, new OPDC insurance requirements and other rising operational costs.

Increasing Case Complexity

Case Managers are essential to the success of PCRP, providing intensive, holistic support to attorneys and their clients who are navigating the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Over time, **the nature of PCRP cases has grown significantly more complex.** Case Managers are expected to manage high caseloads involving multifaceted issues such as housing instability, domestic violence, substance use disorders, developmental disabilities, and cultural/language barriers. To provide the quality and individualized legal support required by PCRP standards, **it is essential that case manager caseloads be reduced to manageable levels.** Without this reduction, clients will continue to face case assignment delays, and case managers will remain overwhelmed, increasing the risk of burnout and turnover.

Compliance with New OPDC Insurance Requirements & Rising Operational Costs

Recent changes to OPDC insurance requirements will place additional administrative and logistical burdens on PCRP Case Managers. My insurance provider has a rate increase this year and the additional insurance requirements will double that cost. Also, that cost would be for one year with a possible rate increase in a year for a contracted rate of compensation lasting two years. Adhering to these mandates is not reflected in current compensation structures. In addition, PCRP Case Managers are facing other increased business expenses, including higher costs for technology, travel, vehicle maintenance and benefits. These rising overhead costs put further strain on business management, making it increasingly unsustainable to maintain quality services at current reimbursement levels.

The Need for Immediate Rate Adjustments

We urge the Commission to support rate changes for PCRP Case Managers. Inadequate compensation makes this critical work unsustainable and further exacerbates the broader statewide public defense crisis. As essential contributors to client-centered, holistic legal

advocacy, PCRP Case Managers must be compensated in alignment with the value and complexity of our work.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent and important matter.

Sincerely,

Carol James

PCRP Case Manager

[Your Name]

Parent Child Representation Program (PCRP) Case Manager

[Email Address]

[Date]

Oregon Public Defense Commission

Subject: Request for Increased Compensation and Caseload Adjustments for PCRP Case Managers

Dear Commissioners,

I respectfully request an increase in compensation in recognition of the growing complexity of my role, new OPDC insurance compliance requirements, and rising business costs.

The scope of PCRP Case Manager work involves complex issues such as housing instability, domestic violence, substance use, and cultural barriers. Without reduced caseloads and improved compensation, the quality and timeliness of service will continue to decline, and burnout will rise.

We are also absorbing increased business costs for insurance, travel, vehicle maintenance and technology, while facing new burdens under OPDC's updated insurance requirements — all without a corresponding rate adjustment.

Without immediate investment, retention will suffer, worsening Oregon's public defense crisis. I urge the Commission to act now to support a sustainable model for this vital work.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

PCRP Case Manager

Subject: Request for Rate Adjustment – PCR Case Managers

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to request a rate increase to **\$60/hour** for PCR Case Managers. Our work has become significantly more complex, with high caseloads and increasing expectations.

Caseloads are full, and clients are placed on waiting lists. To meet quality standards, caseloads must be reduced, and compensation must reflect the expanded demands.

We are also absorbing rising business costs (vehicle maintenance, new OPDC insurance requirements, etc.), which are not covered under the current rate.

This work is critical to Oregon's public defense system. Without rate adjustments, we risk losing skilled professionals and further delaying client and attorney support.

Thank you,

[Your Name]

PCR Case Manager

Subject: PCRP Rate Adjustment Request

Dear Commissioners,

Due to increased case complexity, rising costs, and new OPDC insurance requirements, I'm requesting a rate increase to **\$60/hour**.

This work is no longer sustainable at current rates.

Please support an urgent adjustment to stabilize services and retain qualified providers.

Thank you,

[Your Name]

PCRP Case Manager

View results

Respondent

79

Anonymous

02:17

Time to complete

1. Full Name *

Brandee Ann Dudzic

2. Organization/Entity Name *

Brandee Dudzic, PCRP Case Manager

3. Email *

brandee@brandeedudzic.com

4. Phone Number *

503-928-2151

5. Public Comments must be directly related to agenda items for this meeting. Please specify which agenda topic your comments will relate to below. *

Feedback on Draft Contract Language for PCRP Case Managers

6. What type of public comment are you submitting? *



Written



Verbal - Virtually Via Zoom

7. Written Public Comment

If you'd like to submit attachments, please send them to info@opdc.state.or.us in addition to filling out this form

