



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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September 9, 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:

The Department of Human Services (DHS) is required to provide a report on Section 580 of P.A. 190 during budget hearings. Since March of 2008, a leadership team comprised of members from the DHS Children's Services Administration and the DCH Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration meet monthly to coordinate efforts in the provision of services to the child welfare population. In October 2008, DCH and DHS partnered to pilot the Waiver for Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance in eight counties. To date, 171 children have been serviced by the waiver. The eight sites are also providing an SED GF benefit to children who don't qualify for the waiver to offer enhanced mental health services to children at risk of losing their placement or moving to a child caring institution.

The leadership team developed and implements a strategic plan that is reviewed monthly. The priorities for planning include: expanding the target population for joint projects; educating the new administration; assisting the Medicaid Health Plans in developing mild to moderate mental health services for children in foster care; and evaluating and redirecting funding opportunities.

Please contact Mary Chaliman, Director of DHS Permanency Division, at 517-241-2507 if you have any questions about this information.

Sincerely,

Susan Kangas
Chief Financial Officer

CC: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on DHS
Senate and House Fiscal and Policy Offices
State Budget Director