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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING



MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

February 15, 2011

The Honorable Bruce Caswell, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable David Agema, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Caswell and Representative Agema:

Section 506(2) of 2010 Public Act 190 (Enrolled House Bill 5882) requires the Department of Human Services to prepare a report on communication with the federal government in relation to the foster care, juvenile justice and adoption programs. Our report is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Mehren, Federal Compliance Office director, at (517) 241-7521.

Sincerely,


for Maura Corrigan

c: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
State Budget Director

FY 2011 Boilerplate Report Section 506(2)

Foster Care, juvenile justice and adoption, communication with federal government.

Section 506(2): By February 1 of the current fiscal year, the department shall provide the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the senate and house policy offices a report detailing recent department communication with the federal government related to the provision of foster care, juvenile justice, and adoption services. The report shall include information detailing federal recommendations made to the department and courts, any sanction or warning of possible future sanction assessed on this state by the federal government, the status of the performance improvement plan submitted to the federal government, and efforts by the department to increase federal financial support for children's services in this state.

Foster Care and Adoption Programs

Federal recommendations made to DHS during FY 2010 with respect to the operation of foster care and adoption programs include:

1. Modify adoption assistance policy to comport with federal regulations.

This goal was achieved through the amendment of the Title IV-E state plan effective 12/31/2010.

2. Create a Program Improvement Plan as a result of the federal findings from the Child and Family Service Review.

This recommendation was issued as a result of the Child and Family Services Review which was conducted in September 2009. The Administration for Children and Families final report was issued in December 2009. DHS is required to create and implement a Program Improvement Plan to address those areas that are an Area Needing Improvement. Michigan created the first draft of a Program Improvement Plan and submitted it to ACF in April 2010. DHS is finalizing negotiation of the Program Improvement Plan on March 2-4, 2011. All areas needing improvement will be addressed by the creation of action steps focused on eliminating programmatic issues related to the operation of child welfare programs. A spreadsheet with the findings from the review, by federal outcome and item, is attached to this report.

FY 2011 Boilerplate Report Section 506(2)

Michigan has two years from the federal approval date of the Program Improvement Plan to complete the goals. Achieving those goals eliminates the \$2.8 million dollar penalty that was assessed to the state as a result of the findings of the CFSR.

3. Create a Program Improvement Plan as a result of the Title IV-E federal on-site review.

The IV-E review was conducted in June 2010. Michigan was permitted four error cases from the 80 case sample that was reviewed. Michigan's results were a finding of six errors. Michigan appealed the error findings in two cases to the federal Department Appeals Board. The federal board issued a decision finding for the DHS. It reversed the disallowance and ruled Michigan is operating the Title IV-E program in accordance with federal regulations.

Juvenile Justice

There were no federal recommendations or sanctions with respect to the operation of Juvenile Justice programs in FY 2010.

Efforts to Increase Federal Financial Support

The department has tasked a revenue enhancement initiative to draw down federal funding from Medicaid, Title IV-E, and additional resources. This initiative is also looking at matching federal dollars with foundation and local dollars to enhance revenue.

2009 CFSSR Final Report Summary

Outcomes and Items	Outcome Ratings				Item Ratings			
	Substantial Conformity Yes/No	% Required for Sub. Conformity	% MI Achieved 2009	Rating*	% Achieved	CPS Cases	Foster Care Cases	
Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect	No	95%	61.50%	ANI	69%			Pg. 7. • F2F contact did not occur within the timeframe. Pg. 8. State Assessment: • It's difficult for workers to make timely contacts with ch • Staff turnover and caseload issues may influence perfor • Stakeholder Interview: There is a lack of clarity in the t Investigation.
Item 1. Timeliness of investigations		90%		ANI				
Item 2. Repeat maltreatment		90%		ANI	85%			Pg. 9. and 10. • There were at least 2 substantiated mal months (3). Two of 3 cases involved recurrence of subs • Lack of preventive services contributes to maltreatment
Safety Outcome 2: Children are safely maintained in their homes when possible and appropriate	No	95%	64.60%	ANI	69%			Pg. 12. • Services were not provided to the family and th • Services were not provided to protect the children in th (1). • Services were provided, but they did not target the key Pg 13 Stakeholder Interview: Some reported waiting list more services particularly prevention services.
Item 3. Services to protect children in home		90%		ANI				
Item 4. Risk of harm		90%		ANI	65%			Pg. 14. • No initial (1) or ongoing (14) safety and risk ass (3) and issues were not addressed or monitored by the • Continued risk concerns in the home that were not ad risk in the home (10). • Cases were closed without safety and risk assessmen • No ongoing safety plan (2). • Risks of harm or safety issues occurred during visitati • No safety and risk assessment of the parent's/relative • Assessment completed on the family without the State
Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations	No	95.00%	47.50%	S	100%			Strength
Item 5. Foster care re-entries								

*Ratings: ANI - Area Needing Improvement, A - Achieved, S - Substantially Achieved