Brandee Dudzic, M.S.
Parent Child Representation Program (PCRP) Case Manager
brandee@brandeedudzic.com
August 14, 2025

Oregon Public Defense Commission

Subject: Request for Rate Adjustment to \$60/Hour for PCRP Case Managers

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully request a rate adjustment to \$60 per hour for PCRP Case Managers in the proposed 2025–2027 contract period. This adjustment is essential to keep pace with the cost of living, maintain our vehicles for multi-county travel, and ensure we can continue providing the highest caliber of care for the families we serve. At minimum, we must be included in the proposed 6.8% inflationary increase.

PCRP Case Managers are deeply committed to the success of Oregon's public defense system, as we have always been since the inception of the PCRP. We work alongside attorneys to provide holistic, client-centered advocacy that addresses the complex challenges families face. This includes navigating issues of housing, education, health care, and community resources, all of which require intensive effort, cultural competency, and professional skill.

Our work is not just valuable in the present day; it also produces measurable long-term savings. By resolving cases faster and reducing the need for repeated court involvement, PCRP Case Managers save the state significant costs while improving outcomes for children and families. This is not only fiscally responsible, but it is also essential for promoting justice and stability.

The proposed rate of \$60 per hour reflects what is necessary for us to sustain this work at the highest level. Rising costs of living, fuel, vehicle maintenance, health insurance, and professional requirements make it increasingly difficult to continue at current rates. The rising costs of health care make it harder than ever to keep our own families healthy, and a \$60/hour rate is essential to ensure that while we work tirelessly to stabilize and support Oregon's most vulnerable families, we can also protect the well-being of our own. A fair rate ensures that PCRP Case Managers can maintain their practice without interruption, reduce turnover, and continue to provide the consistent, expert support that clients and attorneys rely on.

Supporting this adjustment is not only a matter of fairness; it is a strategic investment in Oregon's public defense system. Fairly compensated Case Managers can remain in the field longer and continue delivering the highest standard of service. This ensures that the PCRP model remains strong, effective, and sustainable for many years to come. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your ongoing commitment to supporting Oregon families.

Sincerely,

Brandee Dudzic
503-928-2151
PCRP Case Manager

8. Additional Notes

Brandee Dudzic, M.S.
Parent Child Representation Program (PCRP) Case Manager
brandee@brandeedudzic.com
August 14, 2025

Oregon Public Defense Commission

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Sincerely,

Brandee Dudzic

503-928-2151
PCRP Case Manager

View results

Respondent

80

Anonymous

06:08

Time to complete

1. Full Name *

Nicole Thomas

2. Organization/Entity Name *

Parent Child Representation Program OPDC

3. Email *

nthomassocialwork@gmail.com

4. Phone Number *

503-893-9730

5. Public Comments must be directly related to agenda items for this meeting. Please specify which agenda topic your comments will relate to below. *

Feedback on Draft Contracts

6. What type of public comment are you submitting? *

☒

Written

☐

Verbal - Virtually Via Zoom

7. Written Public Comment

Nicole Thomas
Parent Child Representation Program (PCRP) Case Manager
nthomassocialwork@gmail.com

August 18, 2025

Oregon Public Defense Commission

Subject: Request for Rate Adjustment to \$60/Hour for PCRP Case Managers

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ensures that PCRCP Case Managers can maintain their practice without interruption, reduce turnover, and continue to provide the consistent, expert support that clients and attorneys rely on.

Supporting this adjustment is not only a matter of fairness; it is a strategic investment in Oregon's public defense system. Fairly compensated Case Managers can remain in the field longer and continue delivering the highest standard of service. This ensures that the PCRCP model remains strong, effective, and sustainable for many years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your ongoing commitment to supporting Oregon families.

