



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

January 31, 2013

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 PA 200 of 2012, Section 583 of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations Act. This section requires that DHS implement the recommendations of the work group conducted in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012 to determine what caused individuals participating as foster parents during the previous fiscal year to drop out of the program.

The attached report provides details of the department's progress in implementing the recommendations of the workgroup. If you have any questions, please contact Suzanne Stiles Burke, Bureau of Child Welfare director, at (517) 241-8606.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Kangas".

Susan Kangas
Chief Financial Officer

Attachment: Boilerplate Report Section 583

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

Boilerplate Report Section 583

By February 1 of the current fiscal year, the department shall implement the recommendations of the work group conducted in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012 to determine what caused individuals participating as foster parents during the previous fiscal year to drop out of the program. The department shall provide to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house standing committees on families and human services, and the senate and house fiscal agencies and policy offices a report detailing the department's progress in implementing the recommendations.

The following actions have been taken as a result of the FY12 work group:

1. DHS requested a \$3 per day increase for foster parents to begin in FY13. The Governor's recommended budget supported this increase and the per diem increase was effective October 1, 2012.
2. DHS county office directors and private child placing agencies have been provided with tools and are accountable for recruiting, licensing, and retaining foster parents. This recommendation has been implemented with:
 - The development of a director's portfolio, which includes expectations and performance measures for directors. This serves as a tool for operational and qualitative assurance and provides comprehensive performance expectations.
 - Public and private child placing agencies have been provided with an annual foster home licensing goal and monthly scorecards to track progress towards meeting this goal.
3. Foster home certification workers have been provided assistance with licensing foster parents. Assistance has been secured and implemented in the following manners:
 - Ongoing technical assistance to certification workers is being provided by the Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing (BCAL) staff.
 - BCAL now provides local offices and private agencies with the ability to look up current foster home enrollments online.
 - A Foster Care Navigator program was implemented in April 2012. This program provides support and assistance for foster parents from the initial inquiry to placement of the first child. Foster care navigators help locate resources within the community, review the rules and regulations of licensure and assist potential foster parents in understanding the needs of children in foster care.
 - Benchmarks and standards were developed and implemented for recruiting, licensing and retaining foster and adoptive parents.
 - A licensing database was developed to track prospective foster parents from the time of initial inquiry, through the licensing process and until the foster

home is closed. This database was implemented during FY12 and is currently utilized by DHS and private child placing agencies.

4. DHS has continued to collaborate with the Michigan Association for Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Parents (MAFAK) in the following manner:
 - Financial support was provided for MAFAK's annual training conference held in April 2012. DHS utilized adoption incentive funds, adoption funds and foster parent recruitment and retention funds to pay for speaker fees, printing costs and meals. This allowed all of the foster and adoptive parents attending the training to do so free of charge.
 - DHS financed lodging costs for the first 50 foster, adoptive or kinship parents that registered for the training conference.

In addition to these actions, ongoing efforts and reviews will continue to ensure that foster parent recruitment and retention continues to be addressed as a critical priority for the department.