

Arizona Supreme Court  
Steering Committee on Data-Based Court Performance and Data Standards  
AGENDA

December 11, 2024, 12 noon - 3:30 p.m.  
Arizona State Courts Building, 1501 W. Washington, Room 331, Phoenix, AZ 85007 and  
[Zoom Webinar Link](#)

Conference Call Line 888-788-0099, Webinar ID 947 3328 1119, Passcode 166501  
Meeting Room and Zoom Webinar are open at 1:15 p.m.  
Meeting Materials located at [Meeting Information \(azcourts.gov\)](#)

1:15 p.m.	Meeting room and Zoom Webinar open for Members, Attendees and Presenters		Laura Ritenour, Arizona AOC
1:30 p.m.	Call to Order - Roll Call and Opening Remarks  - Welcome to new committee member, Rachel Cameron - Welcome to new AOC staff, Michael Wise  - Thank you to retiring members Marcus Reinkensmeyer, Hon. Kenneth Lee, and Shelly Bacon - Thank you to retiring AOC staff Cathy Clarich		Hon. James Beene, Chair, Arizona Supreme Court
1:35 p.m.	Discuss/Vote	Draft Minutes from September 2024 Meeting	Hon. James Beene
1:40 p.m.	Discuss/Vote	Proposed 2025 Meeting Schedule	Hon. James Beene
1:45 p.m.	Update/Discuss	NCSC Technical Assistance Project - Report-out from Yuma and Gila Counties	Kathy Schaben and Jon Bearup
2:00 p.m.	Discuss/Vote	Proposed Time Standards Modifications from Felony Time Standards Workgroup	Hon. Jennifer Green, Criminal Presiding Judge, Maricopa County
2:15 p.m.	Discuss/Vote	Proposed Time Standards Modifications from Juvenile Time Standards Workgroup	Hon. Lori Bustamante, Juvenile Presiding Judge, Maricopa County
2:30 p.m.	Discuss/Vote	Proposed Time Standards Modifications from DUI Time Standards Workgroup	Hon. Jerry Landau, Judge Pro-Tem, Special Projects Consultant, AOC

2:45 p.m.	Discuss/Vote	Proposal re: Local Presiding Judges Notification of Time Standards Reports Submitted to AOC for FY25 and beyond	Laura Ritenour
3:00 p.m.	Discuss	Court Dashboard Demonstrations - Pima County - Maricopa County Justice Courts - Maricopa County	Joe Marchetti (Pima County), Charlie Barrett (MCJC), John Cavagnaro and Victoria Murray (Maricopa County)
3:20 p.m.	Update/Discuss	Data Standardization Advisory Committee	Michael Malone, Arizona AOC
3:25 p.m.	Call to the Public		Hon. James Beene
	Next Meeting: March 2025, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. via Zoom and in person, date depends on vote of members earlier in this agenda		Hon. James Beene
3:30 pm	Adjournment		Hon. James Beene

*All times are approximate. The Chair reserves the right to set the order of the agenda. For any item on the agenda, the Committee may vote to go into executive session as permitted by Arizona Code of Judicial Administration §1-202. Please contact Laura Ritenour at (602) 452-3675 with any questions concerning this agenda. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting Laura Ritenour at (602) 452-3675. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange for the accommodation.*

# STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE AND DATA STANDARDS

September 4, 2024

12 noon - 3:30 p.m. Hybrid Attendance - In Person and Zoom Webinar

**DRAFT MINUTES**

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**Members Present:** Hon. James Beene, Ms. Shelly Bacon, Ms. Jennifer Curtiss, Hon. Pamela Frasher-Gates, Ms. Jennifer Ferguson as proxy for Ms. Shawn Friend, Hon. Ken Lee, Ms. Tina Mattison, Ms. Donna McQuality, Hon. Michael Peterson, Ms. Nancy Rodriguez, Hon. Don Taylor, and Hon. Trevor Ward

**Members Absent:** Hon. Thomas L. Chotena, Hon. Heidi Owens, and Mr. Marcus Reinkensmeyer

**Presenters and Guests:** Ms. Sharon Yates (Coconino County), Hon. Lori Bustamante (Maricopa County), Victoria Murray (Maricopa County), Marcos Romero (Tempe Municipal Court)

**Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) Staff:** Mr. Stewart Bruner (AOC), Mr. James Cerasia (AOC), Ms. Cathy Clarich (AOC), Ms. Laura Ritenour (AOC)

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## I. CALL TO ORDER

### A. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The September 4, 2024, meeting of the Steering Committee on Data-Based Court Performance and Data Standards was called to order by the Chair, Justice James Beene, at 12:01 p.m. Justice Beene conducted member roll call and members were thanked for their attendance and service.

### B. Approval of the June 5, 2024, Minutes

The draft minutes from the June 5, 2024, meeting of the Steering Committee on Data-Based Court Performance and Data Standards were presented for approval. Justice Beene called for any corrections to the minutes, and none were made. A motion was made by Judge Taylor and seconded by Nancy Rodriguez to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

## II. REGULAR BUSINESS

### A. Call to the Public

Justice Beene made a call to the public for comments. There was no answer.

## **B. NCSC Technical Assistance Project**

Justice Beene reminded the committee that at the March meeting members heard from the Mohave and Pinal county court administrators about the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) technical assistance project and the outcomes they are working towards. Justice Beene welcomed Sharon Yates to the meeting and thanked her for attending. Sharon Yates gave a report-out on the technical assistance Coconino County Superior Court received from NCSC, next steps completed, and plans for the future. The next steps included a case and data clean-up project, discussions around “culture of continuance” changes, and creation of a criminal case triage plan. Sharon Yates reviewed the local administrative order adopted by the court that provides guidelines to judges on criminal case triage and processing. After her presentation, Justice Beene mentioned that also in the meeting packet are the documents from Mohave and Pinal counties that were mentioned at the March meeting.

## **C. FY24 Statewide Case Processing Time Standards Draft Report Trends**

Laura Ritenour provided an overview of the current draft data from the FY24 time standards time to disposition reports submitted by the courts in July and August. The data is still in draft status as several data sections are not ready at this time. There will be a subsequent report at the December meeting. Members did not have any questions about the data. Justice Beene informed the committee that a similar trend presentation and report will be given to the county superior court presiding judges at their October meeting.

## **D. DUI Case Processing Training for Judicial Officers Workgroup**

Justice Beene asked Cathy Clarich to provide an update on this workgroup’s progress. Cathy reported that Jerry Landau chairs the workgroup, the workgroup has met several times and Jerry Landau has attended meetings with justice partners around the state to discuss the DUI time standards and system issues. The workgroup is also reviewing the National Center for State Court’s guidance on caseflow management plans to decide which concepts would work best for documentation for Arizona judges. The workgroup hopes to finish their work this fall for presentations at the December Governor’s Office of Highway Safety conference and a presentation at the December committee meeting. Laura Ritenour presented a draft time standards strategies document created by Scottsdale City Court. Scottsdale wanted to share this information with other courts who might be considering how to improve their case processing. Members discussed some of the challenges facing courts including body camera redaction, MVD administrative hearings, and agency staff turnover.

## **E. Post-Conviction Relief Notice and Petition Instructions**

Laura Ritenour updated the committee on the published Post-Conviction Relief Notice and Petition filing instructions on the Self-Service Center website (in English and Spanish) at [www.azcourts.gov](http://www.azcourts.gov). She said the instructions will be

announced by statewide memo in the next few weeks.

**F. 2024-2029 Strategic Agenda – Goal 4.1 Proposals**

Justice Beene announced that draft proposals have been developed for meeting Goal 4.1 in the 2024-2029 Strategic Agenda. The Strategic Agenda will serve as a guide for the Arizona Supreme Court and Administrative Office of the Courts priorities and projects over the next five years. Laura Ritenour reviewed Goal 4.1 regarding court data accuracy and case management and the proposals she drafted to potentially meet that goal. Members asked clarifying questions and discussed potential issues with some proposals. Justice Beene requested that members contact Laura Ritenour with any additional ideas for proposals by October 4<sup>th</sup>. Members will vote on the proposals and the priorities at the December meeting.

**G. Proposal re: Local Presiding Judge Notification of Time Standards Reports Submitted to AOC for FY25**

Laura Ritenour reported that at the May Coconino County Limited Jurisdiction Judge and Administrators Workshop, attendees suggested to her that local presiding judges are copied when courts submit their yearly time standards reports to the AOC. At the June meeting, members approved a recommendation be added to the time standards submission instructions that local presiding judges receive copies of the reports or be copied on the email to the AOC. Laura Ritenour reported that out of 176 courts reporting, 66 courts copied their local presiding judges on the email to the Time Standards email box. Cathy Clarich reported that time standards data is now part of the AOC's operational review process. AOC staff would like to propose that starting in July 2025, courts be required to get their local presiding judge approval before submitting their reports to the AOC. An approval letter template would be drafted for signature and submitted with the reports. This would ensure that judges are aware of the court's data being reported and increase the court's accountability for the data. The members discussed judicial awareness of the time standards data. Justice Beene told the group to consider this proposal and that this item would be on the December agenda for a vote.

**H. Data Standardization Advisory Committee**

Justice Beene reported that Michael Malone, chair of the Data Standardization Advisory Committee, was not able to attend the meeting and therefore a report on the committee's progress was in the meeting materials. The Data Standardization Advisory Committee meets monthly to discuss and recommend standardized docket codes and data element definitions. The goal of their work is to improve court data, by making data more consistent and accurate, for court leadership decision-making and for sharing with our justice system partners.

**I. Administrative Order 2024-123 on Submission of Court Data**

Laura Ritenour presented the adopted administrative order regarding the submission of court case data by all court case management systems to the

AOC's Central Case Repository (CCR). The order states that the project implementation will be given via an administrative directive in consultation with the Data Standardization Advisory Committee.

**J. Update from Collaborative Workgroup with Committee on Juvenile Courts**

At its June meeting, the Committee approved the creation of a collaborative workgroup to review the current juvenile time standards and develop potential recommendations for modifications. Judge Bustamante, chair of the workgroup, provided a brief update on the workgroup's progress. The workgroup has been considering statutory requirements, court rules, court data, and any other relevant factors in developing their recommendations. The workgroup should have its recommendations ready for review and possible voting at the December meeting.

**K. Upcoming Conferences/Meetings re: Time Standards and Required Data Elements**

Justice Beene stated that courts and conferences request AOC staff to present on a variety of topics. He wanted to make members aware of some upcoming presentations by staff on time standards and data standards. Laura Ritenour provided a brief overview of each item listed below.

- September 5, 2024 – Time Standards Overview session at Limited Jurisdiction Judges Association Conference – Laura Ritenour and the Hon. Andrew Hettinger, Page Municipal Court
- October 10, 2024 – National Center for State Courts Data Drive webinar on NODS – Laura Ritenour
- October 22, 2024 – Arizona Court Leadership Conference – Felony and DUI Time Standards – Jerry Landau and Laura Ritenour

**L. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. with a motion by Jennifer Curtiss.

**III. NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is Wednesday, December 11, 2024 and is hybrid format, with attendees and members appearing either in person at the State Courts Building or over Zoom webinar. In-person attendees and members should come to Room 331 at the State Courts Building, 1501 W. Washington, Phoenix AZ 85007.

**STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE AND DATA STANDARDS**

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>  December 6, 2023	<b>Type of Action Required:</b>  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request  <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only  <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<b>Subject:</b>  Proposed 2025 Meeting Scheduled
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PRESENTER(S):

- Hon. James P. Beene, Justice, Arizona Supreme Court, and Steering Committee Chair, and Laura Ritenour, Staff to Steering Committee

DISCUSSION:

Every fall, the Steering Committee reviews and votes on the next year’s schedule. Below are the proposed meeting dates, times, and formats for member discussion and vote.