Respectfully,

Nicole Thomas

Nicole Thomas

(503) 893-9730

PCRCP Case Manager

View results

Respondent

81

Anonymous

01:56

Time to complete

1. Full Name *

Olcott Thompson

2. Organization/Entity Name *

Marion County Association of Defenders

3. Email *

mcaddir@gmail.com

4. Phone Number *

503 551 4549

5. Public Comments must be directly related to agenda items for this meeting. Please specify which agenda topic your comments will relate to below. *

attorney shortage, performance standards, draft contracts

6. What type of public comment are you submitting? *

☒

Written

☐

Verbal - Virtually Via Zoom

7. Written Public Comment

MARION COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF DEFENDERS

MCAD

187 HIGH STREET, STE 300

SALEM, OR 97301

EMAIL: MCADLAW@GMAIL.COM

WWW.MCADLAW.COM

OLCOTT THOMPSON—EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR

LISA RICHARDSON—OFFICE

MANAGER

CELL: 971-345-7612

TEL. (503) 990-8168

FAX (503) 339-1967

August 18, 2025

Chair Nash

Vice Chair Mandiberg

Members of the Commission

This letter contains comments on a number of topics the commission has faced and is facing.

First, it has become clear that the agency no longer wants to fund MCAD. Yet again we asked to add a new attorney and the agency again said no. "Too busy" was essentially its answer this time. The agency is, apparently, not interested in further helping with the slowly decreasing unrepresented list in Marion County except through more expensive methods which any method is compared to the cost of MCAD attorneys. It would rather continue to pay for vacant positions than replace that funding with an actual attorney.

I do not know what Vice Chair Mandiberg will say about the KPM survey but please do not discount the results because of a "bad" period for the agency. If, as I suspect, the results are not complementary remember that was the result of the last two surveys as well both of which were "explained away" by tough circumstances for the agency. Three negative surveys in a row, over a multi year period, says the agency is performing poorly not that other forces are causing the poor performance.

I have submitted comments about the proposed Performance Standards and offer this comment about the process for their adoption. The agency worked on those

Standards for months if not over a year yet the people who are affected by them are allowed only a two week period for comment. The Standards are long and dense. It is my understanding that the agency wants the Standards adopted in September meaning there is but one month for the agency to make any possible changes and then, maybe, seek further comment, before they want Standards it spent considerable time writing adopted. As all too often as in the past the agency is presenting things with little time for review before the agency needs them adopted. There is no reason something as important as Performance Standards need to be adopted so quickly. Give everyone sufficient time to really digest them and any changes to them and to be able to make further comment.

Finally, some comments on the contract process so far. I remain perplexed why OPDC continues to not tell the truth. All spring we were told the contract drafting process was delayed because everything had to be reviewed and approved by DOJ. Now we are told nothing has been approved by DOJ. Please, stop trying to deflect blame and tell the truth. Unless and until OPDC consistently owns up to its mistakes and tells the truth it will not be trusted.

With this whole process the agency is, yet again, mostly operating in secret. They collected comments and are, on their own, deciding what to do with them, not allowing any comments on any rewrite, submitting the proposed comments to a conflicted DOJ, possibly rewriting again in secrecy and, finally, releasing a take it or leave it contract because it cannot ever be changed again.

Somehow during the rewrite process there is supposed to be some sort of negotiation. About what? It is clear we have no say about compensation rates and the agency will have already decided the number of attorneys each contractor may have and which contractors get what cases. Stop pretending anything is being done differently or providers have any meaningful input.

As has been told to both the prior commissions and the agency many, many times there needs to be separate contracts for consortia and PD Offices. The organizations are very different. The current proposal is further tilted towards PD Office terms and provisions and does not adjust for consortia. Certainly it appears the agency does not want to contract with consortia but without them things would be far worse than they are now.

I am not sure how the commission members can stomach the conflicts of interest this process has. First, everything must be approved by DOJ an entity that is a leader in the fight against our clients. With the Legislative mandate that OPDC be part of the Executive Branch that does not negate the conflict of interest.

Second, the agency uses a lack of attorneys as a reason it must hire its own attorneys yet it is largely responsible for the lack of attorneys. This, of course, may help explain why the agency has, again, said no to MCAD adding an attorney because saying yes would be counter to the agency's desire to hire more of its attorneys at substantially higher cost.



