



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

September 13, 2011

The Honorable Bruce Caswell, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, MI 48933

The Honorable David Agema, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Senator Caswell and Representative Agema:

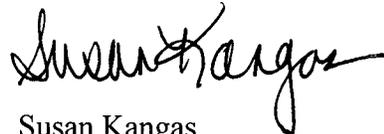
Section 508(3) of 2010 Public Act 190 (Enrolled House Bill No. 5882) requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to collaborate with the state child abuse and neglect prevention board (hereafter referred to as the Children's Trust Fund or CTF) to develop recommendations on incorporating strategies into department policy and report those recommendations to the legislature.

In response to this requirement, DHS has received from CTF (in their capacity as staff to the federally required Citizen's Review Panel on Prevention), three recommendations to strengthen prevention services and to clarify prevention within the full array of DHS child welfare services.

1. CTF has recommended that a definition of prevention be incorporated into DHS policy so that there is more clarity of what services and supports constitute prevention services. DHS has received the recommended definition and is currently assessing a process for moving forward.
2. CTF has recommended that an evidence-based approach to supporting families (using the "protective factors" to support families) be integrated into training and professional development for child welfare workers. CTF has received a grant to develop a training curriculum for this purpose, which is nearing completion. DHS will be working with CTF in the coming year to use these resources to train foster care and protective services workers as well as managers.
3. DHS is providing leadership and staff support to investigate ways to maximize funding for prevention services. For example, executive staff is working with CTF to explore ways in which local and private funds can be used as a match for both state and federal funds. Additionally, the DHS director was instrumental in the efforts to increase funding for CTF through the annual Pam Posthumus Signature Auction event.

If you have any questions about the information contained in this report, please contact Michael Foley, Michigan Children's Trust Fund Director at (517) 335-1938.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Kangas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Susan Kangas,
Chief Financial Officer

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