- Wednesday, March 5, 2025, Hybrid meeting, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 4, 2025, Hybrid meeting, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 3, 2025, Annual Meeting, 12 noon – 3:30 p.m., in person\* at location to be determined
- Wednesday, December 3, 2025, Hybrid meeting, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

\*Zoom to be available for members unable to attend in person

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR REQUEST (IF ANY):

Proposed Motion: Motion to approve the proposed meeting dates for the year 2025

**STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE  
AND DATA STANDARDS**

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>Type of Action Required:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>
December 11, 2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	NCSC Technical Assistance Project - Report-out from Yuma and Gila Counties

**PRESENTER(S):**

Kathy Schaben, Court Administrator, Superior Court of Yuma County, and Jon Bearup, Court Administrator, Superior Court of Gila County

**DISCUSSION:**

At the recent meetings, members heard from county court administrators about the NCSC technical assistance project and the outcomes they are working towards. Today, Kathy Schaben and Jon Bearup will give a report-outs on about the technical assistance the counties received from NCSC and next steps completed and planned for the future.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION OR REQUEST (IF ANY):**

For Information Only

**STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE  
AND DATA STANDARDS**

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>Type of Action Required:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>
December 11, 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Proposal for Modifications to the Felony Case Processing Time Standards

**PRESENTER(S):**

Hon. Jennifer Green, Presiding Criminal Judge, Maricopa County and Laura Ritenour, Staff to Steering Committee

**DISCUSSION:**

In 2021, the Felony Time Standards Workgroup met and proposed recommendations to the Committee on the felony time standards. A vote on those recommendations was put on hold until the National Center for State Courts Criminal Caseflow Management Technical Assistance Project was completed. That project has been completed and the workgroup is ready to move forward with their recommendations.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION OR REQUEST (IF ANY):**

Vote on the following proposed motions:

1) Move to recommend to the Arizona Judicial Council:

a) the felony case processing time standards be modified to:

- 65% within 150 Days
- 85% within 270 Days
- 95% within 365 Days

b) the felony case processing time standards measurement start with the Arraignment Held Date.

2) Move that all recommended changes be in place by July 1, 2025

# PROPOSAL FOR MODIFICATIONS TO FELONY CASE PROCESSING TIME STANDARDS



HON. JENNIFER GREEN  
PRESIDING CRIMINAL JUDGE, MARICOPA COUNTY

LAURA RITENOUR

AOC COURT SERVICES DIVISION

# Felony Time Standards

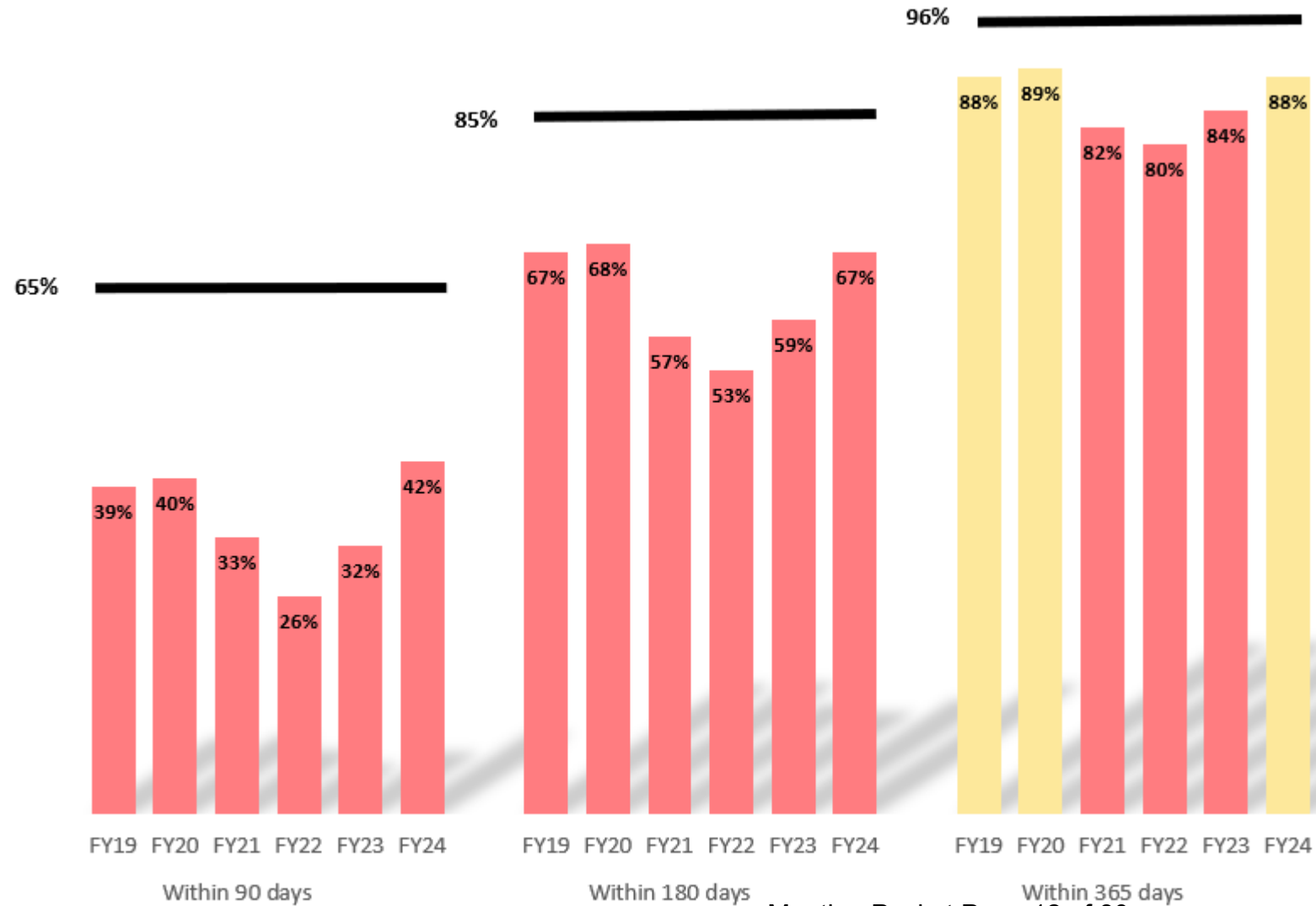
## Current Standards

- 65% within 90 Days
- 85% within 180 Days
- 96% within 365 Days

## Excluded Time for:

- Warrants
- Rule 11 mental competency
- Pre-adjudication special actions/appeals
- Pre-adjudication diversion
- Specialty courts/programs
- Remand to Grand Jury (Rule 12.9)

# Statewide Trend Data



**Green = Meeting or exceeding standard**

**Yellow = Within 10% of standard**

**Red = More than 10% below standard**



# 2021 Felony Workgroup

# Workgroup Background



- The workgroup meeting was held on September 2, 2021 and was attended by: Judge Pamela Gates (Chair), Judge Ken Lee, Judge Patti Starr, Judge Michael Peterson, Jonathan Bearup, Rolf Eckel, Kyrene Felix, Julie Malinowski, and Fred Shade. AOC Staff included: Cathy Clarich.
- The Felony Time Standards Workgroup met to evaluate the current time standards, discuss best practices for efficient case management of felony cases, and analyze whether to recommend amendment of the existing standards.

# Felony Time Standards – External Factors



- Resolution is dependent upon the prosecutor extending a plea offer and the practices of county attorneys in extending plea offers
- New charges delaying resolution
- Delays created by disclosure, including body cam and lab results
- Plea negotiations to delay plea offers to encourage treatment
- Staff turnover in public agencies delaying case management
- Although minimal in impact, workgroup members also mentioned delays due to lesser used languages and the movement of in-custody defendants

# Felony Time Standards – Internal Factors



- Early Disposition Court
- Case and Courtroom Management
- Firm trial dates
- Continuance Policy
- Meeting with stakeholders
- Case transfer system (trial with different judicial officer than case management judge)

# Felony Time Standards

## Current Standards

- 65% within 90 Days
- 85% within 180 Days
- 96% within 365 Days

## Proposed Standards

- 65% within 150\* Days
- 85% within 270 Days
- 95% within 365 Days

\*Criminal Rule 8.2 – 150 Days In Custody Defendants,  
180 Days Out of Custody

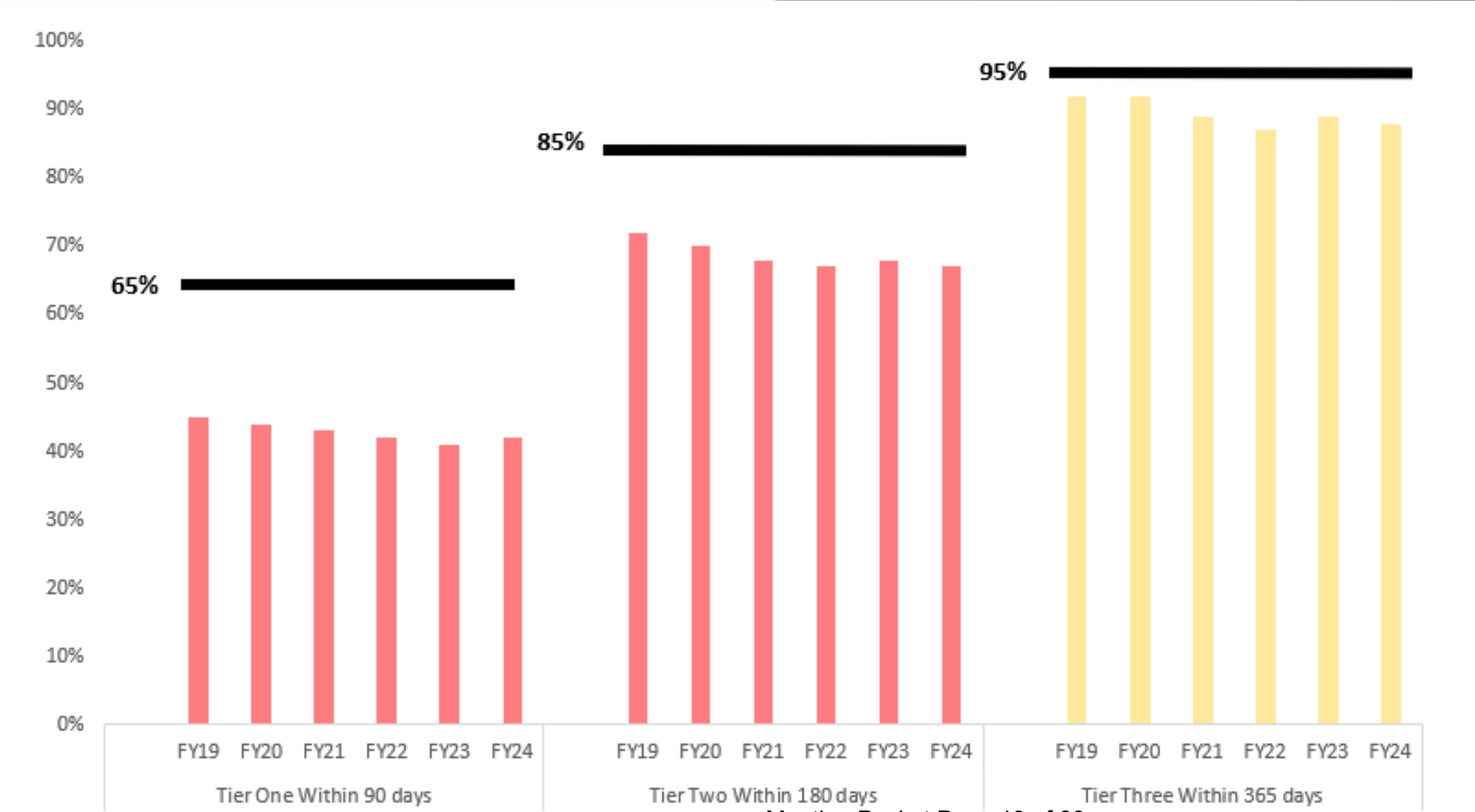
## Additional Recommendation



- Change Start Date from Case File Date to Arraignment Held Date

This would subtract the time between filing (through summons issuance/finding of probable cause) to arraignment when the court starts control over the case

