

FY18 OSPD Parent Representation Plan

The purpose of this memorandum is to set forth the position of the Office of State Public Defender.

Casey Family Programs asks that “Mississippi” develop a plan for expansion and going deeper into one or more of the current parent representation sites to establish a Model Parent Representation County.

Specifically, how does Mississippi want to use the Casey funds?

OSPD welcomes the input of other stakeholders that collectively make up “Mississippi” including the Children’s Justice Commission; AOC/CIP; Youth Court Judges Conference; Parent Representation attorneys; Center for Legal Services and all other partners in the existing pilot sites.

OSPD will use an evidence based approach to site selection, design and evaluation.

Factors to consider in determining sites:

- Removal number
- Removal rate
- Kids in custody
- Length of stay
- Number of parents impacted
- Defender pool
- Judge interest
- County supervisor support
- Availability of other institutional support, e.g., universities, defender offices, public and private social service agencies
- Existing pilot

Site design:

OSPD is committed to developing Parent Representation Programs that utilize a multidisciplinary approach to providing services to parents facing the loss of their children. Key elements of such a program will include workload/caseload limits; attorney practice standards; access to social workers and/or parent mentors; training and oversight of attorneys/teams. Full implementation (i.e. depth of programs) will be determined by availability of funds from all sources.

Selection of Parent Representation Program attorneys and support staff:

The primary parent representation attorney should be a fulltime employee of a county or private legal service agency. If a county office is established the “chief” attorney shall be agreed upon by the Youth Court Judge and OSPD. Any assistants and/or support staff shall be selected and supervised by the chief. The chief may only be removed for cause by agreement of Judge and OSPD. “Cause” shall include failure to substantially comply with all Performance Standards agreed to by OSPD, Judge and attorney at hiring.

Evaluation of success will be in conformity with the Kellogg Plan. What, how and where data will be collected, reported, stored and analyzed will be determined as project moves forward, beginning with data meeting on May 23.

Tentative OSPD Plan for sites:

Jackson County, \$75,000 from OSPD with county match; potential partnering with Youth Court Public Defender and felony Public Defender Office on shared resources and support.

Hancock County, \$35,000 to \$75,000 from OSPD with present county contribution and either augmenting or replacing Casey funds to expand depth of service.

Statewide Training and Technical Assistance, up to \$50,000 from OSPD to contract “Resource Counsel” to provide standards training and technical assistance to meet standards and performance evaluation.

Hinds County, \$35,000 to \$50,000 from OSPD to augment county/Kellogg efforts with intent to develop multidisciplinary model that may incorporate Rankin County pilot depending on interest.

Forrest County, \$60,000 from OSPD with county and/or Casey contributing up to \$50,000 to expand beyond 0-3 and increase depth of service.

Harrison County, \$200,000 from OSPD with county and/or Casey match to expand parents served and depth of service.

Current funding by source:

Pilots	Casey	Kellogg	county	CIP	total
Adams	25,000				25,000
Bolivar		12,000			12,000
DeSoto	35,000		35,000*		70,000
Forrest	25,000				25,000
Hancock	35,000		35,000*		70,000
Harrison	50,000		50,000*		100,000
Hinds		45,000	45,000		90,000
Rankin				60,000	60,000
	170,000	57,000	165,000	60,000	452,000

*plus state retirement and health care