

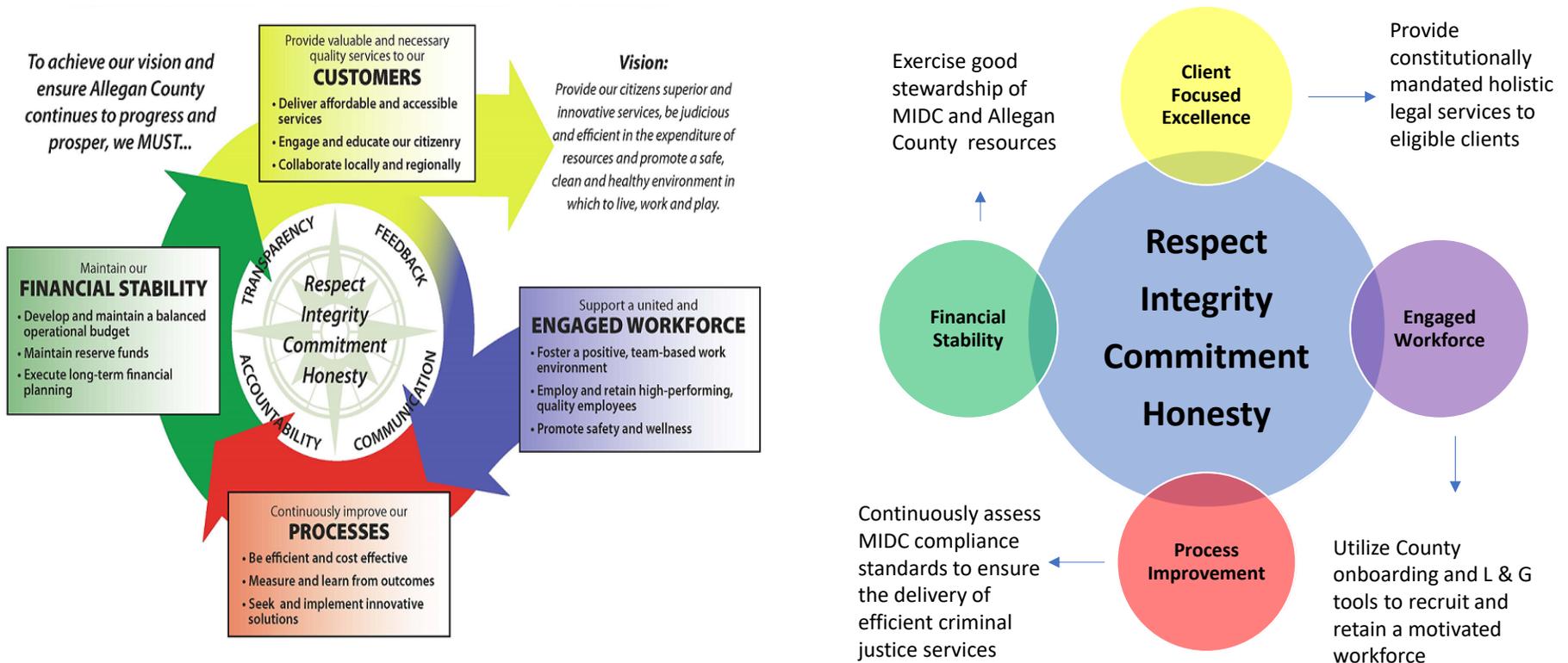


Office of the Public Defender Allegan County

2025 Annual Report

Presented by Chief Public Defender, Chad D. Catalino

Unified Vision: Advancing Justice & County Prosperity Together



MIDC Standards 1, 2, 3, and 4 (Effective 2019)

MIDC Standard 1 – Education and Training of Defense Counsel

MIDC Relevant Measurements:

1. Knowledge of the law.
2. Knowledge of scientific evidence and applicable defenses.
3. Knowledge of technology.
4. Continuing education (12 hours of Continuing Legal Education)

2019 – All Staff and Roster Attorneys, except for 1 attorney met Standard 1. The attorney corrected the failure by January 21, 2020.