# AJACS Courts Trend Data with Current Standards

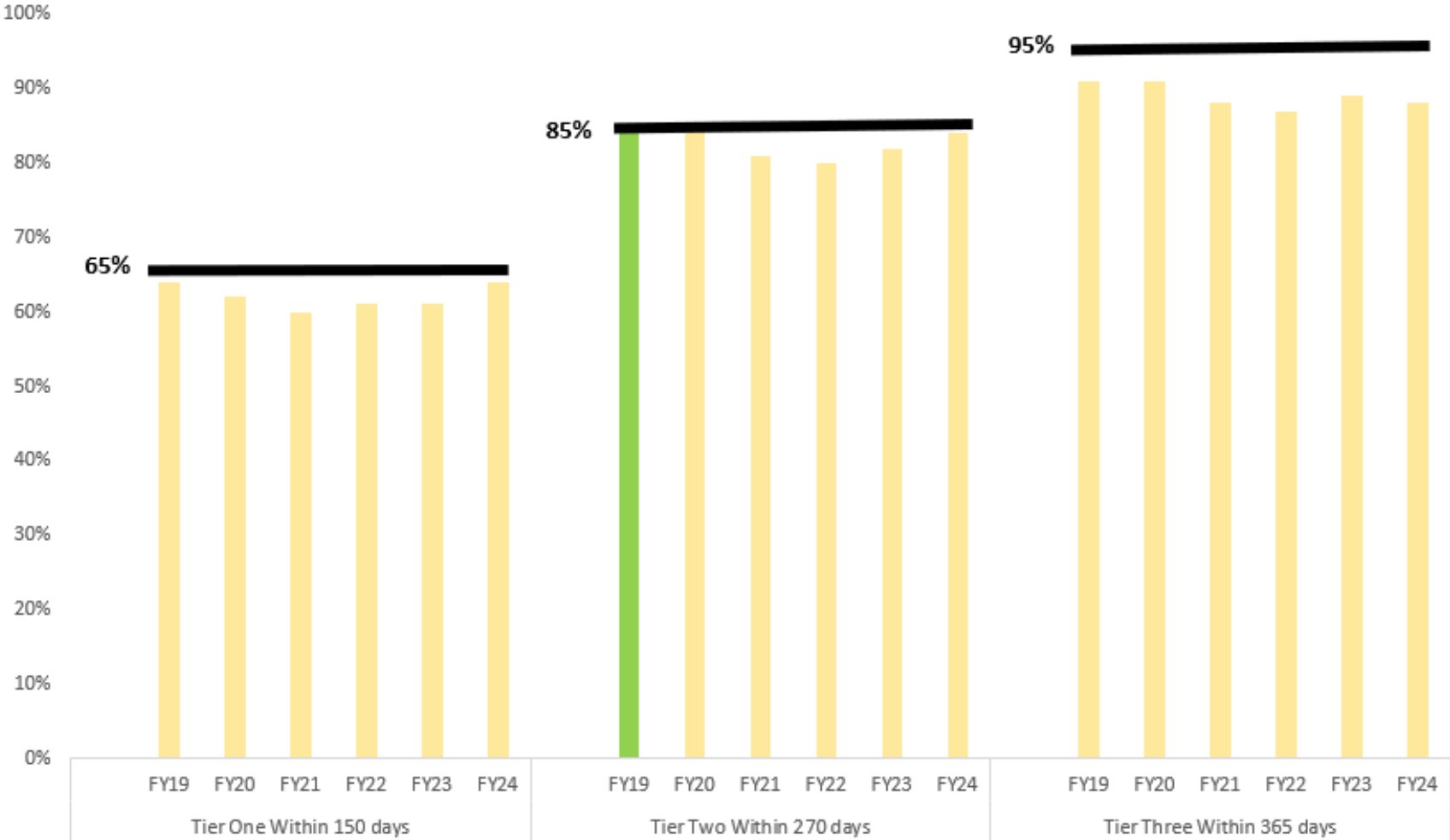


**Green = Meeting or exceeding standard**

**Yellow = Within 10% of standard**

**Red = More than 10% below standard**

# AJACS Courts Trend Data with Proposed Standards



**Green = Meeting or exceeding standard**

**Yellow = Within 10% of standard**

**Red = More than 10% below standard**

# Discussion, Motions, and Voting

1) Move to recommend to the Arizona Judicial Council:

a) the felony case processing time standards be modified to:

- 65% within 150 Days
- 85% within 270 Days
- 95% within 365 Days

b) the felony case processing time standards measurement start with the Arraignment Held Date.

2) Move that all recommended changes be in place by July 1, 2025



Hon. Jennifer Green  
[jennifer.green@jbazmc.maricopa.gov](mailto:jennifer.green@jbazmc.maricopa.gov)

Nicole Garcia  
[nicole.garcia@jbazmc.maricopa.gov](mailto:nicole.garcia@jbazmc.maricopa.gov)

Laura Ritenour  
[lritenou@courts.az.gov](mailto:lritenou@courts.az.gov)



**THANK YOU**



**STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE  
AND DATA STANDARDS**

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>Type of Action Required:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>
December 11, 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Proposal for Modifications to the Juvenile Case Processing Time Standards

**PRESENTER(S):**

Hon. Lori Bustamante, Presiding Juvenile Judge, Maricopa County and Laura Ritenour, Staff to Steering Committee

**DISCUSSION:**

At its June meeting, the Committee approved the creation of a collaborative workgroup to review the current juvenile time standards and develop potential recommendations for modifications. Judge Bustamante, chair of the workgroup, will present the workgroup’s recommendations for modifications.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION OR REQUEST (IF ANY):**

Vote on the following proposed motions:

- 1) Move to recommend to the Arizona Judicial Council:
  - a) Dependency Adjudication Hearing case processing time standards be modified to:
    - 80% within 100 days
    - 98% within 150 days
  - b) Termination of parental rights case processing time standards be modified to:
    - 80% within 180 days
    - 98% within 220 days
  - c) Delinquency and status offense case processing time standards be modified to:
    - 60% within 60 days
    - 80% within 90 days
    - 98% within 150 days
  - d) Delinquency and status offense time standard measurement start with the Advisory Hearing Held Date
- 2) Move that all recommended changes be in place by July 1, 2025

PROPOSAL FOR MODIFICATIONS TO ARIZONA JUVENILE TIME STANDARDS



# COMMITTEE ON JUVENILE COURTS AND DATA STANDARDS STEERING COMMITTEE WORKGROUP MEMBERS AND STAFF

Jenny Black, Stacey Brady , Crystal Brown-Ward, Hon. Michael Butler, Melanie Cluff, Seth Draper, Hon. Pamela Gates, Bill Hughes, Hon. Angela Kircher, Caroline Lautt-Owens ,Tanisha Ledbetter, Lori Leon, Tanya Loges, Adele May, Chris Melton, Connie Pitts, Martin Schulte, Robert Shelley, Cara Singer, Tony Sita, Christina Spurlock, Jennifer Torchia, Hon. Rick Williams, Chris Vogler, Hon. Anna Young, Hon. Lori Bustamante (Chairperson), Laura Ritenour

- Counties represented: Maricopa, Pima, Coconino, Mohave, Yavapai
- Participants represented: Juvenile Benches, Clerk of Court, Office of Public Advocate, Attorneys, Arizona Court of Appeals Division Two, Children and Family Services, AOC Juvenile Justice Services Division, AOC Information Technology Division, AOC Court Services Division, and AOC Dependent Children's Services Division

# PERMANENCY HEARINGS

## NEGLECT AND ABUSE (DEPENDENCY PERMANENCY HEARING)

### Current Measurement

- Date of removal through permanent plan determination
- Starts Aging: Remove Date or Petition Date
- Stops Aging: Permanency Planning Hearing Date
  - Children under 3 years of age: 98% within 180 days of removal
  - Children 3 years of age and older: 98% within 365 days of removal

**NO CHANGES ARE BEING REQUESTED**

# WHY MODIFICATIONS ARE NEEDED



- Arizona statutes and the Rules of Juvenile Procedure are inconsistent with the metrics used by our courts to measure the time to resolve dependencies and requests for termination of a person's parental relationship.
- Consequently, compliance reports erroneously suggest that courts are regularly failing to effectively manage juvenile cases.
- The current time standards may be contrary to justice in some cases and additional time may be needed for more complex cases, service, discovery, and to best serve the youth and families who are before us.
- Consistent data gathered over the past several years corroborates that the current standards and metrics are neither attainable nor aspirational. The proposed standards would be aspirational, yet attainable. The proposed standards would continue to hold the court accountable for prompt and just resolution of cases.

# DEPENDENCY ADJUDICATION HEARING



Why modifications are needed:

- The clock starts ticking at the time the petition is filed even though the statute indicates that the adjudication should take place within 90 days of service. *Our current systems are unable to track the case starting when service is complete. Modifying the systems to track service has been estimated to take over a year for completion.*
- Case management systems cannot measure compliance from the date of service; therefore, the filing date is the most reliable data field for the commencement of an action.
- Courts cannot take action in a case until service has been effectuated. Service by publication takes approximately 90 days from the initial hearing.
- Courts cannot take action on a potential father until paternity has been established. Paternity testing delays resolution.
- ICWA cases require additional time to serve the tribe.
- After implementing best practices in case management, Maricopa County data suggests that approximately 75% of our cases are resolved within 100 days of filing.

# DEPENDENCY ADJUDICATION HEARING



## **Current Measurement**

- Date of filing through a finding of dependency
- Starts Aging: Date of Petition Type “Dependency”
- Stops Aging: Date of Finding Code – Adjudicated, Admit, Deny/Submit, Default, or No Contest
  - 98% within 100 days

## **Proposed Measurement**

- Date of filing through a finding of dependency
- Starts Aging: Date of Petition Type “Dependency”
- Stops Aging: Date of Finding Code – Adjudicated, Admit, Deny/Submit, Default, or No Contest
  - 80% within 100 days
  - 98% within 150 days

# DEPENDENCY ADJUDICATION HEARING



Modifications recommended would:

- Allow for delays in service, publication hearings, and paternity results.
- Acknowledge additional time needed for cases with multiple parents and multiple children.

