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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

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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 the Department of Human Services' (DHS) Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriations Act, PA 59 of 2013, Article X, Section 523 (1). This section requires that DHS submit a report to the legislature on the Families First, Family Reunification and Families Together Building Solutions family preservation programs. The report shall contain the following:

- (a) The average cost per recipient served.
- (b) Measurable performance indicators.
- (c) Desired outcomes or results and goals that can be measured on an annual basis, or desired results for a defined number of years.
- (d) Monitored results.
- (e) Innovations that may include savings or reductions in administrative costs.

Families First of Michigan

Families First of Michigan (FFM) serves families that have at least one child at imminent risk of placement in out-of-home care. In addition, families with children in out-of-home care are eligible for referral to the program when it is determined that reunification is not appropriate without intensive services and the Family Reunification Program is not available. FFM offers families intensive, short-term crisis intervention and family education services in their home for four weeks using the FFM model. FFM workers are available and accessible to the family 24-hours a day, seven days a week. The workers assist families by establishing individual family goals designed to reduce the risk of out-of-home placement and increase child safety. FFM workers provide service to the family for up to four weeks. Up to a two-week extension may be available in some cases.

In FY 2013, FFM expanded the number of referral sources to include the twelve recognized Native American tribes in counties as designated by the tribes to experience the maximum

utilization by tribal child welfare staff. As contracted, the desired outcomes for FFM services are as follows:

1. Ninety percent (90%) of the families served will avoid placement for the three (3) months following termination of the FFM program. For FY 2013, the three-month follow-up evidenced 90% of families were intact.
2. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the families served will avoid placement for the six (6) month period following termination of the FFM program. For FY 2013, the six-month follow-up evidenced 89% of families were intact.
3. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the families served will avoid placement after twelve (12) months of termination with the FFM program. For FY 2013, the FFM program served 2,440 families. In the 12-month period following these Families First interventions, 88% of the families avoided placement or further Children's Protective Services involvement.

The innovation of a web-based data tracking system that monitors and reports on the success and outcome effectiveness of the FFM program was launched in October 2011. As expected, it has resulted in the reduction of administrative costs by cutting the dedicated resources assigned to a manual tracking process.

Family Reunification Program

The Family Reunification Program (FRP) provides services to a family when a plan for return of the children has been established and the foster care worker has initiated reunification with the family and the court. In those counties where the program is offered, referral for these services is considered mandatory. The intervention model is a blend of skill-based interventions and solution-focused family work. This four month model of intervention has been found to be successful at reuniting families sooner and more safely than would have been possible without the program services. For FY 2013, the FRP served 785 families.

As contracted, the desired outcomes and measured performance indicators for FRP services are as follows:

1. Seventy percent (70%) of the families served shall successfully complete four (4) months of the services. For FY 2013, 87% of families successfully completed four (4) months of the services.
2. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the families who complete the four months of services shall not have any Category I, II, or III preponderance of evidence Protective Services involvement for a 12-month period following replacement of the child(ren) in the family home. For FY 2013, 82% of families did not have any Category I, II, or III preponderance of evidence Protective Services involvement for a 12-month period following replacement of the child(ren) in the family home.

3. Seventy percent (70%) of the families who complete the four months of services shall not have a child(ren) removed from the family home and placed in out-of-home care for a 12-month period following replacement in the family home. For FY 2013, 77% of families did not have children removed from the home and placed in out-of-home care for the 12-month period following replacement in the family home.
4. Ninety percent (90%) of the families who successfully complete services shall express satisfaction with the services received. For FY 2013, 92% of families expressed satisfaction with the services received.

For FY 2013, the resources necessary for the planning and development of a tracking system which monitors and reports on the success and outcome effectiveness of the FRP, were diverted to the design and launch of MiSACWIS (Michigan Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System). However, the Family Preservation program office will continue to plan the development of a FRP tracking system in collaboration with the Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) as the diverted resources become available.

Families Together Building Solutions

The Families Together Building Solutions (FTBS) program is a DHS county office administered and monitored program. The contractors are not monitored by the Family Preservation Program Office. The data related to outcomes is not submitted to the program office. FTBS provides services for low-risk families that require less intensive preventive services to strengthen the changes evidenced by the crisis intervention program used to reduce the risk of placement. FTBS is a short-term in-home clinical counseling service utilizing strength-based and solution-focused techniques. The FTBS worker is available to the family 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The FTBS worker spends an average of three hours per week for up to 90 days in the home providing individual, couple or family counseling.

As contracted, the desired outcomes and measured performance indicators for the FTBS services are as follows:

1. Ninety percent (90%) of families referred will not have a substantiated abuse and/or neglect complaint during program participation. For FY 2013, 93% of families who received FTBS services did not have a substantiated abuse/neglect complaint during program participation.
2. Ninety percent (90%) of families completing services will not require an out-of-home placement within six (6) months of case closure. For FY 2013, 96% of families did not require out-of-home placement during the six (6) month period following FTBS case closure.
3. Eighty-five percent (85%) of families completing service do not require an out-of-home placement within twelve (12) months of case closure. For FY 2013, 94% of families did not require out-of-home placement during the twelve (12) month period following FTBS case closure.

4. One hundred percent (100%) of families will be involved in the design and delivery of ongoing services necessary to improve family functioning. For FY 2013, 100% of families collaborated in goal setting and treatment planning.

Savings and Cost Effectiveness

When evaluating the savings and cost effectiveness of these family preservation programs, it is critical to note that recipients of these services are identified by family unit. Alternatively, recipients and costs associated with foster care services are per child. Therefore, comparing these two different service models cannot be done in exact measures. The information below demonstrates costs for each program in FY 2013. When the programs meet the expected outcomes and in this case exceed the expected outcomes of preventing out-of-home placement and/or facilitating the early return of a child to the family, it is evident that the cost of foster care services per service unit far exceeds the cost of preservation services per service unit.

Fiscal Year 2013

<u>Program Unit</u>	<u>Service Unit</u>	<u>Annual Cost Per Service</u>
Families First	per family	\$ 4,744
Family Reunification	per family	\$ 6,595
Families Together Building Solutions	per family	\$ 2,789
Foster Care	per child	\$26,000

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

Sincerely,



Susan Kangas
Chief Financial Officer

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