Olcott Thompson
Executive Director
MCAD

View results

Respondent

82

Anonymous

04:15

Time to complete

1. Full Name *

Jodi Ann Russell

2. Organization/Entity Name *

Parent Child Representation Program Case Manager

3. Email *

jrussell.casemanager@gmail.com

4. Phone Number *

(541)740-7517

5. Public Comments must be directly related to agenda items for this meeting. Please specify which agenda topic your comments will relate to below. *

Feedback on Draft Contracts

6. What type of public comment are you submitting? *

☒

Written

☐

Verbal - Virtually Via Zoom

7. Written Public Comment

If you'd like to submit attachments, please send them to info@opdc.state.or.us in addition to filling out this form

Jodi Russell
Parent Child Representation Program (PCRP) Case Manager
jrussell.casemanager@gmail.com
August 18, 2025
Oregon Public Defense Commission
Subject: Request to Include PCRP Case Managers in 6.8% Inflationary Increase with Rate Adjustment to \$60/Hour
Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully request a rate adjustment to \$60 per hour for PCRP Case Managers in the proposed 2025–2027 contract period. At minimum, PCRP Case Managers must be included in the proposed 6.8% inflationary increase. This adjustment is essential to keep pace with the cost of living, maintain our vehicles for multi-county travel, and ensure we can continue providing the highest caliber of care for the families we serve.

PCRP Case Managers are deeply committed to the success of Oregon's public defense system, as we have been since the inception of the PCRP. We work alongside attorneys to provide holistic, client-centered advocacy that addresses complex challenges such as housing instability, education, health care, domestic violence, substance use disorders, immigration issues, and language access. This work demands intensive effort, cultural competency, and professional skills that are not entry-level.

Our work not only supports families today — it also produces long-term savings for the state. By resolving cases more quickly and reducing repeated court involvement, PCRP Case Managers save Oregon significant costs while improving outcomes for children and families. This is both fiscally responsible and essential for promoting justice and stability.

The proposed rate of \$60/hour reflects what is necessary to sustain this work at the highest level:

- Rising costs of living, fuel, vehicle maintenance, health insurance, and professional requirements make current rates unsustainable
- As independent contractors, Case Managers bear the full cost of insurance, retirement, and business expenses
- A fair rate ensures Case Managers can maintain their practice without interruption, reduce turnover, and continue providing consistent, expert support that attorneys and families rely on

Supporting this adjustment is not only a matter of fairness — it is a strategic investment in Oregon's public defense system. Fairly compensated Case Managers can remain in the field longer and continue delivering the highest standard of service, ensuring the PCRP model remains strong, effective, and sustainable for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued commitment to supporting Oregon families.

Sincerely,
Jodi Russell
(541) 740-7517 PCRP Case Manager

8. Additional Notes

Jodi Russell

Parent Child Representation Program (PCRP) Case Manager

jrussell.casemanager@gmail.com

August 18, 2025

Oregon Public Defense Commission

Subject: Request to Include PCRP Case Managers in 6.8% Inflationary Increase with Rate Adjustment to \$60/Hour

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- Rising costs of **living, fuel, vehicle maintenance, health insurance, and professional requirements** make current rates unsustainable
- As independent contractors, Case Managers bear the full cost of **insurance, retirement, and business expenses**

-
- A fair rate ensures Case Managers can maintain their practice without interruption, reduce turnover, and continue providing consistent, expert support that attorneys and families rely on

Supporting this adjustment is not only a matter of fairness—it is a **strategic investment in Oregon's public defense system**. Fairly compensated Case Managers can remain in the field longer and continue delivering the highest standard of service, ensuring the PCRCP model remains strong, effective, and sustainable for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued commitment to supporting Oregon families.

Sincerely,

Jodi Russell

(541) 740 - 7517

PCRCP Case Manager

View results

Respondent

83

Anonymous

01:11

Time to complete

1. Full Name *

Olcott Thompson

2. Organization/Entity Name *

D Olcott Thompson PC

3. Email *

o.thompson@comcast.net

4. Phone Number *

503 581 6881

5. Public Comments must be directly related to agenda items for this meeting. Please specify which agenda topic your comments will relate to below. *

travel expenses

6. What type of public comment are you submitting? *



Written



Verbal - Virtually Via Zoom

7. Written Public Comment

D. OLCOTT THOMPSON, P.C.

ATTORNEY AT LAW
270 COTTAGE STREET, N.E.
SALEM, OR 97301

email: o.thompson@comcast.net

(503) 581-6881

fax: (503) 585-9070

August 18, 2025

Chair Nash
Vice Chair Mandiberg
Members of the Commission

As I believe at least some of you know I have for years been directly paid by OPDC and its predecessor on an hourly basis.