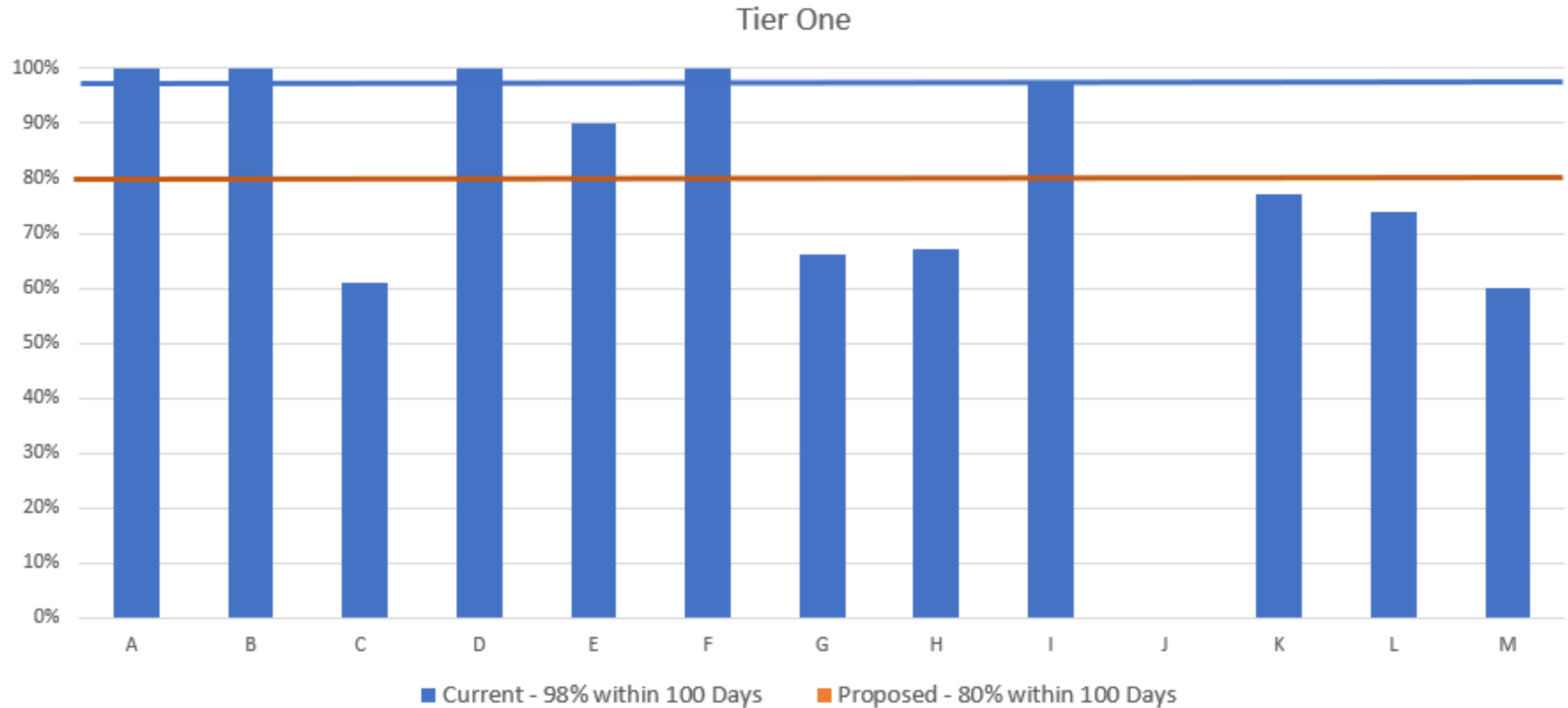
# DEPENDENCY ADJUDICATION HEARING



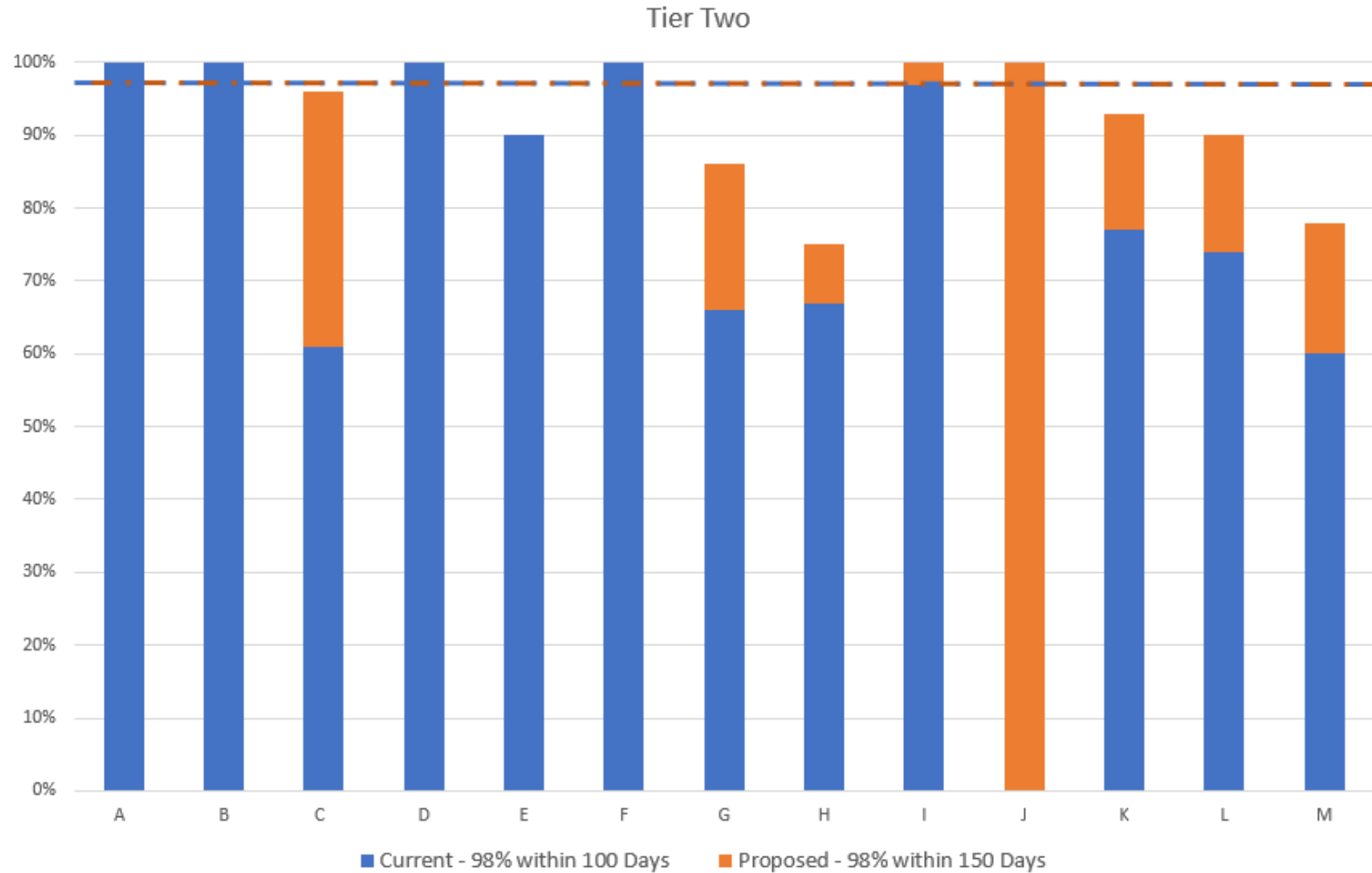
The proposed modifications:

- Lower the percentage for the first tier from 98% to 80% within 100 days
- Add a second tier of 98% within 150 days

## COMPARING CURRENT AND PROPOSED PERCENTAGES FOR TIER ONE



## COMPARING CURRENT AND PROPOSED PERCENTAGES FOR TIER TWO



# TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS



Why modifications are needed:

- Like dependencies, the clock starts ticking at the time the motion or petition is filed even though the court cannot take action until service has been effectuated.
- If the whereabouts of the parents are unknown, service may not be complete until publication and it takes approximately 90 days to serve a parent via publication.

# TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS



## **Current Measurement**

- Filing of petition/motion by the state for termination of parental rights through entry of dismissal or order of termination
- Starts Aging: Severance Motion Date or Severance Petition Date
- Stops Aging: Severance Dismissed Date or Severance Granted Date
  - 90% within 120 days
  - 98% within 180 days

## **Proposed Measurement**

- Filing of petition/motion by the state for termination of parental rights through entry of dismissal or order of termination
- Starts Aging: Severance Motion Date or Severance Petition Date
- Stops Aging: Severance Dismissed Date or Severance Granted Date
  - 80% within 180 days
  - 98% within 220 days

# TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS



Modifications recommended would:

- Allow for delays in service and publication hearings.
- Acknowledge additional time needed for cases with multiple parents and multiple children.
- Provide additional time for complex cases.

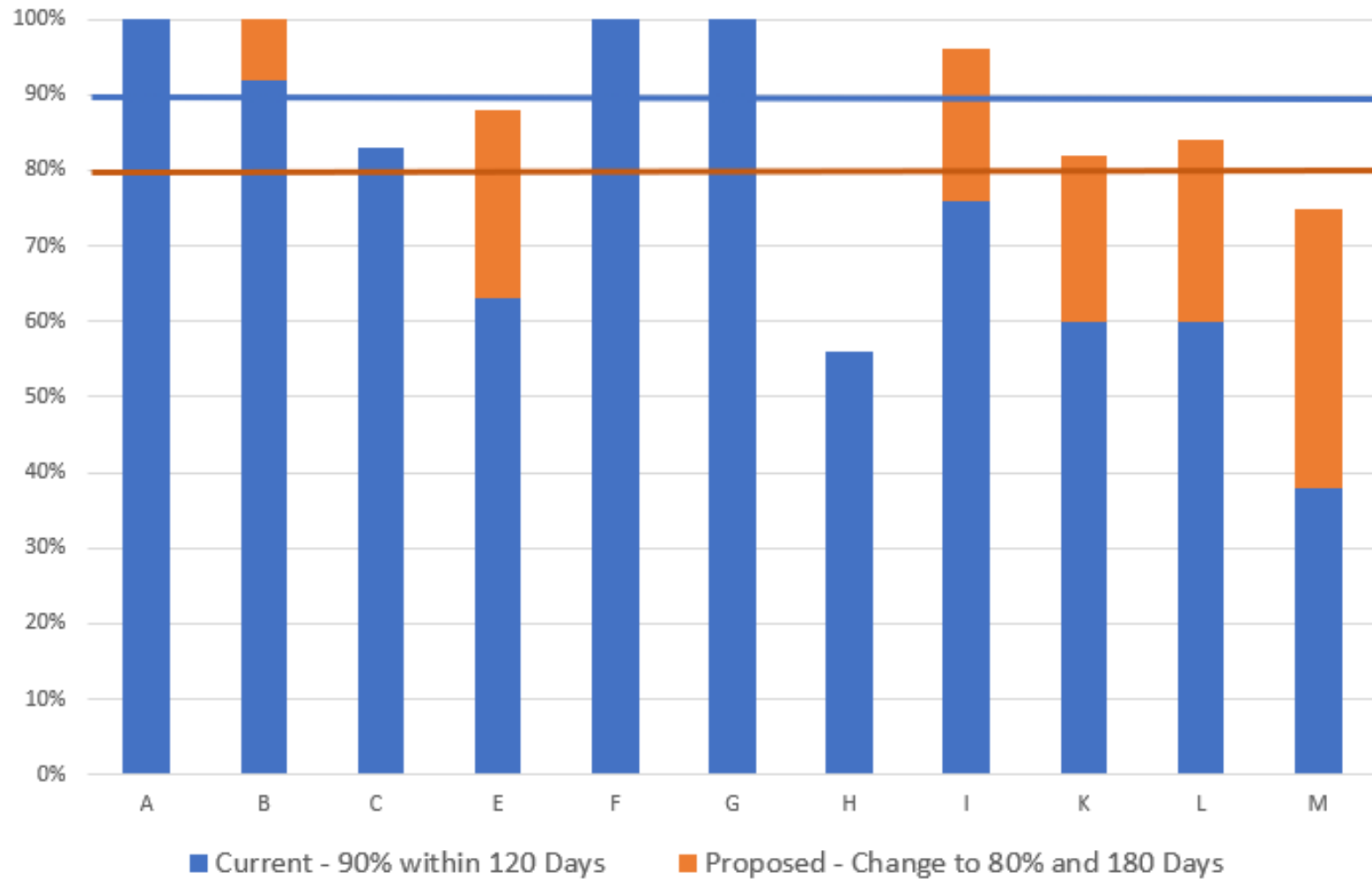
# TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS



