



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MAURA D. CORRIGAN  
DIRECTOR

September 30, 2013

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

The Honorable Peter MacGregor  
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 511 (2) of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations Act. This section requires that DHS submit a quarterly report on the number and percentage of children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems who received a physical and mental health/developmental assessment before placement.

Prior to local courts placing youth with DHS under either the neglect or the juvenile justice systems, a youth's legal parent or guardian has responsibility to meet the child's physical and mental health needs. DHS does not have a system to track a child's participation with either medical or mental health systems prior to placement; therefore, DHS is unable to produce pre-placement physical and mental health assessment data.

DHS does, however, evaluate the needs of children placed into foster care under the supervision of the department within 30 days of placement. The assessments conducted specifically require evaluation of medical and emotional/mental health issues and that evaluation drives the development and delivery of appropriate services.

Further, as a function of compliance with the modified settlement agreement, DHS evaluates the completion of initial medical and mental health screenings for children entering foster care. Every six months, the Children's Services Administration, Division of Continuous Quality Improvement, evaluates initial medical and mental health screenings through a case review of a representative sample of children that entered foster care during a defined three-month period. Case reviews conducted for children who entered foster care between January 1, 2013, and March 31, 2013, indicated that 69.2 percent of children received timely physical health examinations after entry into foster care. For the same sample, 56.9 percent of the children received the required mental health screening at the time of the physical exam.

Beginning the week of January 27, 2014, DHS will commence an evaluation of initial medical and mental health screenings completed for children that entered foster care between July 1, 2013, and September 30, 2013.

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

Sincerely,



Susan Kangas  
Chief Financial Officer

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