



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

February 19, 2014

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

The Honorable Peter MacGregor, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Caswell and Representative MacGregor:

This report is provided pursuant to the Department of Human Services' (DHS') Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriations Act, PA 59 of 2013, Article X, Section 510. This section requires that DHS submit a report on the implementation of the workgroup findings, described in DHS' Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations Act, PA 200 of 2012, Article X, Section 510, on how the state can best assist counties on identifying and providing performance-based community programs for foster care and juvenile justice.

A workgroup was formed to meet the requirements of this section and included representatives from the following cross-professional entities: DHS; State Court Administrative Office; Michigan Association of Counties; 20th Judicial Circuit Court's Juvenile Services Division; Midland County Juvenile Care Center; private child welfare providers; a sitting juvenile judge and the legislature. The workgroup identified four priorities to assist counties with identifying and providing performance-based community programs. The following updates are provided for each of the four priorities:

Priority 1: Providing ongoing training and technical assistance, including an annual conference hosted by DHS for court and local DHS office staff.

Update: DHS provides daily technical assistance to DHS local county offices, Community Mental Health, courts, contracted employees/companies and private agencies. Technical assistance is provided for inquiries and problem solving around programming, budgets and staffing. The technical assistance is provided via telephone, email, and on-site training upon request. Child Care Fund training sessions are scheduled for May of 2014, in Lansing, Gaylord and Escanaba. An annual conference planning committee has been collaborating on the annual conference objectives. The annual conference will support information sharing regarding effective programming for

juveniles, best practices, program outcomes and institutional knowledge. The first annual Child Care Fund conference, "Champions of Change" is scheduled for August 6, 2014.

Priority 2: Developing a compendium of existing resources for training, technical assistance and available programming.

Update: DHS has created a Child Care Fund public website that provides a centralized repository of information. The website is updated regularly and includes a section for "Frequently Asked Questions", in-home care programs, program updates and meeting minutes from monthly Child Care Fund phone conferences. The website continues to evolve as resources are identified.

Priority 3: Promoting the in-home care option of the Child Care Fund to the court and local DHS offices providing in-home care to Michigan's youth.

Update: DHS has posted on the Child Care Fund website a listing of current in-home care programs in an effort to facilitate collaboration between counties. At the August 6, 2014, Child Care Conference DHS will highlight new and innovative evidence based community programs for Michigan's youth. Youth programs that have had success nationally and statewide will be featured.

Priority 4: Provide a comprehensive annual report to the legislature on the Child Care Fund expenditures and operations.

Update: In FY 2013, DHS updated the Child Care Fund Handbook and monthly monitoring requirements in anticipation of using this new data received from the counties to create a comprehensive annual report. Beginning with FY 2014 DHS will provide a comprehensive annual report. The data necessary to develop this annual report will not be available for department review until the end of the first quarter of FY 2015. DHS anticipates the issuance of the FY 2014 annual report by April 1, 2015.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Campau, executive assistant to Children's Services Director Steve Yager, at (517) 241-3294.

Sincerely,



Susan Kangas
Chief Financial Officer

cc: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on DHS
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
Senate and House Standing Committees on Families and Human Services