



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING



MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

March 7, 2011

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

The Honorable David Agema, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Caswell and Representative Agema:

Section 506(1) of Public Act 190 of 2010 (Enrolled House Bill 5882) requires the Department of Human Services to prepare a report detailing changes in program policy, outcome measurement, and training by the department and courts to meet the requirements of the fostering connections to success and increasing adoptions act of 2008, Public Law 110-351, 122 Stat. 3949. Our report for Fiscal Year 2011 is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact Anita Peters, Acting Director, Permanency Services Division at (517) 241-8817.

Sincerely,


Susan Kangas,
Chief Financial Officer

c: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices

FY 2011 Boilerplate Report Section 506(1)

Sec. 506. (1) The department shall provide a report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on the department budget, the senate and house fiscal agencies, and the senate and house policy offices by February 1 of the current fiscal year detailing changes in program policy, outcome measurement, and training by the department and courts to meet the requirements of the fostering connections to success and increasing adoptions act of 2008, Public Law 110-351, 122 Stat. 3949.

The department participated in planning the State Court Administrative Office conference on Educational Issues in Child Welfare in FY 2010. During the conference, DHS presented information relating to the implementation of educational requirements outlined in the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008. Policy related to educational requirements was released in December 2009. The Child Welfare Training Institute implemented educational requirements outlined in Fostering Connections into their new worker training.

Fourteen Educational Planners were trained on the provisions of Fostering Connections educational stability requirements. Since August 2010, the Education Planners have been training DHS Children's Protective Service workers and DHS and private agency foster care workers in the requirements of educational stability. In addition, the Education Planners act as a liaison between the child welfare agency and local schools in the six urban counties and 22 counties in lower Michigan.

DHS completed the research and policy language for the Fostering Connections Health Care Proxy Durable Power of Attorney. The policy directs foster care workers to inform foster youth prior to age 18 on the purpose of the health care proxy and provide them with information on where they can secure such a document. Policy was effective February 1, 2011.

Additional resources to inform youth and workers of the health care proxy were published. A brochure, DHS-Pub.-161, "A Foster Youth's Guide to Preparing for Health Care Emergencies," was published in October 2010. Information was added in January 2011 to the Foster Youth in Transition website, www.michigan.gov/fyt, under the Health & Wellness section.

Progress on the extension of foster care services to age 21 is as follows:

- Statutory amendments were drafted.
- The policy and forms were drafted and revisions continue as DHS meets with stakeholders, such as the State Court Administrative Office and private agency foster care providers.

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- Meetings, information sharing and input continue with various DHS units and other stakeholders pending the approval of SBO and securing a legislative sponsor.

The following Fostering Connections requirements have been fully implemented in policy and practice:

- Relative notification.
- Case-by-case waiver of non-safety licensing requirement for relatives.
- Health oversight plan.
- Sibling placement.
- Guardianship assistance (training provided in 2009).
- Adoption assistance delink.
- 90-day transitional plan for youth aging out of foster care (training provided in 2010).