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# Memorandum

**To:** Livingston County Board of Commissioners  
**From:** Karen Groenhout, Livingston County Public Defender  
**Date:** February 21, 2024  
**Re:** Resolution to Approve the Change in Position Title from Social Worker to Client Advocate

The Livingston County Public Defender's Office is requesting approval to change the position title of Social Worker to Client Advocate. This request is based upon information recently received indicating that any individual who uses the title Social Worker must be licensed as a Social Worker in the State of Michigan.

MCL 333.18503 states:

....  
(2) Only a licensed bachelor's social worker shall use the title "licensed bachelor's social worker", "social worker", or "l.b.s.w.". Only a licensed master's social worker shall use the title "licensed master's social worker", "social worker", or "l.m.s.w.".

When the job description was written it was unknown that by titling the position as "Social Worker" we were, in essence, limiting ourselves to individuals that held a license. It was not our intention to limit ourselves to only those who held a Social Worker license and our job description did not indicate that one was required. The requested change in title from Social Worker to Client Advocate has been addressed with the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission and will have no impact on our grant funding.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me directly.