I do not know what Mr. Amador is going to say about funding travel time. The ultimate question you need to ask yourselves is would you travel an hour (or more) each way to visit your in custody client or attend his court appearances without being paid for it. Two hours (or more) of unpaid time every week. Time you could be in your office and being paid.

I know I am not able to do that and I do not know any other lawyer who is willing to devote unpaid time to an agency that won't even pay its bills on time.

The commission said no to this almost two years ago and needs to continue to say no. The agency pays its own employees for their travel time. Why is continuing to treat the private bar differently other than it wants the private bar to disappear.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Olcott Thompson", written over the printed name.

OLCOTT THOMPSON

View results

Respondent

84

Anonymous

08:40

Time to complete

1. Full Name *

Nicki Fox-Morse

2. Organization/Entity Name *

PCRP- Case Manager- Independent Contractor

3. Email *

foxmorsesocialwork@gmail.com

4. Phone Number *

(775) 530-7007

5. Public Comments must be directly related to agenda items for this meeting. Please specify which agenda topic your comments will relate to below. *

Feedback on Draft Contracts

6. What type of public comment are you submitting? *

☒ Written

☐ Verbal - Virtually Via Zoom

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Nicki Fox-Morse, M.S.
Parent Child Representation Program
Case Manager-Independent Contractor
foxmorsesocialwork@gmail.com
August 18, 2025

Request to Include PCRCP Case Managers in 6.8% Inflationary Increase with Rate Adjustment to \$60/Hour

Dear Commissioners,

As an administrator supporting the Parent Child Representation Program (PCRCP), I am writing to emphasize the urgent need to include contracted PCRCP Case Managers in the 6.8% inflationary increase, and to adjust the PCRCP Case Manager compensation rate to \$60 per hour.

PCRCP Case Managers provide highly specialized, holistic support that strengthens Oregon's public defense system. Their skillset blends advanced case management, social work, systems navigation, and crisis response. They routinely handle cases that involve intersecting challenges such as housing instability, domestic violence, mental health and substance abuse disorders, immigration issues, and cultural and language access barriers. This work demands expertise in trauma-informed care, cultural humility, and cross-system advocacy. It also requires the ability to build trust with clients facing immense stress while ensuring attorneys have the information and support that they need to deliver effective, client-centered legal representation. These are not entry-level skills; they reflect years of professional training and experience.

As independent contractors, PCRCP Case Managers also cover the full cost of medical insurance, retirement, and other business expenses. Rising operational costs and new insurance requirements make the current rate unsustainable. A \$60/hour rate more accurately reflects the professional expertise required, offsets the additional costs borne by contractors, and ensures parity with similar professional roles.

I recognize OPDC operates under legislative funding constraints, but OPDC must prioritize PCRCP investment and infrastructure. The expansion of this model has stalled in recent years due to competing agency priorities. Prioritizing investment in PCRCP ensures that this program continues to grow and sustain its impact.

I respectfully urge the Commission to act swiftly to approve the inclusion of PCRCP Case Managers in the 6.8% inflationary increase and an adjustment of the PCRCP Case Manager rate to \$60/hour. These changes are vital to sustaining the quality, sustainability, and equity for our providers, as well as ensuring the long-term viability of this critical program.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to high-quality, client-centered legal representation.

Sincerely,

Nicki Fox-Morse, M.S.
Parent Child Representation Program
Case Manager-Independent Contractor
foxmorsesocialwork@gmail.com
(775) 530-7007

Nicki Fox-Morse, M.S.

Parent Child Representation Program

Case Manager-Independent Contractor

foxmorsesocialwork@gmail.com

August 18, 2025

Request to Include PCRP Case Managers in 6.8% Inflationary Increase with Rate Adjustment to \$60/Hour

Dear Commissioners,

As an administrator supporting the Parent Child Representation Program (PCRP), I am writing to emphasize the urgent need to include contracted PCRP Case Managers in the 6.8% inflationary increase and to adjust the PCRP Case Manager compensation rate to \$60 per hour.

