

Access To Counsel Taskforce – Outreach and Assessment Committee
Minutes – November 19, 2021

Committee Members in Attendance: Reena Shah (chair); Seema Iyer; Jim Johnson; Jessica Kaufman; Danielle Meister; Sandy Monck; Kelly O'Connor; Lisa Sarro; Ryan Trout; Vicki Schultz (Task Force chair, *ex officio*)

Task Force Members and Staff in attendance: Rebecca Guay, Deb Seltzer; Leah Tulin

Ms. Shah opened the meeting and explained that the goal of the meeting would be to identify data needed and gaps in existing data and to discuss methods of collecting data. The committee discussed the following:

- The need to target outreach and the challenge of doing so when there is a lack of electronically available, localized eviction data.
- The possibility of using adjacent metrics (e.g., DSS programs, federal assistance programs, unemployment, MD interagency of council for homelessness, homeless shelters)/^.
- The need to collect and aggregate data from attorneys/paralegals regarding hours spent per case and case outcomes.
- The lack of solid data on informal evictions (i.e., where a tenant leaves before the eviction process).

The committee agreed that the Task Force should recommend the sharing of data among different stakeholders that hold key information and among key stakeholders to ensure that people get connected to counsel and that eviction cases do not move forward where rental assistance is in process. The committee further agreed that there should be a real-time eviction database. Finally, the committee recommended finding out what type of data, if any, the court self-help centers collect, and whether the housing authority or larger rental providers collect data on tenants that move either prior to or because of an eviction.