2020 – 100% compliance

2021 – 100% compliance

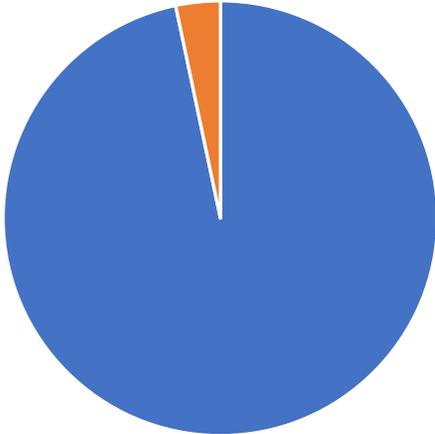
2022 – 100% compliance

2023 – 100% compliance

2024 – 100% compliance

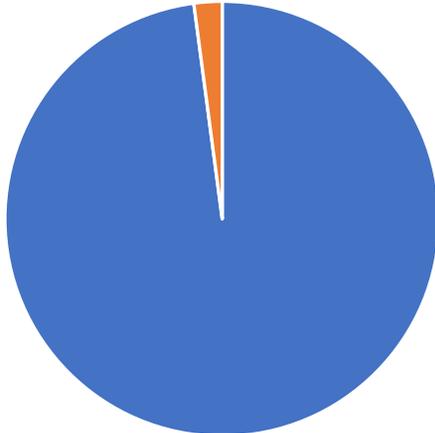
Standard 2 Compliance 2024

In-custody

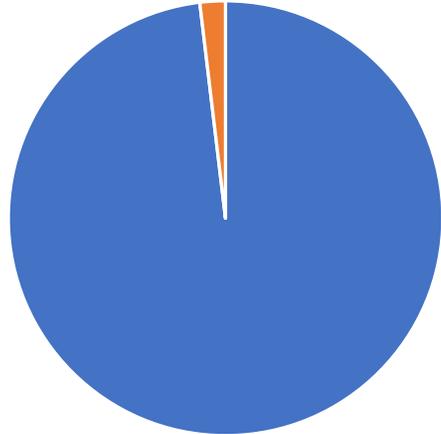


In-Custody – 96.5%
Bonded – 97.9%
MDOC – 98.4%

Bonded



MDOC



MIDC Standard 3 – Investigation and Experts

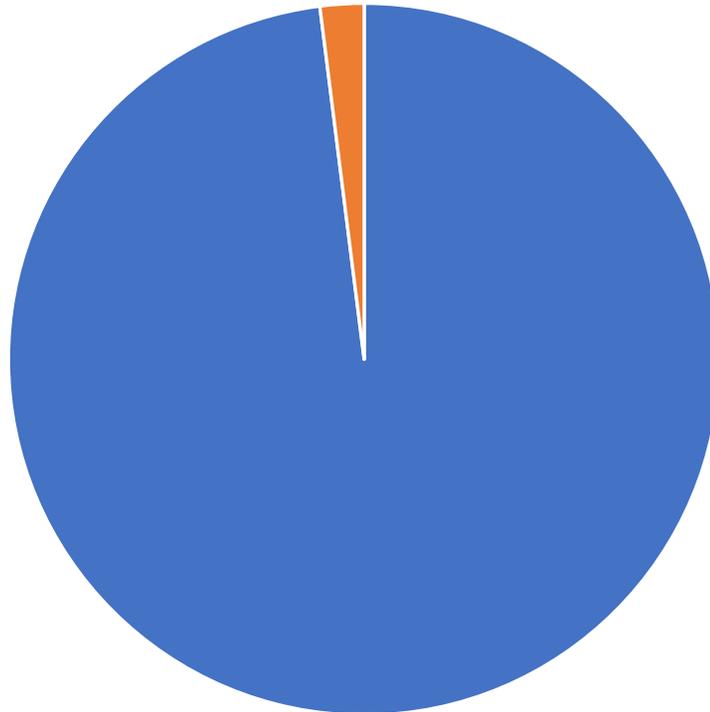
MIDC Relevant Measurements:

1. Investigation of charges and offense.
2. When appropriate, counsel to request funds to retain an investigator.
3. When appropriate, counsel shall request assistance of experts.
4. All reasonable requests shall be honored.
5. Counsel has continuing duty to evaluate for appropriate investigator or expert witness assistance.