Outcomes and Items	Outcome Ratings			Item Ratings				
	Substantial Conformity Yes/No	% Required for Sub. Conformity	% MI Achieved 2009	Rating*	% Achieved	CPS Cases	Foster Care Cases	Notes
Item 9. Adoption		90%		ANI	50%		50%	Pg. 28. Statewide Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The supervising agency does not assign an adoption s delays in the competing requirements to finalize an adopt child placed in their homes. There are critical time delays in beginning child-specific adoptive family.
Item 10. Other planned permanent living arrangement		90%		ANI	40%		40%	Pg. 29. The agency had not established a permanent placement. The agency had not provided adequate services to the youth were 15 years old and in the third - In 2 cases the youth were 15 years old and in the third Focus group concerns: staff might defer to OPPLA goal do not want to be adopted or aren't adoptable; Once an up to reconsider other perm. goals and OPPLA may be sibling group with strong connection w/siblings rather than younger children.
Permanency Outcome 2: The continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children	No	95.00%	73%					
Item 11. Proximity of foster care placement		90%		S	96%		96%	Strength
Item 12. Placement with siblings		90%		S	92%		92%	Strength
Item 13. Visiting with parents and siblings in foster care		90%		ANI	66%		66%	Pg. 36. Concerted efforts were not made to promote visitation in foster care (4). Pg. 37. Statewide Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitation with an incarcerated parent may be delayed issues.
								Pg. 38. Few stakeholders said the frequency of visitation and families and that lack of transportation is a challenge.

*Ratings: ANI - Area Needing Improvement, A - Achieved, S - Substantially Achieved

Outcomes and Items	Outcome Ratings			Item Ratings				
	Substantial Conformity Yes/No	% Required for Sub. Conformity	% MI Achieved 2009	Rating*	% Achieved	CPS Cases	Foster Care Cases	
Item 18. Child and family involvement in case planning		90%		ANI	46%	12%	69%	Pg. 47. The agency had not made concerted efforts to engage appropriate) in the case planning process. (See child more than in-home cases but none met the goal of Pg. 48. Statewide Assessment: • The FCRB reviews about 10% of the cases of children 20% of the cases reviewed had the parents' signatures notes low percentages of the mother, father, youth 14 y in FC and CPS cases). Pg. 49. Focus group (youth): Some noted they had not decisions.
Item 19. Caseworker visits with child		90%		ANI	66%	44%	80%	Pg. 50. Frequency of caseworker/child visits: • Was not sufficient to meet the child's needs and if visits pertinent to case planning, service delivery and goal attainment. • Was not sufficient to meet the child's needs, but when goal attainment (4). Pg. 51. Stakeholder Interview: • Quality of caseworker contacts: Some noted the quality some visits do not address issues relevant to the case. • A few stakeholders expressed high caseloads negatively.
Item 20. Caseworker visits with parent(s)		90%		ANI	31%	12%	50%	Pg. 52. • Visits with the mother were neither of sufficient frequency nor quality. • Visits with the mother were of sufficient frequency but insufficient quality (2). • Visits with the father were not of sufficient frequency, sufficient quality (2). • There were not visits with mother (3 cases); with father
Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive appropriate services to meet their educational needs	No	95.00%	89.50%					
Item 21. Educational needs of the child		95.00%		ANI	89%	25%	97%	Pg. 55. The child's educational needs were not assessed. Pg. 56. Workers do not always make efforts to involve educational needs. Stakeholder Interview: Some school districts are not receptive to agencies to ensure educational needs are met
Well-Being Outcome 3: Children receive adequate services to meet their physical and mental health needs	No	95.00%	72.40%			44%	85%	

*Ratings: ANI - Area Needing Improvement, A - Achieved, S - Substantially Achieved

Outcomes and Items	Outcome Ratings			Item Ratings				
	Substantial Conformity Yes/No	% Required for Sub. Conformity	% MI Achieved 2009	Rating*	% Achieved	CPS Cases	Foster Care Cases	
Item 22. Physical health of the child		90%		ANI	82%	44%	90%	Pg. 58. • The child's physical health needs (5) and dental needs assessed or addressed. • The child's physical health needs (1) and dental health needs adequately addressed. Pg. 59. Statewide Assessment: • There is a limited number of providers who accept Medicaid for obtaining dental exams and treatment for children serving in rural areas. • All foster children are Medicaid eligible, but are exempt from placement and enrollment in straight Medicaid managed care. • The registration and enrollment in the Medicaid information system needed medical or dental appointments.
Item 23. Mental/behavioral health of the child		90%		ANI	71%	40%	88%	Pg. 60. • Mental health needs were neither assessed nor documented. • Mental health needs were assessed but services were not provided. Pg. 60. Statewide Assessment: • Public mental health system does not have sufficient capacity to meet the needs of children needing mental health services. Pg. 61. Stakeholder Interview: • Some noted appropriate mental health services are not available. • Some expressed the opinion that some foster children are not receiving proper medication management.

*Ratings: ANI - Area Needing Improvement, A - Achieved, S - Substantially Achieved