



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING



ISMAEL AHMED
DIRECTOR

June 9, 2010

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

The Honorable Dudley Spade, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
State Capitol
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Hardiman and Representative Spade:

Section 515 of 2009 Public Act No. 129 (Enrolled Senate Bill No. 248) requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to report on the benchmarks developed in conjunction with private providers on the use of performance-based models for foster care services, results the department or agencies have achieved in improving permanency placements, and recommendations for further improvements for foster care services across the entire state.

The DHS Report for Section 515 Follows:

- I. Report on the benchmarks developed in conjunction with private providers on the use of performance-based models for foster care services.

DHS incorporated the measures established by the Performance Based Contracting workgroup into the existing Placement Agency Foster Care (PAFC) contracts and Residential Foster Care (RFCAN) and Residential Foster Care Juvenile Justice (RFCANJJ) contracts via a contract amendment. To arrive at these measures (and the methodology to report them), DHS convened a workgroup of private Child Placing Agencies (CPAs) and Child Caring Institutions (CCIs) which met regularly for almost two years. Consensus was reached to use modified Child and Family Services Review measures to report on a specific agency's performance during the time period the agency supervised a child's case. Data on these measures will be reviewed on a quarterly basis. The first report was generated in January 2010 and is attached.

The measures are as follows:

PAFC Contracts (effective May 1, 2009)

Placement stability: Children supervised by the contractor shall have no more than two placement settings while supervised by the individual CPA's program, using the following minimum acceptable standards:

- 0 – 365 days = 86% or more will have no more than two placement settings
- 366 – 730 days = 73% or more will have no more than two placement settings
- 731 + days = 45% or more will have no more than two placement settings

Timeliness of reunification: No fewer than 43% of children supervised by the contractor for 30 days or more shall be discharged from foster care to the home of a parent or legal guardian within 12 months of removal.

Permanency of reunification: No more than 4% of children supervised by the contractor who were discharged from foster care due to reunification will re-enter foster care in less than 12 months from the date of discharge.

Timeliness of adoptions: No fewer than 36.6% of children supervised by the contractor for 30 days or more shall be discharged from foster care due to a finalized adoption within 24 months of removal.

Discharge to permanency for children in foster care for long periods of time: No fewer than 29.1% of children supervised by the contractor for the most recent 24 months shall be discharged from foster care to a permanent placement prior to their 18 birthday. Permanent placement is defined as Adoption, Guardianship or Reunification.

Legally-free children in foster care for long periods of time who are discharged to permanency: No fewer than 98% of children supervised by the contractor for the most recent 12 months and legally-free for adoption shall be discharged to a permanent placement prior to their 18 birthday. Permanent placement is defined as Adoption, Guardianship or Reunification.

Children discharged from foster care without permanency: Not more than 45% of children supervised by the contractor for the most recent 12 months or more, shall be discharged from foster care prior to age 18 with a discharge reason of Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA) or reach their 18th birthday while in foster care, having been in foster care for 3 years or more.

Sibling placement: No fewer than 90% of children supervised by the contractor shall be placed with all members of their sibling group (out-of-home minor siblings only) unless it has been determined that the placement with the siblings is contrary to the best interests of the children. Contrary to the best interests of the children is defined as: placement together is harmful to one or more of the siblings; or one of the siblings has exceptional needs that can only be met in a specialized program or facility; or the size of

the sibling group makes such placement impractical, notwithstanding diligent efforts to place the group together.

RFCAN (effective July 31, 2009)

100% of children supervised by the contractor shall not be a victim of a substantiated child protective services case resulting in a staff person being placed on the central registry.

At least 80% of children supervised by the contractor for 30 calendar days or more will be discharged to a non-residential placement within nine months of placement.

At least 90% of children supervised by the contractor for 30 calendar days or more, who are discharged to a non-residential setting, will remain in a non-residential setting for at least six months.

No greater than 10% of children discharged from the contractor's program will be discharged due to absent without legal permission (AWOLP) status.

RFCANJJ (effective July 31, 2009)

100% of children supervised by the contractor shall not be a victim of a substantiated child protective services case resulting in a staff person being placed on the central registry.

At least 80% of children supervised by the contractor for 30 calendar days or more will be discharged to a non-residential placement within nine months of placement.

At least 90% of children supervised by the contractor for 30 calendar days or more, who are discharged to a non-residential setting, will remain in a non-residential setting for at least six months.

