



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

September 26, 2011

The Honorable Bruce Caswell, Chair
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan Senate
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909

The Honorable David Agema, Chair
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS
Michigan House of Representatives
P.O. 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Caswell and Representative Agema:

Section 753 of 2010 Public Act No. 190 requires the department to report on the plans to implement recommendations of the 2004 public-private partnership regarding development of a program to certify private agency staff to deliver child welfare training through a Train-the-trainer program, explore the use of e-learning technologies and inclusion of consumers in the design and implementation of training.

The Child Welfare Training Institute (CWTI) offered training of trainers certification to three agencies in 2010. Plans were underway to expand the certification to other agencies when the department entered into negotiations for a modified settlement agreement with Children's Rights, Inc.

Pursuant to the Modified Settlement Agreement signed by Judge Edmonds and entered into the record on July 18, 2011, all new employees must complete 270 hours of pre-service training prior to attaining a full caseload. The Child Welfare Training Institute redesigned our pre-service training to allow for more field practice time (on-the-job training) and less time in the classroom to better meet the needs of our public and private partners. In addition, CWTI created e-learning modules for those areas that were primarily foundational and theory-based learning. The redesigned training curriculum was presented to the federal monitors for review and comment, and then finalized for delivery. The new pre-service institute launches October 17, 2011. Upon completion of the institute and a thorough review of the evaluations, CWTI will be prepared to develop a new Train-the-trainer program certifying agencies to deliver the approved curriculum in the second quarter of FY 2012.

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As a part of the training delivered to all new workers, CWTI hosts two panel discussions composed of consumers; one comprised of older foster youth either who have exited foster care or who are in the process of leaving foster care, and one composed of foster parents. These panels allow new employees to understand the dynamics and impacts of the foster care system directly from people involved in foster care, and provide for very meaningful question and answer sessions.

CWTI has developed several e-learning modules that can be viewed on our website www.michiganchildwelfaretraining.com. Staff may enroll in these training sessions and receive in-service credit for successfully completing the e-learning modules. Pursuant to the Modified Settlement Agreement, all child welfare staff are required to complete 16 hours of in-service training in FY 2011, at least 24 hours for FY 2012, and 32 hours for FY 2013.

If you have questions regarding this report, please contact Terri Gilbert, director of Strategic Planning, at 517-335-9157.

Sincerely,



Susan Kangas
Chief Financial Officer

cc: Senate & House Appropriations Subcommittees on DHS
Senate & House Fiscal Agencies & Policy Offices
Senate Committee on Families, Seniors & Human Services
House Committee on Families, Children & Seniors
State Budget Director