



§ 99-18-1

(7) **The State Defender shall coordinate the collection and dissemination of statistical data** and make such reports as are required of the divisions, develop plans and proposals for further development of a statewide public defender system in coordination with the Mississippi Public Defenders Task Force and to act as spokesperson for all matters relating to indigent defense representation.

“Lady you’re telling me stories, I have evidence”

Data is NOT a “tripwire”

- If data indicates we are not meeting a performance measure or goal we have to ask WHY?
- Is the measure or goal attainable or a good measure?
- Are there factors outside of our control causing or contributing?

What is [data] research?

The systematic investigation into and study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.

Who is a researcher?

Academic faculty
Research organization
Consultant
Doctoral student

Performance budgeting

- Outputs – number of parents represented
- Efficiencies – cost per parent
- Outcomes - % change in number of children in care in targeted counties compared to statewide change

I don't care about saving \$ - I want to preserve families!

- Increase the number/rate of reunifications
- Reduce TPR filings
- Reduce reentry post reunification
- Reduce median length of time in foster care

COUNTY	IN CARE 9/30/17	REMOVALS 17-18	DISCHARGE 17-18	% DISCHARGE TO REUNIFICATION	IN CARE 9/30/18	% reentry w/12 months of prior discharge
ADAMS	43	18	16	25	43	0
BOLIVAR	27	11	9	11	23	0
DESOTO	76	61	60	50	65	16.4
FORREST	182	91	123	37	139	12.1
HANCOCK	361	76	233	60	170	18.4
HARRISON	828	493	530	43	756	9.9
HINDS	470	121	193	60	371	0.8
JACKSON	282	101	124	56	233	1
PEARL RIVER	176	50	76	71	111	0
RANKIN	135	44	105	70	67	11.4
STATE	5653	2436	3117	52	4583	7.8

Sources of Data

- <http://fosteringcourtimprovement.org>
- MYCIDS
- Defender data

Why track Defender Data

- People don't really know what we do –they certainly don't know what we do outside of court
- Saying "I'm overworked and underpaid" isn't working
- CPS tracks kids not our clients and events or outcomes not what we do
- MYCIDS is not reliable

Impact of Parent Representation in Child Protection Cases
Report to the Mississippi Children's Justice Commission
Social Science Research Center at Mississippi State University
Key Findings Section

- Moreover, the current training procedures may need to be re-visited with an emphasis on the importance of consistent and accurate data entry.
- Some court employees may not be aware of the importance of entering information into MYCIDS and the purposes for which the information may be used by the policy makers and other key stakeholders.
- For example, one court employee reported that she "didn't know this would actually be used."

What can we tell from SSR analysis?

- They looked at two potential impacts: 1. time case was open and 2. time child was out of home and found:
- 1. The impact of parent representation in both pilot and comparison counties on time that the CPS case is open was not statistically significant.
- 2. comparison of combined pilot and comparison counties together further indicated that cases with parent representations had significantly fewer days that the child was placed out of the home.

Data we require ... no data no dollars

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
number of cases open at the beginning of month												
cases opened during month												
cases closed during month												
number of motions filed during month												
number of shelter hearings participated in during month												
number of adjudicatory hearings participated in during month												
number of disposition hearings participated in during month												
number of review hearings participated in during month												
number of family meetings during month												
number of other in person meetings with clients during month												
number of TPR hearings during month												

Caseload/workload

- An attorney should assure that adequate time is dedicated to each case. To maintain a manageable workload, a fulltime parents' representation attorneys should limit their caseload to between sixty (60) and one hundred (100) cases at any given time. Support staff assistance, travel time required if serving more than one county, experience level of attorney and whether the attorney is part of a multidisciplinary representation team must be considered in determining where in this range an appropriate caseload lies for an individual attorney. A part time parent's representation attorney should limit their caseload proportionately to ensure that other cases do not interfere with counsel's obligation and commitment to Parent Representation Program cases.

Other defender data

- Intake forms
- Client surveys

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly disagree
a) My attorney explained what was happening during each step of my case					
b) I am satisfied with my plea/case outcome					
c) I am satisfied by the number of times my attorney communicated with me					