PCRP Case Managers provide highly specialized, holistic support that strengthens Oregon's public defense system. Their skillset blends advanced case management, social work, systems navigation, and crisis response. They routinely handle cases that involve intersecting challenges such as housing instability, domestic violence, mental health and substance abuse disorders, immigration issues, and cultural and language access barriers. This work demands expertise in trauma-informed care, cultural humility, and cross-system advocacy. It also requires the ability to build trust with clients facing immense stress while ensuring attorneys have the information and support that they need to deliver effective, client-centered legal representation. These are not entry-level skills; they reflect years of professional training and experience.

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insurance requirements make the current rate unsustainable. A \$60/hour rate more accurately reflects the professional expertise required, offsets the additional costs borne by contractors, and ensures parity with similar professional roles.

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Sincerely,

Nicki Fox-Morse, M.S.

Parent Child Representation Program

Case Manager-Independent Contractor

foxmorsesocialwork@gmail.com

(775) 530-7007

View results

Respondent

85

Anonymous

01:37

Time to complete

1. Full Name *

Dana Brandon

2. Organization/Entity Name *

Independent Contractor - Senior Case Manager Administrator PCRP

3. Email *

dana,brandon@pcrpcm.org

4. Phone Number *

5035586805

5. Public Comments must be directly related to agenda items for this meeting. Please specify which agenda topic your comments will relate to below. *

Feedback on draft contracts

6. What type of public comment are you submitting? *



Written



Verbal - Virtually Via Zoom

7. Written Public Comment

Dana Brandon, MSW

Senior Case Manager Administrator
Parent Child Representation Program
dana.brandon@pcrpcm.org
8/20/25

Request to Include PCRCP Case Managers in 6.8% Inflationary Increase with Rate Adjustment to \$60/Hour

Dear Commissioners,

As an administrator supporting the Parent Child Representation Program (PCRCP), I am again writing to emphasize the urgent need to include contracted PCRCP Case Managers in the 6.8% inflationary increase and to adjust the PCRCP Case Manager compensation rate to \$60 per hour.

PCRCP Case Managers provide highly specialized, holistic support that strengthens Oregon's public defense system. Their skillset blends advance case management, social work, systems navigation and crisis response. They routinely handle cases that involve intersecting challenges such as housing instability, domestic violence, mental health and substance abuse disorders, immigration issues and cultural and language access barriers. This work demands expertise in trauma-informed care, cultural humility, and cross-system advocacy. It also requires the ability to build trust with clients facing immense stress while ensuring attorneys have the information and support they need to deliver effective, client-centered legal representation. These are not entry level skills; they reflect years of professional training and experience.

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I recognize OPDC operates under legislative funding constraints, but OPDC must prioritize PCRCP investment and infrastructure. The expansion of this model has stalled in recent years due to competing agency priorities. Prioritizing investment in PCRCP ensures that this program continues to grow and sustain its impact.

I respectfully urge the Commission to act swiftly to approve inclusion of PCRCP Case Managers in the 6.8% inflationary increase and an adjustment of the PCRCP Case Manager

rate to \$60/hour. These changes are vital to sustaining the quality, sustainability and equity for our providers as well as ensuring the long-term viability of this critical program.

Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to high-quality, client-centered legal representation.

Sincerely,

Dana Brandon, MSW

Senior Case Manager Administrator (*independent contractor*)
Parent Child Representation Program

View results

Respondent

86

Anonymous

10:52

Time to complete

1. Full Name *

Sunshine Ward

2. Organization/Entity Name *

Parent/Child Representation

3. Email *

sward.prp@gmail.com

4. Phone Number *

971-407-6799

5. Public Comments must be directly related to agenda items for this meeting. Please specify which agenda topic your comments will relate to below. *

Feedback on Draft Contracts

6. What type of public comment are you submitting? *

☒

Written

☐

Verbal - Virtually Via Zoom

7. Written Public Comment

If you'd like to submit attachments, please send them to info@opdc.state.or.us in addition to filling out this form

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to respectfully request a rate adjustment to \$60 per hour for PCRCP Case Managers in the proposed 2025–2027 contract period. This adjustment is essential to keep pace with the cost of living, maintain our vehicles for multi-county travel, and ensure we can continue providing the highest caliber of care for the families we serve. At minimum, we must be included in the proposed 6.8% inflationary increase.

