

DATA OFFICER NEWSLETTER

ILS Data Officer Listserv

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Welcome

Welcome to ILS’s first Data Officer Newsletter. Here we will provide updates and highlights pertaining to the ILS Research Team, County Data Officers, and those involved in data collection and reporting for Institutional Providers and Assigned Counsel Programs across New York State.

ILS Site Visits

In collaboration with ILS SW Attorneys, ILS Data Officers Reilly Weinstein and Nick Watson, have begun to travel across the state to meet with County Data Officers, Institutional Providers and Assigned Counsel Administrators. Working with County Data Officers, ILS Data Officers seek to support provider offices in developing streamlined collection and reporting practices that produce high quality data and meet ILS reporting requirements.

Chemung County Data Meeting

On December 1st, Reilly and Nick, along with SW Attorney Kathryn Murray traveled to Chemung County to meet with providers, including County Attorney Hyder Hussain, Public Advocate John Brennan and Data Officer Jon Bailey. Jon has been working to support his county in enhancing their data collection procedures. To increase data validity, Jon created a form based on the ILS-195 requirements; he uses this checklist to standardize data gathered from the submitted assigned counsel vouchers. Additionally, based on Chemung’s specific structure and data collection process, Jon is collaborating with the county to identify and implement a case management system for the ACP. Nick provided the meeting attendees with a hardcopy of the Case Management System Comparison Chart to assist in that process.



Tioga County Data Meeting

On December 2nd, Reilly and Nick met with Tioga County Providers, including Public Defender George Awad, Assigned Counsel Administrator Irene Gravin, and Data Officer Stacy Reynolds. Stacy shared the methods she uses to ensure data validity and completeness. Using NYSDA’s PDCMS, Stacy runs a series of diagnostic reports to identify missing and incorrect information. Stacy also frequently attends arraignment to fill out the CAFA cover sheet in real time, thereby increasing the accuracy and timeliness of the data.



Family Court RFPs

In August 2021, ILS announced the availability of funds under the Office’s Upstate Family Defense Quality Improvement and Caseload Reduction Grant to develop programs and establish practices that enhance the quality of parental representation in child welfare proceedings. ILS is pleased to announce that the following five counties have been selected to receive the grant: Cortland, Erie, Monroe, Steuben, and Suffolk. The ILS Research Team looks forward to working with these offices to collect relevant data to assess the impact of these improvements on the quality of parental representation.

Hurrell-Harring Statewide Caseload Report

The 2021 *Hurrell-Harring* Statewide Caseload Report reveals that despite the pandemic-induced reduction in caseloads, SW implementation progressed. In both the upstate and NYC counties, overall Institutional Provider staffing increased. In addition, there was an overall increase in expenditures, driven by the Institutional Providers. Of note, the ACP expenditures decreased, which could be a result of a reduction in voucher submissions. For reference, please see graphs below:

