

- ***What the current case load numbers are for the social workers. This should include what actual social workers are doing and how many workers are available;***
  - As of 10/16/23, the department had 1,132 frontline caseload carrying social workers. Of those, 221 were not at full capacity. The majority of these staff were newly-hired staff who are in some phase of training.
  - Caseloads are averaging 19 when calculating just the current cases (not including past due referrals) and calculating as if all social workers are carrying a full caseload.
  - Caseloads are averaging 34 when including past due referrals and removing social workers who are not carrying a full caseload from the average. This is the average the department reports on in its quarterly social worker caseload.
  
- ***How many social workers have been added in the last two years, and the change in the case load numbers per worker with the addition of new employees; and***
  - In April 2022, the statewide average caseload peaked at an average of 38 caseloads per social worker, with 1,013 caseload carrying out of 1,601 total social worker and clinician staff. By September 2023, the statewide average caseload has dropped to 34 per social worker. Currently, the department has 119 more frontline caseload carrying social workers, 1,132, and this number will continue to grow as newly-hired social workers begin carrying cases.
  
- ***What the optimal number of social workers is, and what we can do to get to that number.***
  - The department currently has just over 4,700 full time, permanent employees providing services in the areas of child and adult protection and services related to determining eligibility for public assistance (SNAP, KTAP, Medicaid, etc.). Currently, the staff providing direct services in these areas accounts for approximately 4,400 of the departments total staffing and both programs areas have experienced increased needs for staffing. A driving factor for the increased staffing need within the public assistance programs has been related to the end of the PHE and the Medicaid Unwind. As the department continues to work through the Medicaid Unwind period, which will conclude the end of May 2024, we will continue to evaluate the overall staffing needs of the department and make adjustments to existing personnel. CHFS has submitted an additional budget request to fund an additional 50 social workers per year, for the next biennium.

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