



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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DIRECTOR

January 29, 2013

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

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

Dear Senator Caswell and Representative MacGregor:

Section 753 of 2012 Public Act 200 requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to implement and report on certain recommendations of the 2004 public private partnership initiative's training committee in order to reduce child welfare-related training and travel costs for DHS and private child placing agencies.

Fiscal Year 2012 was the first year in a three-year DHS contract for eLearning training specifically geared toward child welfare staff and managers. During the year, 150 eLearning courses were offered that allowed public and private agency child welfare staff to receive on-demand information about general issues affecting their caseloads, such as how to work with people in crisis, how to work with clients with mental health or substance abuse histories and other topics related to working with families. These courses were chosen by a workgroup consisting of DHS central office and field staff, as well as staff from private agencies and other external partners. Over 6,700 eLearning trainings were completed in Fiscal Year 2012, helping child welfare staff increase compliance with requirements for in-service training, while at the same time saving DHS and private agencies money on training-related travel costs. DHS will continue offering a minimum of 150 contracted eLearning courses for the remaining two years of the contract.

In addition to the contracted eLearning opportunities, the DHS Office of Workforce Development and Training, Child Welfare Training Institute is working in-house to develop eLearning trainings on Michigan-specific program issues and professional development topics. All of the eLearning training and webinars are available to staff when their schedule permits, and use of the state network is not necessary to connect to the training.

In another effort to enhance child welfare training opportunities, a multi-agency Training Council was formed and the first meeting was held in June 2012. This council includes representatives from the DHS Child Protective Services (CPS), Foster Care (FC) and Adoption program offices, local office CPS, FC and Adoption first-line supervisors, DHS County

Directors, the Governor's Task Force on Children's Justice, the Office on Children's Ombudsman, the DHS Child Welfare Field Operations, the DHS Office of the Family Advocate, the Children's Trust Fund, the DHS Native American Affairs director, the State Court Administrative Office, the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan, the DHS Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing, the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, the DHS Division of Continuous Quality Improvement and private agency foster care agencies. The goal of the Training Council is to improve outcomes for children and families by providing professional development opportunities for public and private CPS, FC and Adoption caseworkers and first-line supervisors. The Training Council meets quarterly and seeks to make progress in receiving input from a broad array of interested parties when designing and implementing child welfare training.

The Training Manager's Committee, a subgroup of the Training Council, also meets quarterly and provides updates and overviews of projects occurring in various training units, reviews advances in the training profession, shares resources and develops strategic plans related to child welfare training.

No policy changes were necessary for the training enhancements outlined in this report. If you have any questions about this information, please contact Kurt Warner, director, DHS Organizational Services Division, at (517) 373-7541.

Sincerely,



Susan Kangas
Chief Financial Officer

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