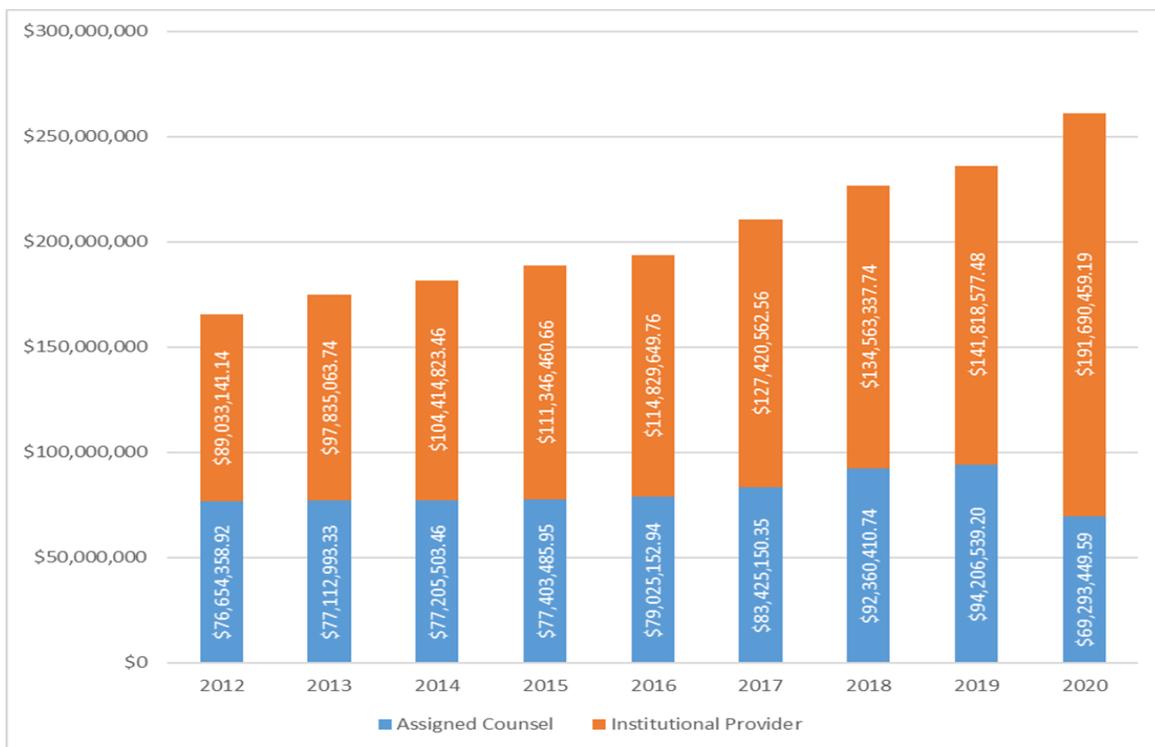


Figure 12: Total Spending in Institutional and Assigned Counsel Providers, 57 Upstate Counties, 2012-2020 | 2021 HH SW Caseload Report. Page 17.

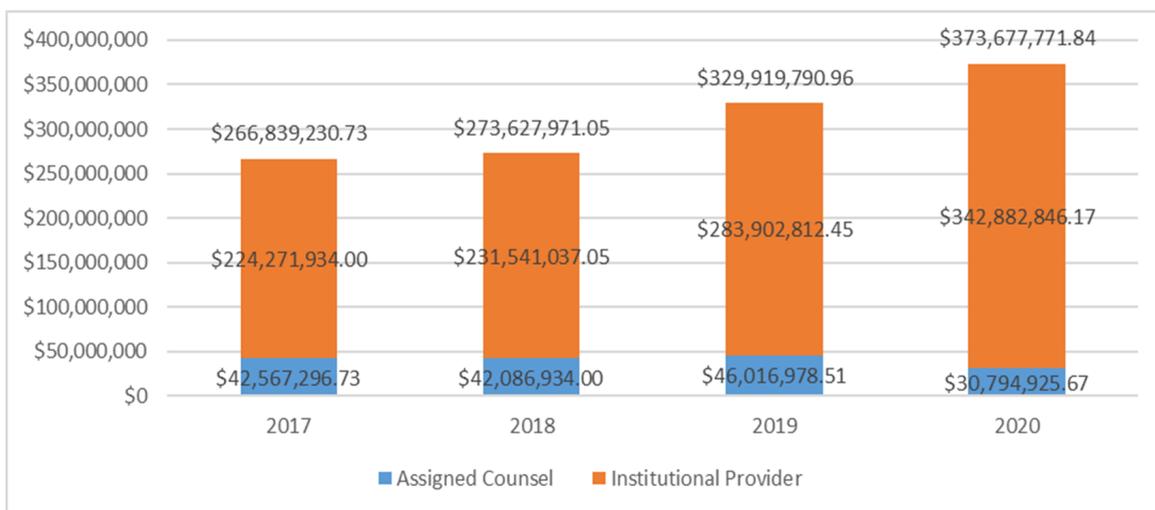


Figure 14: Total Spending in Institutional and Assigned Counsel Providers, New York City, 2017-2020 | 2021 HH SW Caseload Report. Page 18.

Without data, accurately assessing progress on SW implementation would be rendered impossible. Thank you to the County Data Officers and provider office staff for your commitment to accurate data collection and reporting.

Reminders

The next Data Officer Trainings will be held at 11 am on the following dates: March 10th, and April 7th.

All past reports, FAQs, and other supportive documentation, such as the Case Management System Comparison Chart and ACP Voucher Checklist can be found on the ILS website under [Research and Data Analysis, Annual Data Reporting](#). In addition, all previous Data Officer training presentations and materials can be found on the website under [Research and Data Analysis, Data Officers](#).