Wagner, Nick

From: Youngcourt, Lorinda
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 8:36 AM
To: Bauck, Andrew
Cc: Clemens, Gwen; Dively, Dwight; Daugaard, Lisa
Subject: RE: Question on DPD supplemental

The Washington State Bar Association Standards for Indigent Defense Services (attached), Standard Three sets out caseload limits for various types of cases. In addition to setting out maximum caseloads, it provides in subsection 3 that "The increased complexity of practice in many areas will require lower caseload ceilings" requiring "the maximum caseload limit should be adjusted downward when the mix of case assignments is weighted toward more serious offenses or case types."

To quantify the complexity of today's cases, DPD relied upon timekeeping records from various sources. At the time the Workgroup was meeting, DPD case management software was not yet on line. These timekeeping records showed us, as expected, that some cases took longer than others to complete based on fact patterns, necessary research and briefing of legal issues, and lengthy trials.

The following is an example (using felonies) of the formula the Workgroup used to forecast how many attorneys would be needed.

Maximum # of felonies under Standard 3(4) = 150 case assignments
Attorney annual full time hours (i.e., 40 hours a week x 50 weeks) = 2000
Standard assumes approximately 13.5 hours per felony

Applying this assumption to the timekeeping records it was determined that when a felony case has accumulated 27 hours of time, that case becomes worth two credits rather than just one. I have attached a spreadsheet showing the total credits accumulated in each case type area in 2014. The total felony credits for cases handled in-house was 7,860. Dividing that number by the 150 maximum results in 52.4 lawyers. DPD was also able to pull the approximate number of felony cases which had been given to assigned counsel because of capacity (all lawyers at caseload limits). It was determined that those case credits should be added into DPD's credits in order to forecast approximately how many lawyers would be necessary to keep those cases in house.

Lorinda