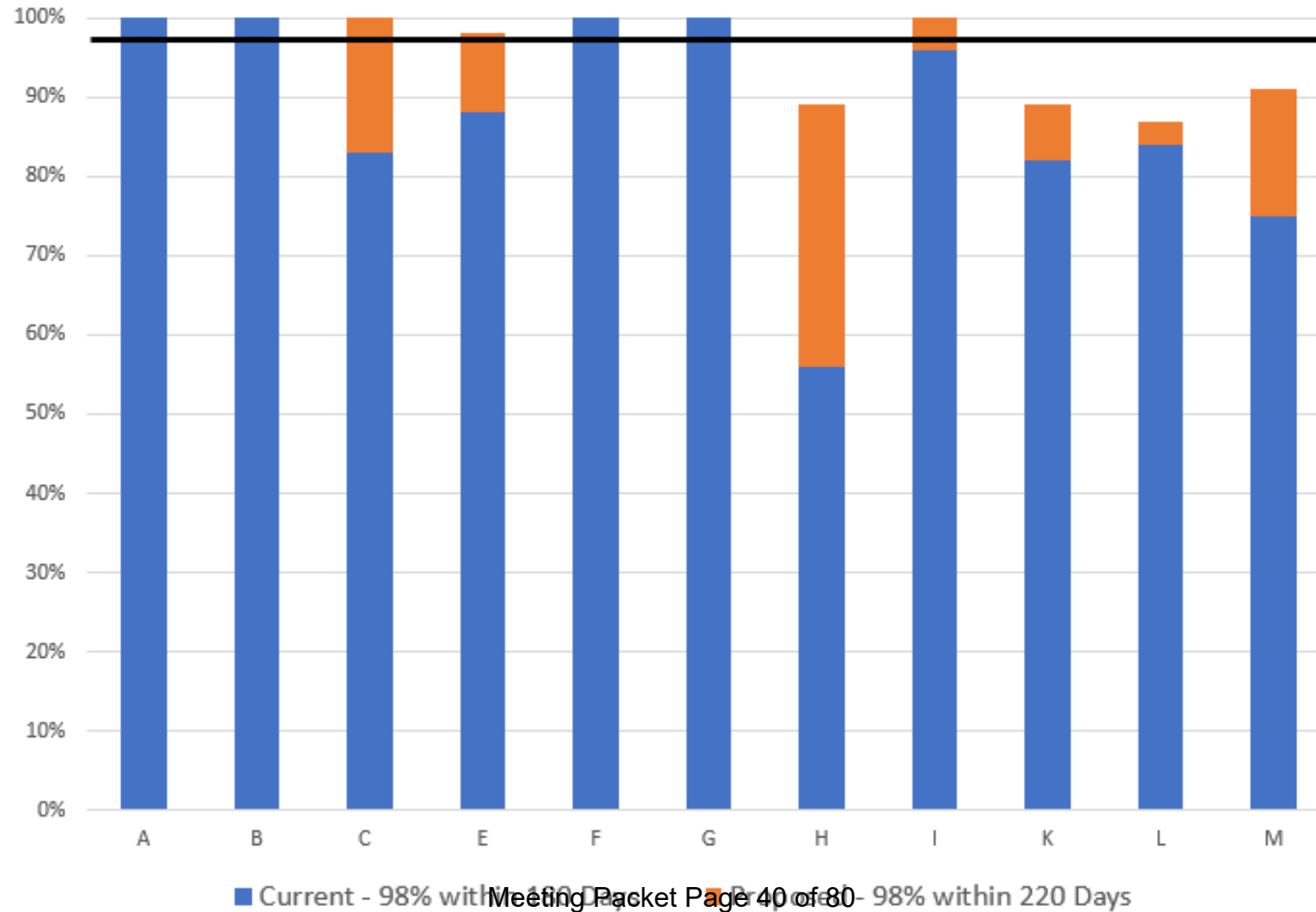
The proposed modifications:

- Changing the first tier from 90% within 120 Days to 80% within 180 days
- Changing the second tier from 98% within 180 days to 98% within 220 days

## COMPARING CURRENT AND PROPOSED PERCENTAGES FOR TIER ONE



## COMPARING CURRENT AND PROPOSED PERCENTAGES FOR TIER TWO



# DELINQUENCY AND STATUS OFFENSE



Why Modifications are needed:

1. There has been an increase in mental health concerns necessitating the need for completion of psychological and psycho-sexual assessments.
2. The severity of the offenses over the last several years has increased thereby the amount of discovery is more voluminous and more time is needed to review it.
3. Technology and the use of law enforcement body cameras has increased thereby adding to the volume of discovery that must be redacted and reviewed.
4. Locating the appropriate placement for youth in need of out of home care is becoming an increasing issue.
5. The rehabilitative focus of our court system requires an individualized approach that allows for consideration of mitigation and potential alternative outcomes.

# DELINQUENCY AND STATUS OFFENSE

- Excludes cases with warrants, diversion, or mental competency hearings



## Current Measurement

- Filing of petition through disposition
- Starts Aging: Petition Filing Date
- Stops Aging: Disposition Code Date
  - 75% within 60 days
  - 90% within 90 days
  - 98% within 135 days

## Proposed Measurement

- Date Advisory Hearing Held through disposition
- Starts Aging: Advisory Hearing Held date
- Stop Aging: Disposition Code Date
  - 60% within 60 days
  - 80% within 90 days
  - 98% within 150 days

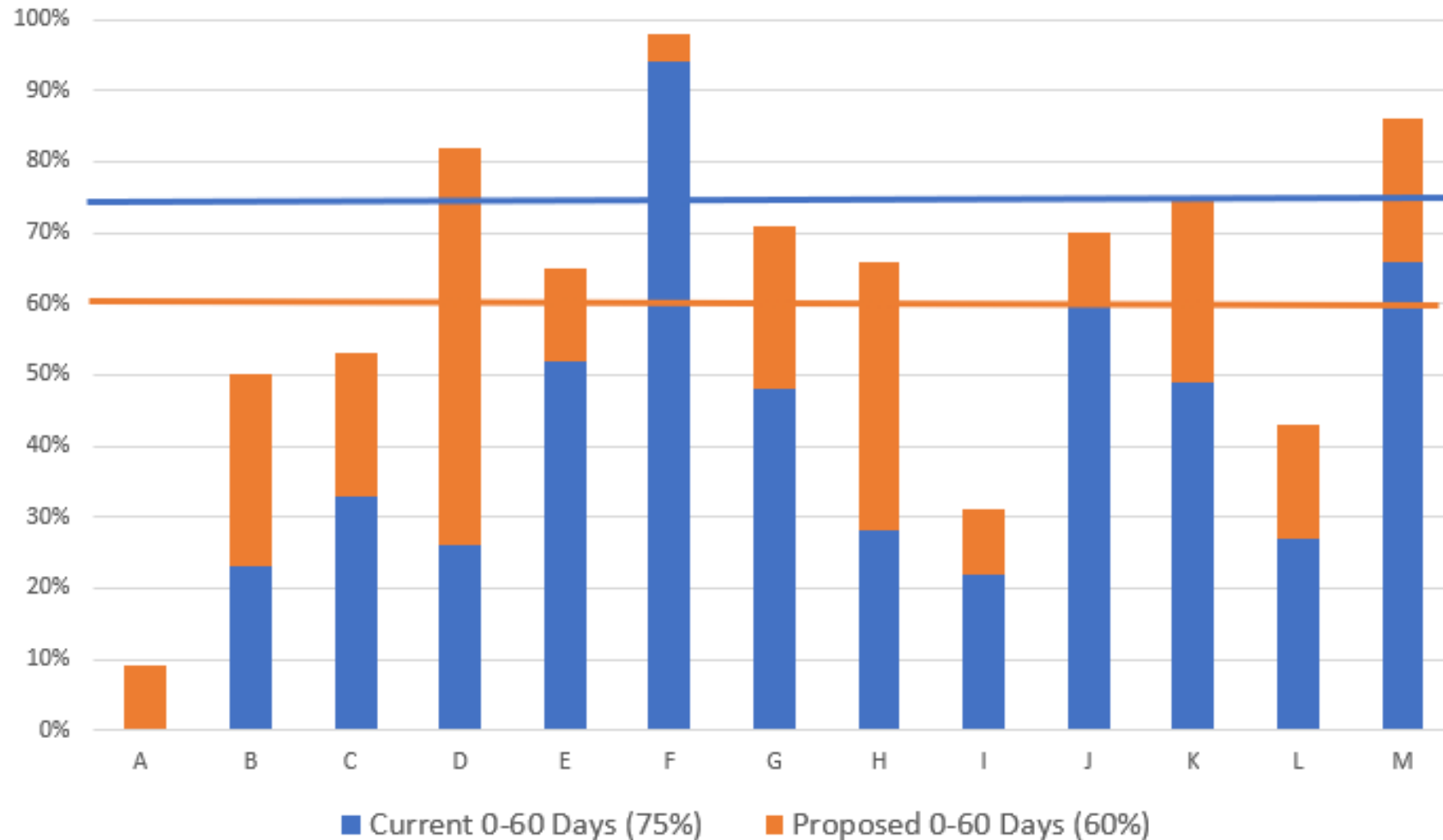
# DELINQUENCY AND STATUS OFFENSE



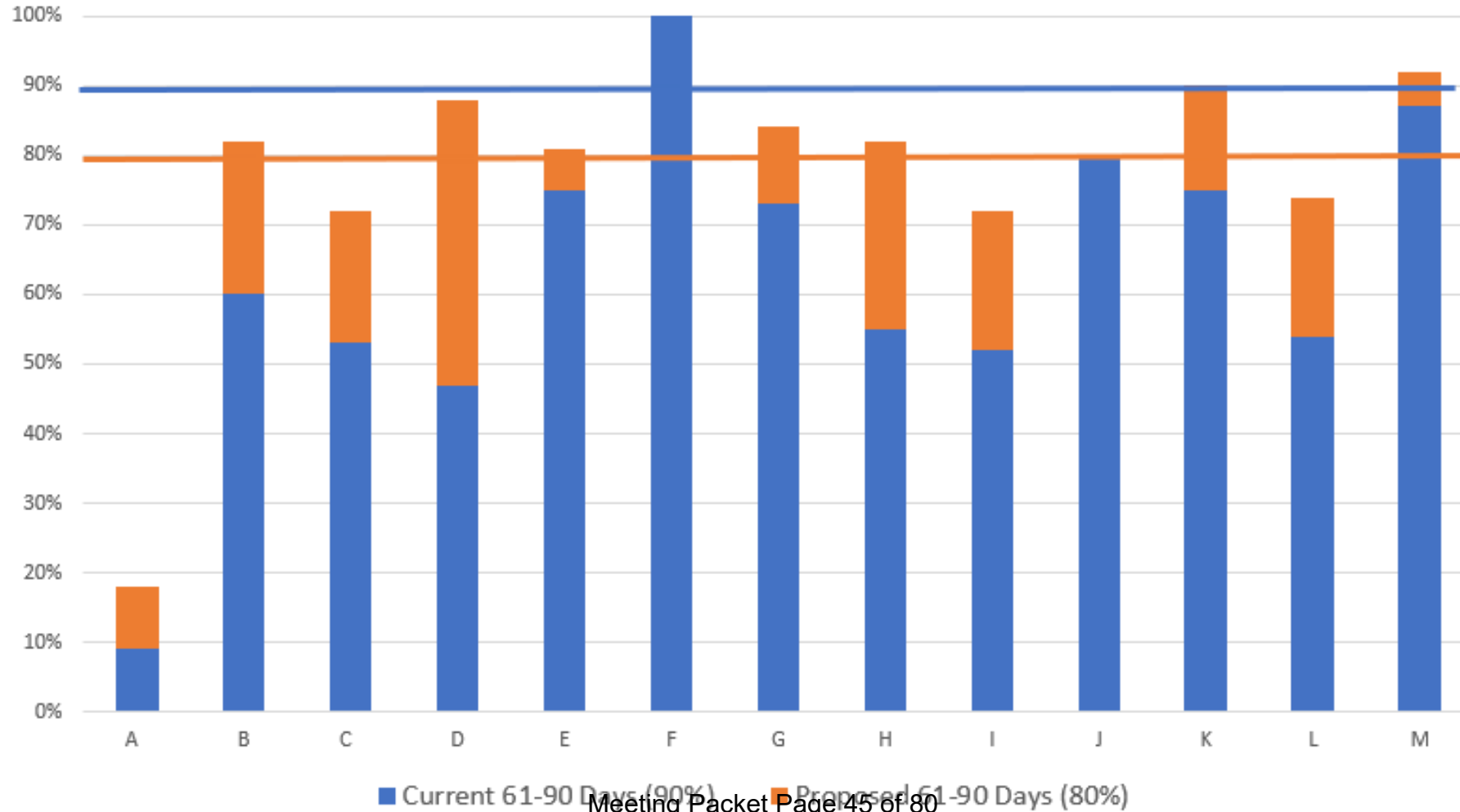
Modifications recommended would:

1. Allow for delays that occur in service of process, assignment of counsel, disclosure of information, victim notification, and completion of psychological evaluations and psycho-sexual assessments.
2. Align the starting of aging to when the court has “control” over the case when an advisory hearing is held meaning service has been effectuated and all parties are present.
3. Allow for the delays created by the increased volume of discovery and need for evaluations.
4. Allow additional time for more complex or serious cases that require more time.
5. Allow for time to understand the unique needs of each youth including placement issues and treatment needs.
6. Ensure the rehabilitative focus of our court.