PCRCP Case Managers are deeply committed to the success of Oregon's public defense system, as we have always been since the inception of the PCRCP. We work alongside attorneys to provide holistic, client-centered advocacy that addresses the complex challenges families face. This includes navigating issues of housing, education, health care, and community resources, all of which require intensive effort, cultural competency, and professional skill.

Our work is not just valuable in the present day; it also produces measurable long-term savings. By resolving cases faster and reducing the need for repeated court involvement, PCRCP Case Managers save the state significant costs while improving outcomes for children and families. This is not only fiscally responsible, but it is also essential for promoting justice and stability.

The proposed rate of \$60 per hour reflects what is necessary for us to sustain this work at the highest level. Rising costs of living, fuel, vehicle maintenance, health insurance, and professional requirements make it increasingly difficult to continue at current rates. The rising costs of health care make it harder than ever to keep our own families healthy, and a \$60/hour rate is essential to ensure that while we work tirelessly to stabilize and support Oregon's most vulnerable families, we can also protect the well-being of our own. A fair rate ensures that PCRCP Case Managers can maintain their practice without interruption, reduce turnover, and continue to provide the consistent, expert support that clients and attorneys rely on.

Supporting this adjustment is not only a matter of fairness; it is a strategic investment in Oregon's public defense system. Fairly compensated Case Managers can remain in the field longer and continue delivering the highest standard of service. This ensures that the PCRCP model remains strong, effective, and sustainable for many years to come. Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your ongoing commitment to supporting Oregon families.

Respectfully,
Sunny Ward
(971) 407-6799

8. Additional Notes

View results

Respondent

88

Anonymous

07:08

Time to complete

1. Full Name *

Jodi Warne

2. Organization/Entity Name *

Parent Child Representation Program (OPDC)

3. Email *

coachjodi@outlook.com

4. Phone Number *

541-224-6518

5. Public Comments must be directly related to agenda items for this meeting. Please specify which agenda topic your comments will relate to below. *

Draft Contracts

6. What type of public comment are you submitting? *

☒

Written

☐

Verbal - Virtually Via Zoom

7. Written Public Comment

If you'd like to submit attachments, please send them to info@opdc.state.or.us in addition to filling out this form

Jodi Warne, MSW
Case Manager
Parent Child Representation Program
coach.jodi@outlook.com
August 18, 2025

Subject: Request to Include PCRCP Case Managers in 6.8% Inflationary Increase with Rate Adjustment to \$60/Hour

Dear Commissioners,

As a Case Manager for the Parent Child Representation Program (PCRCP), I am writing to emphasize the urgent need to include contracted PCRCP Case Managers in the 6.8% inflationary increase and to adjust the PCRCP Case Manager compensation rate to \$60 per hour.

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As independent contractors, PCRCP Case Managers also cover the full cost of medical insurance, dental insurance, retirement, paid time off, sick leave, liability insurance, auto insurance, etc., all of which continue to increase in cost. Rising operational costs and new insurance requirements make the current rate unsustainable. A \$60/hour rate more accurately reflects the professional expertise required, assists in offsetting the additional costs borne by contractors and ensures parity with similar professional roles.

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Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to high-quality, client-centered legal representation.

Sincerely,

Jodi Warne, MSW
541-224-6518

8. Additional Notes

Per your instrustion, please refer to letter sent to: info@opdc.state.or.us to

From: [Jodi Warne](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Draft Contract feedback per form
Date: Monday, August 18, 2025 4:58:17 PM

You don't often get email from coach.jodi@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Jodi Warne, MSW

Case Manager
Parent Child Representation Program
coach.jodi@outlook.com
August 18, 2025

Subject: Request to Include PCRP Case Managers in 6.8% Inflationary Increase with Rate Adjustment to \$60/Hour

Dear Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Jodi Warne, MSW
Casemanager (she/her)
Parent/Child Representation Program
541-224-6518
coach.jodi@outlook.com

Contractor with the Oregon Public Defense Commission

*****CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE*****This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you are not the addressee or it appears from the context or otherwise that you have received this e-mail in error, please advise me immediately by reply e-mail, keep the contents confidential, and immediately delete the message and any attachments from your system. Email sent to an unintended recipient shall not be deemed a waiver of any privilege or a waiver of any confidential communication.*****