Allegan County Standard 4 Compliance

2024



■ 2024 Allegan Covered Arraignments

■ 2024 Allegan Not Covered Arraignments

■ 98% Covered Arraignments

■ 2% Not Covered

MIDC Standard 5: Reinforcing System Integrity

MIDC Standard 5 – System trust

Attorney/Client Relationship

- 100% of OPD's clients are insured against undue political and budgetary influence

Equitable Representation

- 100% of OPD's clients have equal access to 100% of OPD's full resources

MIDC Standard 6 – Indigent Defense Workloads

MIDC Relevant Measurements:

1. Caseloads shall allow each attorney the ability to give each client the time and effort necessary to ensure effective representation.
2. Workloads shall be determined over time through special “Michigan specific weighted caseload studies.”
3. Until the completion of said studies, caseload assignments are recommended as follows:
 - a. Not exceed 150 new felony assignments per year.
 - b. Not exceed 400 new non-traffic misdemeanors per year.
 - c. Mixed caseloads, proportional to allow effective representation.

MIDC Standard 7 – Qualification and Review

MIDC Relevant Measurements:

1. Defense counsel's ability, training and experience match the nature and complexity of the case to which they are appointed.
2. Defense counsel is systematically reviewed at the local level for efficiency and for effective representation according to MIDC standards.

MIDC Standard 8 – Attorney Compensation (Economic Disincentives or Incentives)

MIDC Relevant Measurements:

1. Reasonable salaries and benefits and resources should be provided to indigent defense counsel.
2. Roster counsel should receive prompt compensation at a reasonable rate and should be reimbursed for their reasonable out of pocket, case related expenses.
 - a. Activities outside of court appearances, such as directing an investigation, negotiating, or tactical planning, etc., require no less legal skill and expertise than in court appearances, and are equally important to quality representation.
3. Roster attorney hourly rates for FY26 shall be **at least**:
 - a. \$127.84 per hour for misdemeanors;
 - b. \$140.63 per hour for non-life offense felonies;
 - c. \$153.38 per hour for life offense felonies.

Looking Forward: Transforming Justice for Michigan Youth

Senate Bill 81 would authorize the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission to develop and implement minimum standards for the legal defense of Michigan's children in delinquency proceedings.

Senate Bill 81 passed with bipartisan support.

An identical version of Senate Bill 81 named HB 4070, passed out of committee in the House earlier this month, and floor action is expected soon.

HB 4070 passed out of committee with bipartisan support.

OPD's strategic preparation related to Senate Bill 81 and HB 4070:

- In partnership with MIDC, increased juvenile justice trainings for staff and roster attorneys;
- Collaboration with Allegan County Circuit Court Administrator regarding implementation planning;
- Collaboration with Allegan County Circuit Court Administrator regarding financial analysis;
- Internal organizational development planning;
- Deputy Chief appointed to the Michigan Committee of Juvenile Justice;
- Engaging in communication with Allegan County's current non-MIDC appointed attorneys for juvenile cases;

Looking Forward



OPD strives to be a leader in Michigan Indigent Defense Reform and the application of standards, policies, and procedures that allow OPD the opportunity to lead in those reformation efforts. Over the course of the next year, OPD will continue to partner with MIDC, stakeholders, and County Administration in an effort to increase efficiency, client representation, fiscal responsibility, and systemic viability. OPD looks forward to working with its partners and stakeholders to continue to build trust and confidence in the indigent defense system in Allegan County. Finally, OPD looks forward to continuing to improve the quality of indigent defense services for the benefit of the citizens of Allegan, promoting a safe, clean, and healthy environment in which to live, work, and play.