

# Annual Performance Report

November 01, 2020



**Office of the State Public Defender**

**MEGAN A. RING**  
**Colorado State Public Defender**

# Performance Evaluation

## General Description

### **Mission**

The mission of the Office of the State Public Defender is to defend and protect the rights, liberties, and dignity of those accused of crimes who cannot afford to retain counsel. We do so by providing constitutionally and statutorily mandated representation that is effective, zealous, inspired and compassionate.

OSPD Enabling Legislation. The general assembly hereby declares that the state public defender at all times shall serve his clients independently of any political considerations or private interest, provide legal services to indigent persons accused of crime that are commensurate with those available to nonindigents, and conduct the office in accordance with the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct and with the American Bar Association standards relating to the administration of criminal justice, the defense function. C.R.S. 21-1-101(1).

### **Vision**

The Office of the State Public Defender's vision is to develop, maintain and support our passionate and dedicated team so that they can provide the best possible quality of effective and efficient criminal defense representation for each and every one of our clients.

### **Description**

The Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD) is a single purpose program that is devoted to providing effective criminal defense representation to indigent persons charged with crimes except where there is a conflict of interest. Our clients are indigent people who, faced with the possibility of incarceration, are unable to afford private counsel and without counsel would otherwise be denied their constitutional right to representation throughout the criminal proceedings. Attorneys, investigators and legal support staff are necessary to provide effective representation of counsel as mandated by the federal and state constitutions, Colorado Revised Statutes, Colorado Court Rules, American Bar Association standards, and the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct. The OSPD system is the most efficient means of meeting these requirements.

The OSPD is an independent agency within the Judicial Branch of Colorado state government. The Courts appoint the OSPD when a defendant qualifies for public defender services pursuant to statute, applicable case law and Chief Justice Directives.

To support the OSPD in the representation of its FY 2020-21 projected caseload, the OSPD was appropriated \$108,256,486 and 925 FTE. The FTEs consist of approximately 557 attorneys; 174 investigators/legal assistants; 13 social workers; 136 administrative assistants and 45 centralized management and support positions.

## Priorities

In keeping with the Office's mission and vision, we have developed the following goals, strategies and measures.

### **Goals:**

1. Provide effective legal representation in both the trial and appellate courts.
2. Hire and retain a sufficient number of high quality staff to effectively manage the assigned caseload.

3. Provide both a high quality and quantity of staff development, training, new technology and other resources to adapt our response to the ever-changing criminal justice system so that our legal services are commensurate with those available for non-indigent persons.

**Strategies:**

1. Hire a sufficient number of high quality staff and retain an adequate level of experienced staff in order to effectively manage the assigned caseload.
2. Track and analyze trends in caseloads and adjust staffing levels.
3. Provide training to address the changing legal climate.
4. Continually evaluate administrative processes and organizational infrastructure needs such as office space, technology and staffing.
5. Work all cases as efficiently as possible, while retaining a high quality of effective and reasonable representation.

**Performance Measures**

		FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23
		(actual)	(actual)	(projected)	(projected)	(projected)
<b>MEASURE 1:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>148,664</b>	<b>147,479</b>	<b>119,229</b>	<b>144,906</b>	<b>146,867</b>
Number of new trial court cases.	Actual	144,219	124,586			
<b>MEASURE 2:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>189,075</b>	<b>189,760</b>	<b>165,029</b>	<b>204,583</b>	<b>205,461</b>
Number of active trial court cases.	Actual	185,762	168,512			
<b>MEASURE 3:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
Percent of trial court attorney staff allocated vs. total required for closed trial court cases.	Actual	81%	82%			
<b>MEASURE 4:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>
Number of attorney applications received.	Actual	520	524			
<b>MEASURE 5:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
Percent of total attorney staff allocated vs. total required for closed trial court cases and appellate cases.	Actual	81%	82%			

		FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23
		(actual)	(actual)	(projected)	(projected)	(projected)
<b>MEASURE 6:</b>						
Annual rates of attrition:	<b>Target</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>
Attorneys	Actual	18%	12%			
Investigators	Actual	7%	7%			
Administrative Assistants	Actual	26%	22%			
Total All Employees	Actual	17%	12%			
<b>MEASURE 7:</b>						
Percent of experienced, fully capable staff (journey level or higher):	<b>Target</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>70%</b>
Attorneys	Actual	39%	37%			
Investigators	Actual	52%	56%			
Administrative Assistants	Actual	46%	43%			
Total All Employees	Actual	44%	43%			
<b>MEASURE 8:</b>						
Percent compliance with minimum standards for total staffing requirements.	<b>Target</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
	Actual	82%	83%			
<b>MEASURE 9:</b>						
Maintain established standard percentages for reasonable staff supervision, management and development.	<b>Target</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>12%</b>
	Actual	9%	10%			
<b>MEASURE 10:</b>						
Number of new appellate cases.	<b>Target</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>535</b>
	Actual	563	514			
<b>MEASURE 11:</b>						
Number of active appellate cases.	<b>Target</b>	<b>1,887</b>	<b>1,938</b>	<b>1,870</b>	<b>1,833</b>	<b>1,799</b>
	Actual	1,922	1,878			
<b>MEASURE 12:</b>						
Percent of appellate attorney staff allocated vs. total required for appellate cases awaiting filing of initial brief.	<b>Target</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
	Actual	82%	81%			

		FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23
		(actual)	(actual)	(projected)	(projected)	(projected)
<b>MEASURE 13:</b>						
	<b>Target</b>	<b>145,909</b>	<b>145,337</b>	<b>105,353</b>	<b>145,989</b>	<b>148,332</b>
Number of trial court cases closed.	Actual	141,876	122,712			
<b>MEASURE 14:</b>						
	<b>Target</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>132</b>
Days of training provided.	Actual	179	144			
<b>MEASURE 15:</b>						
	<b>Target</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
Number of CLE credits provided to all attorneys.	Actual	16	21			
<b>MEASURE 16:</b>						
	<b>Target</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Hours of ethics training provided, focusing on Colorado criminal law.	Actual	3	6			
<b>MEASURE 17:</b>						
	<b>Target</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>
Number of administrative processes and organizational infrastructure evaluations performed.	Actual	15	12			
<b>MEASURE 18:</b>						
	<b>Target</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>447</b>
Number of appellate cases for which an Opening Brief has been filed.	Actual	381	454			
<b>MEASURE 19:</b>						
	<b>Target</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>423</b>
Number of backlogged appellate cases.	Actual	603	530			

The OSPD's Performance Plan dated July 01, 2020 can be viewed on our website at <http://www.coloradodefenders.us/>