

12/18/2024 Caseload Dashboard Training Q&A

Q: What is the difference between Open and Pending for Case Status in State Trial?

A: Trial offices use pending if they have not received a signed court appointment order yet. Pending status is also used when a case enters warrant status. An attorney's open case weight does not include pending cases.

Q: When you say that we'll "see a change" as a result of the change to the national model, does this mean that you expect state attorney case counts to go down from current levels? How would this compare to a 300 MAC level of case assignment?

A: The State Trial Division currently operates under a workload model based on the case weights and case types of the Oregon Project Report. They will be switching a model based on the Nation Public Defense Workload model which has different case types and case weights. This can't be directly compared to a 300 MAC assignment as they are different models. Contractors are on an appointment model whereas State Trial is on an open caseload model.

Q: Can you add the definitions for the calculations and case weights for trial division offices to the definitions section? it looks like that page only has definitions for contract attys.

A: The case weights are based on [The Oregon Project Report](#) which is also linked on the Overview page of the dashboard.

Q: Should we expect a switch to this model for contractors in the next or a future contract?

A: ORS 151.216 has several provisions directing the Commission to adopt caseload and workload standards that are in accordance with national best practices, workload controls, and standards that permit attorneys to provide effective representation. OPDC will implement a workload model for the 2025 public defense contracts that is based upon the structure of the National Public Defense Workload Standards (NPDWS). A workload model is a model for assigning new cases and monitoring open cases that takes into account an attorney's available time to provide legal services pursuant to standards. The metric for this model is available hours, and each case appointment will carry an assigned value of hours that will be tracked and adjusted for several factors such as early withdrawal and bench warrants. The Commission has directed the agency to phase in the NPDWS over 6 years, so the NPDWS will not be achievable in 2025. But the agency will be using a structure that aligns with those standards for its contracts.

Q: Have you cross-checked your data against OJD's numbers? For example: number of cases appointed to a particular firm in a particular month. Have you found any discrepancies, and if so how do you account for them?

A: We rely on data from our contractors and trial division for reporting. We work closely with OJD but there won't be an apple to apple comparison as we are reporting on caseloads based on what is reported to us.

Q: My local providers are telling us this data is not accurate so we should not be using it to assess their contract levels. Are you aware of that issue? Is that a statewide concern?

A: This data is not real time. For contractors the data is showing based on caseload submission through the 20th of the previous month. If a local provider believes their numbers are not accurate, then we suggest they work with their OPDC program analyst to help get caseload reports corrected for the dashboard to display correctly.

Q: Will this data be available regarding specific providers, or always in the aggregate?

A: Yes, the table itself has plus buttons to drill down to each contractor by county.

Q: Is this or will this be available for juvenile contracts?

A: That is a possible future state that we are planning to work towards.

Q: What's the rationale for not breaking the data down by attorney?

A: The decision was made to show data at the county and contractor level at this time by the OPDC Executive Director.

Q: Is each provider's reported MAC and prorated MAC self-reported as well? And is it reported at the same time and frequency as the case #s?

A: We have an internal database that keeps track of attorneys FTE, qualifications, and start and end dates. This allows us to Prorate MAC accurately. Reported MAC is based on submitted caseload reports using our Nintex form on our website. We take the cases submitted and calculate the MAC based on case type and how the contract lays out the MAC values.

Q: Do you have the % of attorneys reporting in this dashboard? I am not seeing it. That would help identify "accuracy" for a provider. and can you add the lag times for contract changes, that will also impact accuracy for a provider and the prorated mac

A: We have an internal view of the report submission status. That would be a good addition to add to the public facing dashboard but is currently not in the public facing dashboard.

Q: Do you have internal data broken down by attorney?

A: We do have an internal view that goes down to the attorney level. Contractors can reach out to their program analyst to see the break down by attorney.

Q: Like trial division attys, can you peel out the warrants from contract atty open caseloads?

A: Current warrant status does not affect MAC calculations which is the primary purpose of the dashboard. We are transitioning to a workload model so that will be an important point for the future work but currently we are not integrating the warrant status on the dashboard.

Q: Given that warrants are relevant for the state attorneys moving to the new model, do you track warrant cases for them?

A: According to Trial Division management, OPDC staff who enter data on Trial Division caseloads do move cases into Pending status – these are not included in their open caseloads.