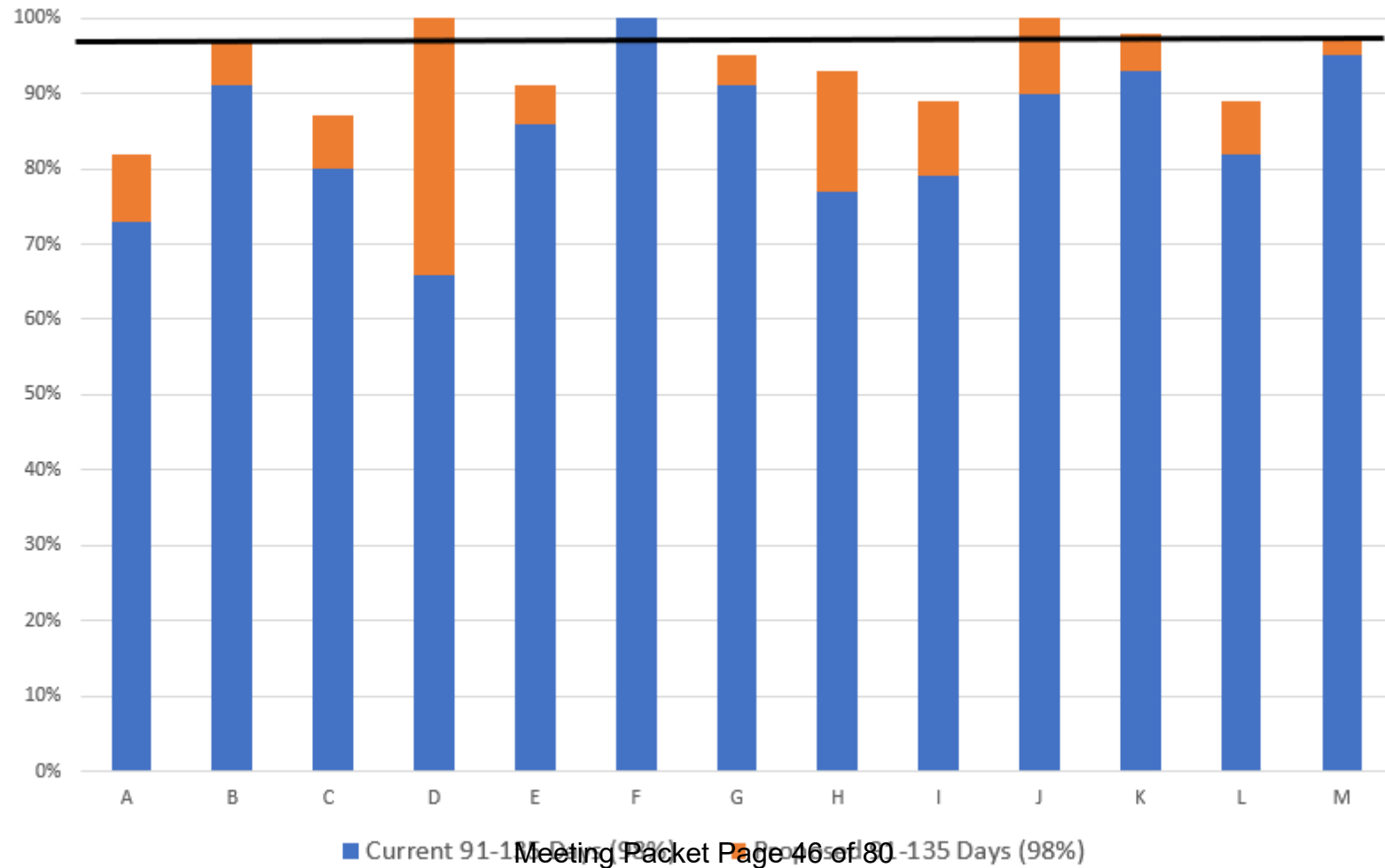
COMPARING START DATE FROM PETITION DATE (CURRENT) TO ADVISORY HEARING DATE (PROPOSED)  
AND PERCENTAGES FOR TIER ONE



COMPARING START DATE FROM PETITION DATE (CURRENT) TO ADVISORY HEARING DATE (PROPOSED)  
AND PERCENTAGES FOR TIER TWO



COMPARING START DATE FROM PETITION DATE (CURRENT) TO ADVISORY HEARING DATE (PROPOSED) FOR TIER THREE



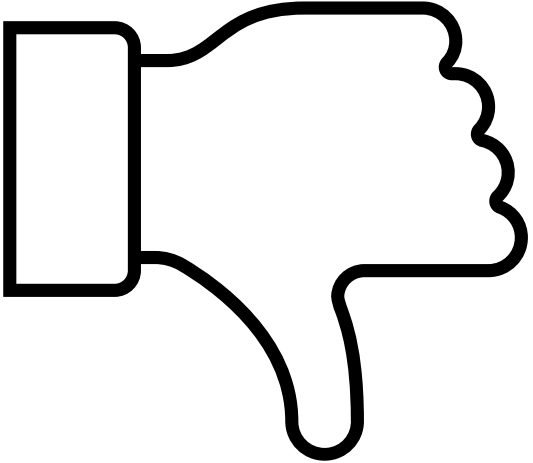
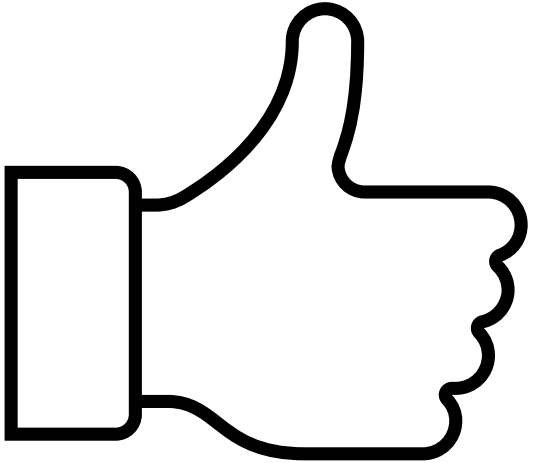
# DELINQUENCY AND STATUS OFFENSE



The proposed modifications:

- Start at the time of the Advisory Hearing thereby aligning with the rules and statutes
- Lower the percentages for the first two tiers
  - 75% to 60% within 60 days
  - 90% to 80% within 90 days
- Increase the number of days in the third tier from 135 to 150 days

DISCUSSION,  
MOTIONS, AND  
VOTING



## DEPENDENCY ADJUDICATION HEARING



1) Move to recommend to the Arizona Judicial Council:

Dependency Adjudication Hearing case processing time standards be modified to:

- 80% within 100 days
- 98% within 150 days

2) Move that all recommended changes be in place by July 1, 2025

## TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS



1) Move to recommend to the Arizona Judicial Council:

Termination of parental rights case processing time standards be modified to:

- 80% within 180 days
- 98% within 220 days

2) Move that all recommended changes be in place by July 1, 2025

# DELINQUENCY AND STATUS OFFENSE

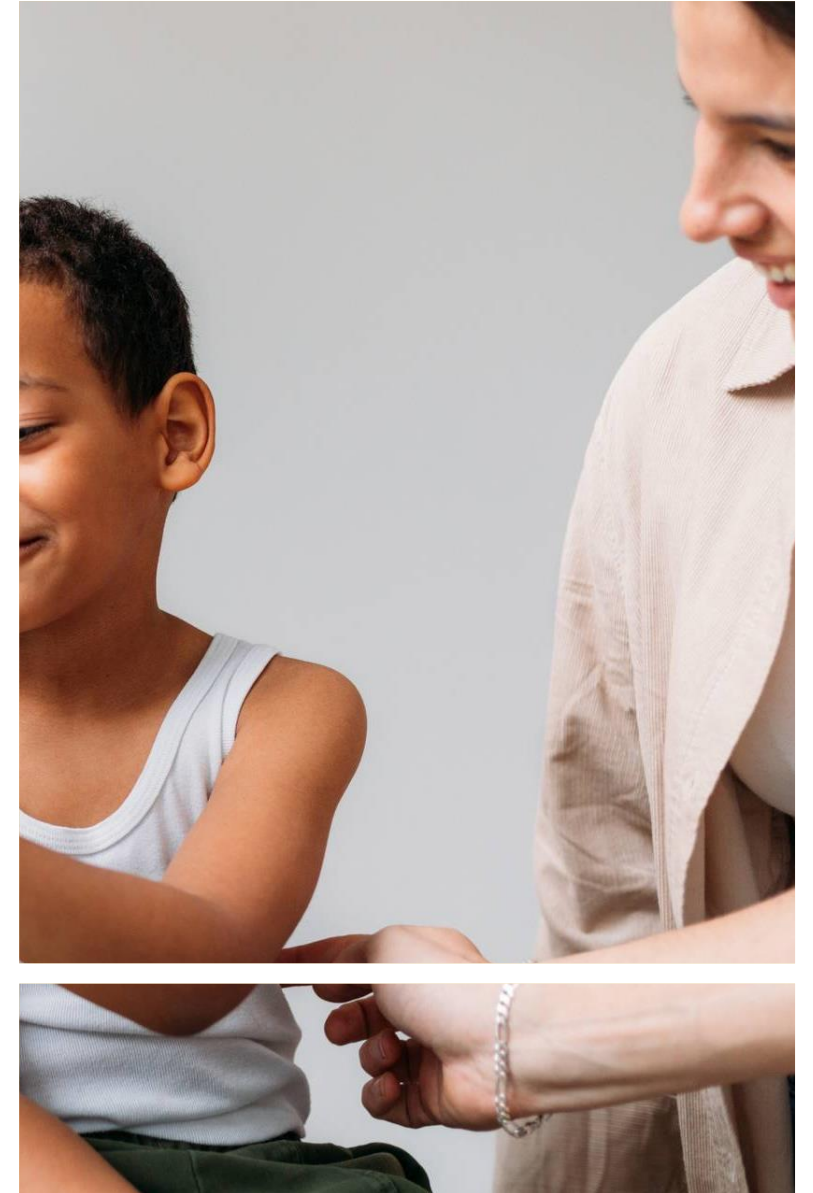
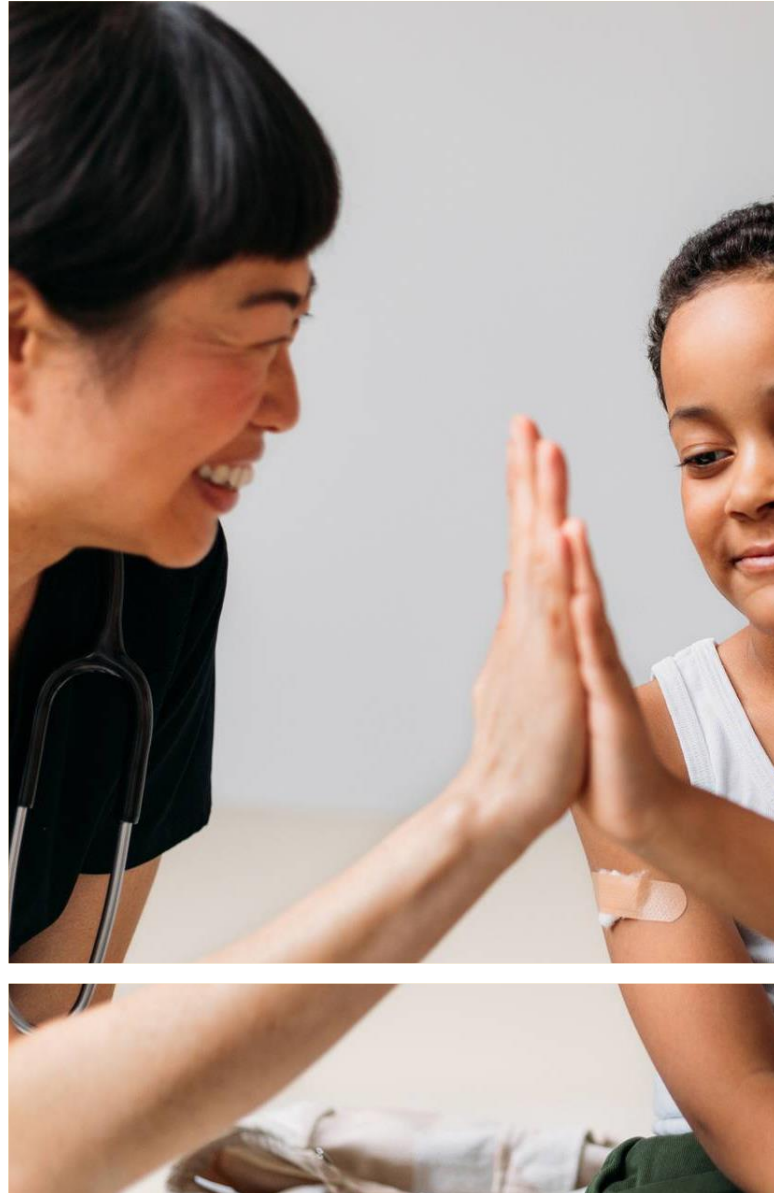