No greater than 10% of children discharged from the contractor's program will be discharged due to AWOLP status.

At least 80% of juvenile justice youth, who have been supervised by the contractor for 30 calendar days or more and released to a non-residential setting, will not be convicted of a crime for at least 12 months following discharge.

Through the distribution of Performance Based Contract (PBC) reports, CPAs and CCIs are able to review their performance on standard measurements related to the care of children under their supervision. Upon receipt of the reports from the Child Welfare Contract Compliance Unit, (CWCCU), the private agencies have thirty (30) days to review their data and provide any needed corrections to the local DHS county office. Corrected PBC reports are prepared by CWCCU after the 30 day correction period and each private provider is given a copy of their respective report.

II. Results the department or agencies have achieved in improving permanency placements.

Along with the permanency planning specialists, caseworkers focusing on children that have been in foster care more than two years, DHS has added 26 permanency resource managers (PRMs). PRMs are working at the county level with both public and private agencies to identify and resolve barriers to permanency. PRMs are also providing training and technical assistance to caseworkers and other stakeholders.

As a result of these efforts, 2,575 children have been reunified with their families and an additional 3,863 children have achieved legal permanency through adoption or guardianship since September 30, 2008. DHS is conducting goal reviews to ensure that the appropriate supports and services are in place for children with permanency goals that maintain an open foster care case including placement with a fit and willing relative or APPLA.

III. Recommendations for further improvements for foster care services across the entire state.

Further improvements for foster care services statewide include the implementation of statewide Permanency Planning Conferences (PPCs) and planning for the statewide implementation of Concurrent Permanency Planning.

The database created for DHS-facilitated PPCs has been in existence for a significant period of time. An additional database created for CPA-facilitated PPCs is in the testing phase. Kent County has been chosen as a "test" site for the CPAs. This database allows CPAs secure access to enter data related to the PPC. The information contained in these databases will be analyzed along with data from the Services Worker Support System (SWSS) to provide a complete picture of all PPCs conducted statewide. A statewide rollout of this PPC database for CPA-facilitated conferences is projected for July 1, 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact Terri Gilbert, Director of the Child Welfare Improvement Bureau, at 517-355-6158.

Sincerely,



for Ismael Ahmed

cc: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees
Senate and House fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
Senate Budget Director

Attachment

**Performance Based Contracting Measures Data
10-1-09 through 12-31-09**

RFC Statewide Aggregate Data

Measure	Number of Children in Measure Pool	Number of Children Qualified for Measure	Performance %
Measure 2 : At least 80% of children supervised by the Contractor for 30 calendar days or more will be discharged to a non-residential placement within nine months of placement	379	150	39.6%
Measure 3 : At least 90% of children supervised by the Contractor for 30 calendar days or more, who are discharged to a non-residential setting, will remain in a non-residential setting for at least six months	305	252	82.6%
Measure 4 : No greater than 10% of children discharged from the Contractor program, will be discharged due to Absent Without Legal Permission (AWOLP) status	537	54	10.1%

PAFC Statewide Aggregate Data

Measure	Count Of Children in Candidate Pool	Count Of Children Meeting Performance Criteria	Performance %	Performance Standard
Measure 1 : Children supervised by the contractor shall have no more than two placement settings while supervised by the individual CPAs program, using the following minimum acceptable standards: a) 0-365 Days	3899	3756	96.33	>= 86.0%
b) 366-730 Days	1824	1569	86.02	>= 73.0%
c) 731+ Days	1421	966	67.98	>= 45.0%
Measure 2: Children supervised by the Contractor for 30 days or more	361	228	63.16	>= 43.0%

shall be discharged from foster care to the home of a parent or legal guardian within 12 months of removal.				
Measure 3: Children supervised by the Contractor and discharged from foster care to reunification, who re-enter foster care from the date of discharge. 12 Month Re-entry	301	29	9.63	<= 4.0%
Measure 4: Children supervised by the Contractor for 30 days or more shall be discharged from foster care to a finalized adoption within 24 months of removal.	249	157	63.05	>= 36.6%
Measure 5: Children supervised by the Contractor for the most recent 24 months shall be discharged to a permanent placement prior to their 18th birthday. Permanent placement is defined as Adoption, Guardianship or Reunification.	171	139	81.29	>= 29.1%