

Parent-Child-Caseworker Visitations

(FY2016 Appropriation Act - Public Act 84 of 2015)

February 29, 2016

Sec. 564 (3). *Between February 1 and February 29, 2016, the department shall provide to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, the senate and house policy offices, and the state budget office a report on the following:*

- (a) *The percentage of success rate for parent-child visitations and court-ordered required meetings between caseworkers referenced in subsections (1) and (2) for the previous year.*
- (b) *The barriers to achieve the success rates in subsections (1) and (2) and how this information is tracked.*



Michigan Department of
Health & Human Services

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MDHHS completed a quality assurance compliance review on a sample of cases for a 12 month period ending June 30, 2015. Findings from the review concluded the following:

- Sixty-seven percent of children had visits of sufficient frequency with their parents to promote parent-child relationships.
- Fifty-seven percent of caseworkers visited with parents at a frequency sufficient to address issues pertaining to the safety, permanency and well-being of the child and to promote achievement of case goals.

Barriers to Compliance

- Time involved in transportation and supervision of visits is difficult for workers.
- Standardized assessment tools for development of family specific visitation plans are not in place.
- Continued education of court personnel regarding the role and importance of parent-child visitation in child welfare cases.

Efforts to Mitigate Barriers

- Volunteer training has been developed to provide hands on knowledge for volunteers for transportation, supervision and mentoring of Parent-Child visits. Volunteer training will be provided to all child welfare volunteers who currently assist with visitation. The number of available volunteers for visitation is a continued barrier. Additional recruitment of volunteers and ongoing training will be necessary to increase capacity for visits.
- Family Team Meeting (FTM) training that will address issues of developing, implementing and revising Parent-Child contacts utilizing supports other than the caseworker.
- Provide opportunities to educate relative caregivers about importance of parent/child visits and the relative caregivers' role in visitation.
- The department has piloted some behavioral-based and trauma informed visitation tools in an effort to standardize the parent-child visitation evaluation. In each case the parenting time tools were not specific enough to meet the needs of the caseworkers and/or required extensive training and financial resources to be implemented. Further exploration of tools and the feasibility of standardization need to occur.

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Tracking

MDHHS developed standard reports and a Book of Business to track compliance with Caseworker-Parent visits and Parent-Child visits to monitor compliance with policy. Caseworker-Parent reports were made available to child welfare staff on November 1, 2015, and Parent-Child reports were released on February 1, 2016.