- 1) Move to recommend to the Arizona Judicial Council:
  - a) Delinquency and status offense case processing time standards be modified to:
    - 60% within 60 days
    - 80% within 90 days
    - 98% within 150 days
  - b) Delinquency and status offense time standard measurement start with the Advisory Hearing Held Date
- 2) Move that all recommended changes be in place by July 1, 2025

# THANK YOU

The Hon. Lori Bustamante, Presiding  
Juvenile Judge, Superior Court of  
Maricopa County

Laura Ritenour, Casflow  
Management Specialist, AOC Court  
Services Division



**STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE  
AND DATA STANDARDS**

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>Type of Action Required:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>
December 11, 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Proposal for Modifications to the Felony Case Processing Time Standards

PRESENTER(S):

Hon. Jerry Landau, Judge Pro Tem, and Laura Ritenour, Staff to Steering Committee

DISCUSSION:

At its June meeting, the Committee approved the creation of a collaborative workgroup to review the current DUI time standards and develop potential recommendations for modifications. Judge Landau, chair of the workgroup, will present the workgroup’s recommendations for modifications.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR REQUEST (IF ANY):

Vote on the following proposed motions:

- 1) Move to recommend to the Arizona Judicial Council that DUI case processing time standards be modified to:
  - 85% within 180 Days
  - 93% within 240 Days
  
- 2) Move that all recommended changes be in place by July 1, 2025

# ARIZONA DUI CASE PROCESSING TIME STANDARDS

## DUI WORKGROUP MODIFICATION RECOMMENDATIONS



HON. JERRY LANDAU, JUDGE PRO-TEM  
LAURA RITENOUR, AOC COURT SERVICES

# DUI Case Processing Time Standards

# Arizona DUI Case Processing Time Standards

## **Misdemeanor DUI**

- 85% within 120 Days
- 93% within 180 Days

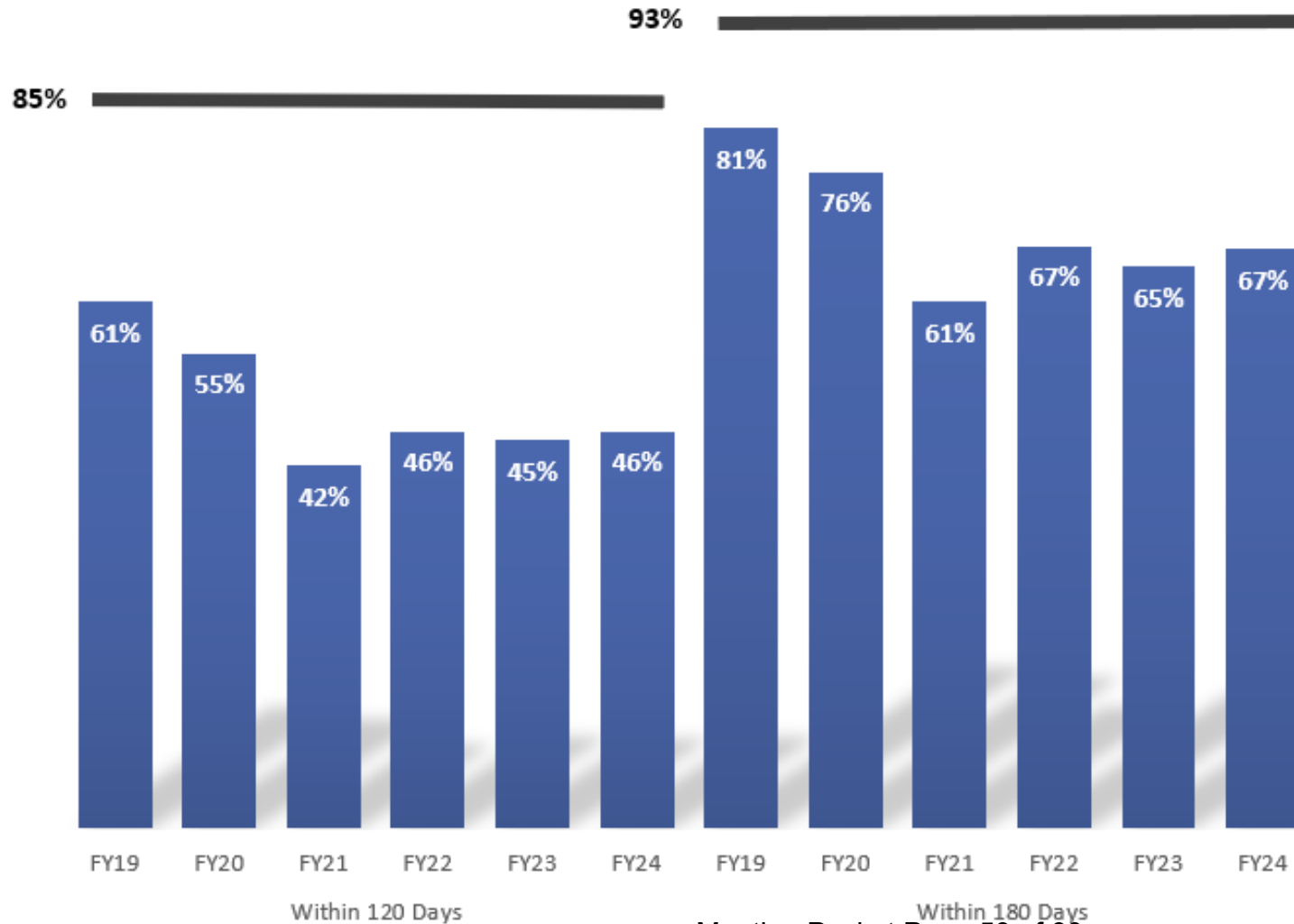
## **Misdemeanor DUI Time Exclusions**

- Warrants
- Rule 11 mental competency
- Pre-adjudication special actions/appeals
- Pre-adjudication diversion
- Specialty courts/programs

# Reviewing the Standards - Reasonable or Aspirational?

# Statewide Time Standards Trend Data – DUI Time to Disposition

Limited Jurisdiction Courts only





# DUI Workgroup

# DUI Workgroup

Hon. Jerry Landau (Chair), Hon. Charles Adornetto, Hon. Jill Davis, Hon. Craig Jennings, Hon Heidi Owens, Hon. Lauren Ramirez, Hon. Trevor Ward,, Jennifer Curtiss, Christopher Phelps, Beth Barnes, Luis Santaella, David Ward, Candice Orduno Crouse, Marianne Sullivan, Steve Butler, Sarah Baker, David Spirk, and Cathy Clarich

The DUI Time Standards Workgroup met to evaluate the current time standards, discuss best practices for efficient case management of DUI cases, and analyze whether to recommend amendment of the existing standards.

# DUI Time Standards

## Current Standard

- 85% within 120 Days
- 93% within 180 Days



# Why is DUI different than other misdemeanors?

## *Hinson v. Coulter*, 150 Ariz. at 311, 723 P.2d at 660

“The avalanche of cases produced by the Hinson “rule” confirm, at least in part, Justice Holohan's worst fears. The court calendars of the state, including that of this court, confirm that Hinson has produced a whole new subspecies of DUI litigation. (citations omitted). Often, what is now litigated in DUI cases is unrelated to the merits of the case; instead, the Hinson issues are litigated. Where the defendant prevails, he is, of course, not tried at all, let alone in the timely fashion envisioned by Hinson.”

