



WEBER COUNTY INTERNAL AUDIT
KALI RHODES, CPA

December 19, 2025

Reference No. 2025-12

Weber County Audit Committee
2380 Washington Blvd
Ogden, UT 84401

Dear Audit Committee Members,

In accordance with County Policy 8.1.4.8, Internal Audit, Compliance Review, I am pleased to report that we have completed a follow-up engagement of the previous audit completed February 14, 2024, “Weber Public Defender Group”.

The initial engagement indicated the following recommendation:

- The WPDG should consider creating a streamlined affidavit form that can be used to screen clients.

Our engagement focused on this recommendation.

Per discussion with James Retallick, Executive Director of the Weber Public Defender Group, the recommendation was not implemented. Retallick noted that there was an attempt to implement the recommendation but the implementation interrupted the flow of court proceedings as the WPDG would need to locate the defendant, have them sign the affidavit prior to appearing before the judge. This proves challenging from a scheduling perspective as the defendants sometimes cannot be located until the judge calls them up. The judges are also in the practice of asking a few questions during the initial appearance to determine if a public defender would be appropriate. The WPDG also looks for signs such as additional assets or full time employment that may indicate the individual does not qualify for public defender services.

We observed initial appearances of defendants at the Second District Court, where the WPDG primarily serves, and the Salt Lake City Justice Court. We noted the procedure of assigning a public defender was nearly identical between the two courts with the judge acting as a defacto screener during the initial appearance. Judges do not operate under the authority of groups such as WPDG or general county authorities. As such, we have determined it appropriate to consider this recommendation as **closed** due to the onerous cost to implement the recommendation, weighed against the low risk of an individual receiving assistance from the WPDG that did not qualify. No further follow-up related to this recommendation is planned.



If any questions arise related to this follow-up engagement, I may be contacted at 801-399-8708 or karhodes@webercountyutah.gov.

Sincerely,

Kali Rhodes

Kali Rhodes, CPA
Weber County Internal Auditor

cc: James Retallick, Executive Director, Weber Public Defender Group