



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING



ISMAEL AHMED
DIRECTOR

February 3, 2010

The Honorable Bill Hardiman, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan State Senate
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable Dudley Spade
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Senator Hardiman and Representative Spade:

Section 271(2) of 2009 Public Act 129 (Enrolled Senate Bill No. 248) 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 Susan Kangas, chief administrative officer, at 517-373-7787.

Sincerely,

Ismael Ahmed

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

FY 2010 Boilerplate Report
Section 271-2

Foster Care, Juvenile Justice and Adoption Communication with Federal Government

Section 271-2 (2) 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.

Juvenile Justice

The Department of Human Services received one letter from the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, regarding the W.J. Maxey Training School. That correspondence was received on July 2, 2009 and addressed the state's compliance with respect to recommendations made December 15, 2008.

The recommendations made were:

- Maxey should increase its social workers' roles in youth mental health treatment through substantive clinical supervision, training and integration of social work staff.
- DHS should simplify its risk assessments and create a formal mechanism to identify youth who exhibit mental health needs after Maxey's initial screening and admission process.
- This recommendation was made based on inconsistencies in treatment planning. Maxey's treatment plans should measure and indicate mental health progress or lack thereof, and if lack of progress occurred, hypothesize about the basis for inadequate progress and set objectives for improved success in treatment.

The July 2, 2009 letter notified Michigan that the Department of Justice closed its investigation of the W.J. Maxey Training School. The findings were that the state of Michigan satisfied the requirements contained in the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Department of Justice and Michigan. The state was commended for the improvements made under the MOU.

Foster Care and Adoption Programs

Federal recommendations made to the department and courts.

There have been no federal recommendations to the department and courts in FY 2010 from the Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, regarding the foster care and adoption programs.

Sanctions or warning of future sanctions.

In FY 2010, there have been no federal sanctions assessed or warning of sanctions communicated to DHS by the Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, for the operation of foster care and adoption programs.

Status of Program Improvement Plans (PIP) submitted to the federal government.

Michigan's Federal Title IV-E State Plan Program Improvement Plan was due to ACF on December 30, 2009. The PIP accompanies Michigan's updated federal Title IV-E State Plan which includes the state implementation strategies for P.L. 110-351, Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. The policy modification activities required in the PIP related to Michigan's operation of the Adoption Assistance Program have been completed. The PIP provides the final supporting documentation for the implementation of the PIP to ACF for their review and approval. These documents will be provided in the March boilerplate report on this section.

Communication from DHS to ACF regarding the operation of the foster care and adoption programs.

October 19, 2009 letter – DHS to ACF

This letter was an advisory letter to ACF that incorrect data was submitted from Michigan's Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) related to adoptions. The letter indicated that the problem was being corrected and Michigan would re-submit the corrected data. There are no penalties or sanctions associated with this issue.

November 6, 2009 letter – ACF to DHS

This letter advised Michigan that our 2010-2014 Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) and our final report for 2005-2009 were received and approved by ACF. The CFSP is Michigan's application for federal funding for the following programs:

- Title IV-B, Subpart 1 (Stephanie Tubbs Jones Child Welfare Services).
- Title IV-B, Subpart 2 (Promoting Safe and Stable Families).
- Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) State Grant.
- Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP).

- Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program.

Approval of the 2010-2014 CFSP resulted in federal funding for the above programs that benefit the children in Michigan through services and financial supports.

November 17, 2009 – DHS to ACF

DHS transmitted Michigan's legislative and policy modifications to our federal Title IV-E State Plan seeking approval to operate a Title IV-E Subsidized Guardianship Assistance Program. The effective date of these modifications will be retroactive to the first day of the first quarter of the fiscal year for which the modifications were submitted. Michigan is seeking an effective date of October 1, 2009. Implementation of this program will increase federal dollars available to support children in Michigan.