*State of Arizona, ex rel. Richard M. Romley v. Superior Court* 162, Ariz. 302, 783 P2d. 341 (1989)

# DUI Time Standards – External Factors

- Disclosure; Blood Alcohol/Drug Analysis
- Disclosure; Body Worn Cameras
- Multiple DUI Charges in virtually every case
- Remote Pleas; virtual and telephonic
- 28-1382 (I), Ignition Interlock; effect on sentencing, delayed sentencing
- Prosecutor Plea Offers



# DUI Time Standards – External Factors, continued

- MVD Hearings; used as a discovery tool, may have impact on plea
- Marijuana Related DUI; having to prove impairment
- Availability of Criminalists
- Mandatory jail
- Immigration Issues
- “Officer Interview” Excuse
- Availability of prosecutor and defense attorney
- Second sample testing



# DUI Time Standards – Internal Factors

- Judicial Case Management
- Continuance Policy
- Shorter continuances
- “Continuances for discovery”
- Prosecutor Plea Offers
- Trial Management Conference



# DUI Time Standards – Internal Factors

- “Officer interview” excuse
- Motion Practice
- Multi-Agency Coordination
- Use of Judges Pro-Tem
- Availability of Jurors in rural areas
- Data for judges
- Judicial Training

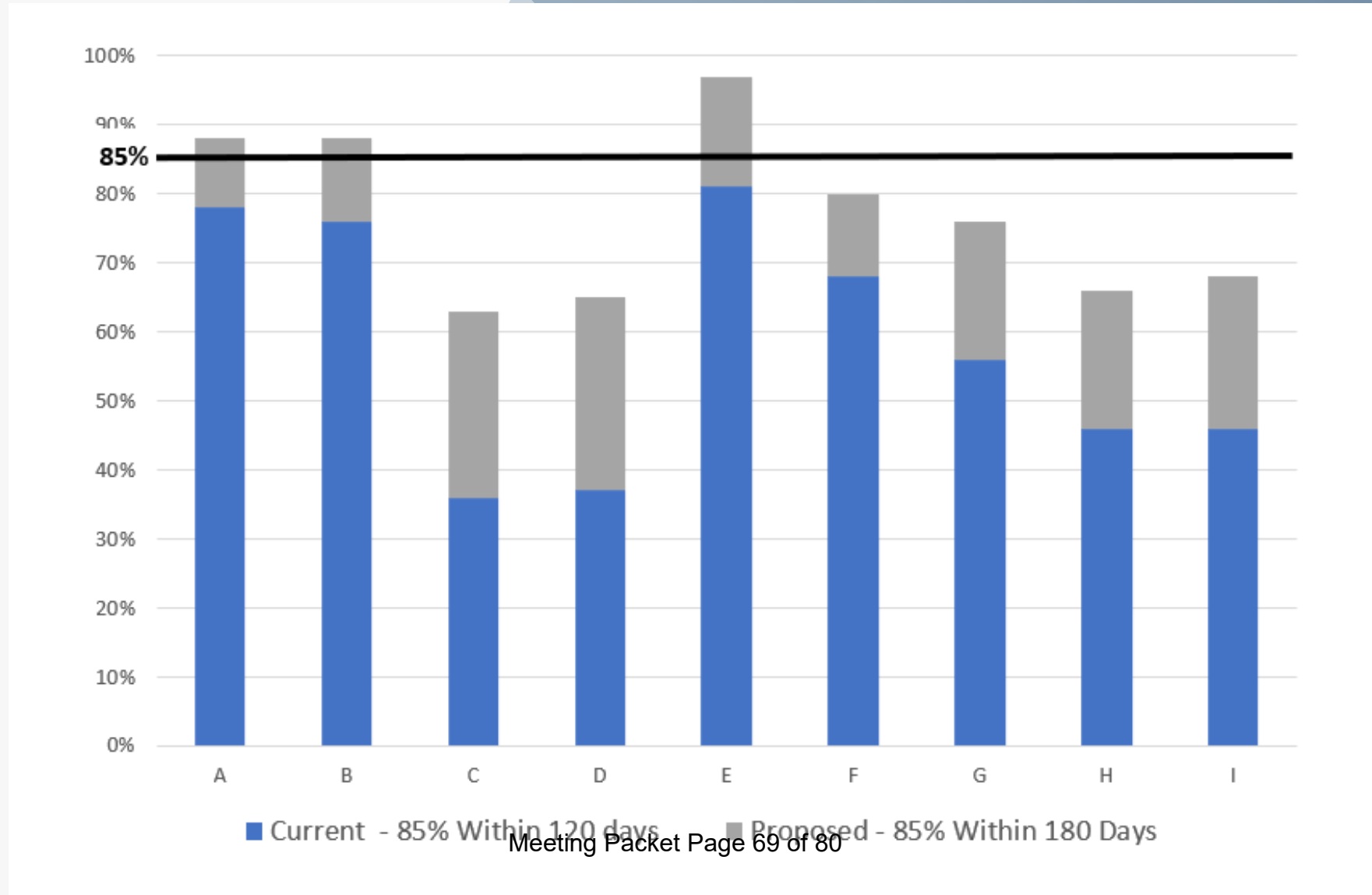


# DUI Time Standards

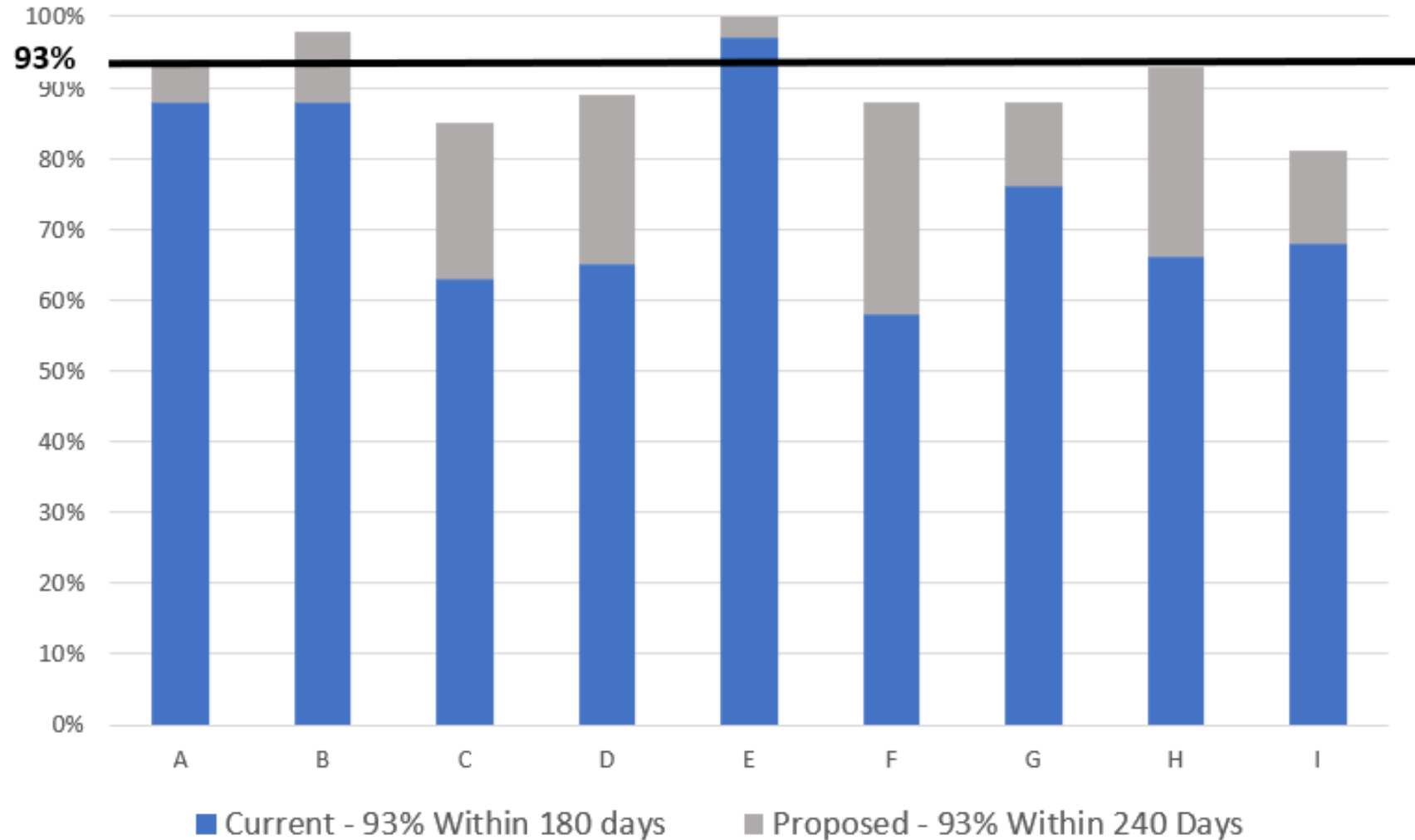
## Proposed Standard

- 85% within 180 Days
- 93% within 240 Days

# Current and Proposed 85% Standard (Tier One)



# Current and Proposed 93% Standard (Tier Two)



## Discussion, Motions, and Voting

1) Move to recommend to the Arizona Judicial Council that DUI case processing time standards be modified to:

- 85% within 180 Days
- 93% within 240 Days

2) Move that all recommended changes be in place by July 1, 2025

# Caseflow Management and Best Practices

# Keys to the Game

- All Stakeholders understand Time Standards
- Stakeholders understand the Role and Importance of Time Standards to the other Stakeholders
- Judicial Court Management
- Break the Culture of Continuance

# Training Venues

- State Bar Criminal Law Committee
- State Bar Public Lawyers Assoc
- APAAC
- AAACJ
- APDA
- ALELAA

# Training Venues

## GOHS Conference

- December (last week)
- Panel with all disciplines on the Working Group

## Webinar

- Live with Panel
  - Judges, or
  - Judges and Court Administration, or
  - Include Prosecution, State Bar Criminal Law Section, Public Lawyers Section, AACJ and APDA
- Recorded and presented with live panel
- Recorded and posted



**Jerry Landau,  
[jlandau@courts.az.gov](mailto:jlandau@courts.az.gov)**

**Laura Ritenour,  
[lritenou@courts.az.gov](mailto:lritenou@courts.az.gov)**

## Questions & Feedback

**THANK YOU**



**STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE  
AND DATA STANDARDS**

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>Type of Action Required:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>
December 11, 2024	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Proposal re: Local Presiding Judge Notification of Time Standards Reports Submitted to AOC for FY25

PRESENTER(S):

Laura Ritenour, Staff to Steering Committee on Data-Based Court Performance and Data Standards and Caseflow Management Specialist, AOC Court Services Division

DISCUSSION:

At the May 2024 Coconino County Limited Jurisdiction Judge and Administrators Workshop, attendees suggested to Laura Ritenour that local presiding judges are copied when courts submit their yearly time standards reports to the AOC. At the June 20224 meeting, members approved a recommendation be added to the time standards submission instructions that local presiding judges receive copies of the reports or be copied on the email to the AOC.

Out of 176 courts reporting, 66 courts copied their local presiding judges on the email to the Time Standards email box.

Time standards data is now part of the AOC’s operational review process. Courts being accountable for their operations and their data is important.

AOC staff would like to propose that starting in July 2025, courts be required to get their local presiding judge’s acknowledgement when submitting their reports to the AOC. The AOC will create an acknowledgement letter template that judges would sign and that letter would be submitted with the reports. This would ensure that judges are aware of the court’s data being reported and increase the court’s accountability for the data.

RECOMMENDED ACTION OR REQUEST (IF ANY):

Proposed Motion: Motion to recommend to Arizona Judicial Council that local presiding judges be required to acknowledge their court’s time to disposition summary data when submitting their fiscal year reports each July to the AOC.

**STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE  
AND DATA STANDARDS**

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December 11, 2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Data Dashboard Demonstrations

**PRESENTER(S):**

- Joe Marchetti, Superior Court of Pima County
- Charlie Barrett, Maricopa County Justice Courts Administration
- John Cavagnaro and Victoria Murray, Superior Court of Maricopa County

**DISCUSSION:**

In the 2024-2029 Arizona judicial Branch Strategic Agenda, Goal 4.1 mentions the need to increase the utilization of data dashboards, data analytic tools, and time standards reports. Several courts have developed operational and time standards dashboards. Today’s demonstrations will illuminate the possibilities for committee members as the committee continues its efforts to inform court leaders about the use of data to manage cases efficiently and effectively.

- Superior Court of Pima County – Family Court Dashboard
- Maricopa County Justice Courts Administration – Judicial Productivity Credits (JPC), Filings, Time Standards, & Caseload Dashboards
- Superior Court of Maricopa County – Family Law Consent Decree Dashboard and Protection Order Contested Hearings Dashboard

**RECOMMENDED ACTION OR REQUEST (IF ANY):**

For information only

**STEERING COMMITTEE ON DATA-BASED COURT PERFORMANCE  
AND DATA STANDARDS**

<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>Type of Action Required:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>
December 11, 2024	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Action/Request	Data Standardization Advisory Committee
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Only	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

**PRESENTER(S):**

Michael Malone, Director, AOC Court Services Division

**DISCUSSION:**

Michael Malone, chair of the Data Standardization Advisory Committee, will give an update on the committee's progress since the September meeting.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION OR REQUEST (IF ANY):**

For Information Only