



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON
DIRECTOR

October 23, 2015

The Honorable Jim Marleau, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHHS
Michigan State Senate
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable Rob VerHeulen, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Marleau and Representative VerHeulen:

This report is provided pursuant to the Department of Human Services' (DHS') Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations Act, PA 252 of 2014, Article X, Section 511. This section requires the department to submit a quarterly report on the number and percentage of children who received timely health examinations after entry into foster care and the number and percentage of children entering foster care who received a required mental health examination after entry into foster care.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) evaluates the needs of children placed into foster care under the supervision of the department within 30 days of placement. The assessments conducted specifically require evaluation of medical and emotional/mental health issues and that evaluation drives the development and delivery of appropriate services.

Further, as a function of compliance with the Modified Settlement Agreement, MDHHS evaluates the completion of initial medical and mental health screenings for children entering foster care. Every six months, the Children's Services Agency's Division of Continuous Quality Improvement evaluates initial medical and mental health screenings through a case review of a representative sample of children that entered foster care during a defined three-month period. Case reviews conducted during the weeks of July 20 and July 27, 2015, for children who entered into foster care between January 1, 2015 and March 31, 2015, indicated that 81 percent received timely physical health examinations after entry into foster care. For the same sample, 42 percent of the children received the required mental health screening at the time of the physical exam.

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If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Sesti, executive assistant to deputy director Steve Yager, at (517) 492-7305.

Sincerely,



Nick Lyon
Director

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Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
Senate and House Standing Committees on Families and Human Services