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Caseload Report

April 2016



This report is responsive to line item 4800-1100 of chapter 46 of the acts of 2015 which states:

“...provided further, that the department shall report monthly to the joint committee on children, families and persons with disabilities and the house and senate committees on ways and means the current average caseload for social workers and how many workers may need to be hired to get to a 15 to 1 caseload ratio for every worker.”

This legislative language asks the Department to report on the current average caseloads for social workers in each month and the number of social workers needed to achieve a 15 to 1 caseload ratio. Data from January and February of 2016 are now available.

1. Current Average Caseload

The statewide average weighted caseload for social workers in January of 2016 was 20.90 to 1.

The statewide average weighted caseload for social workers in February of 2016 was 21.13 to 1.

2. Number of Social Workers Needed to Achieve a 15 to 1 caseload ratio

To achieve the Department’s goal of having no more than 15 families assigned per ongoing worker, with no more than 10 children in placement and no more than 28 children overall, the Department will need to attain a statewide average weighted caseload of 18.0:1. [An average of 18 weighted cases = 15 families assigned (approximately)]. This number is set by Supplemental Agreement Q of Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Commonwealth and SEIU Local 509 which was ratified by the Legislature and Governor as Chapter 359 of the Acts of 2014.

In January, the Department would have needed 314.1 additional social workers to achieve a weighted caseload average of 18 to 1.

In February, the Department would have needed 341.3 additional social workers to achieve a weighted caseload average of 18 to 1.

Additional supervisory and management staff would be required to support these positions. Please also note that these numbers assume a static caseload and do not account for any impact new policy and practice being implemented could have on caseloads.