



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

February 28, 2014

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 513 (5) (6). These sections require DHS to submit a report on the status of efforts to work in conjunction with the courts and the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) to identify data needed to calculate statewide recidivism rates for adjudicated youth placed in either residential secure or non-secure facilities, defined at six months after a youth is released from placement.

The Child Welfare Funding and Juvenile Programs (CWFJP) first conducted a literature review of the current research on recidivism measurement and then convened a meeting with various court administrators, representatives from the SCAO, Michigan Association of Counties, Juvenile Assessment Center, secure and non-secure facility administrators from the private sector, and the Michigan State Police (MSP). The workgroup agreed the data elements laid out in a 2009 white paper written by the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators to measure recidivism should be adopted as the Michigan template to build upon for defining and measuring recidivism. Those data elements are:

1. **Arrest:** An arrest for any offense that would be a crime for an adult. Source of information: police department files.
2. **Filing of Charges:** Filing of charges with the juvenile court or adult criminal court based on accusations of an offense that would be a crime for an adult. Source of information: Juvenile court files.
3. **Adjudication or Conviction:** Adjudication by a juvenile court or conviction by an adult criminal court of guilt, based on charges filed by the prosecutor. Source of information: Juvenile court files if tried as a juvenile, or Criminal court files if tried as adult.

4. **Commitment to a Juvenile Facility:** Commitment to a juvenile residential facility by a juvenile court following an adjudication of delinquency. Source of information: Juvenile court files.
5. **Commitment to an Adult Facility:** Commitment to an adult residential facility following a trial in which the defendant was found guilty of a crime. Source of information: Criminal court files.

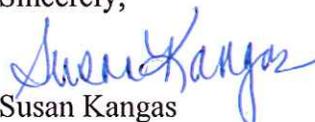
The workgroup also noted the following:

- A statewide definition of recidivism cannot be readily agreed upon and established, as the data elements to measure recidivism are dependent on the purpose and population of the measure. For example, using the same measurement of recidivism for youth adjudicated of a status offense released from a non-secure treatment facility and a youth adjudicated of a felony sex offense released from a secure treatment facility may be invalid simply due to the nature of the offense and/or differing treatment program components. Rather, it is recommended that definitions of recidivism should be individually defined by the program and the specific population in focus.
- Recidivism data is not readily available to either public or private facilities, as it requires access to local law enforcement, MSP, and juvenile/adult court data to conduct a comprehensive and complicated individualized match of youth identifying data from public and private facilities.
- Recidivism rates for a specific program and population require multiple measures over time to develop a baseline and must be considered along with positive outcome measures such as engagement in education and employment when evaluating treatment program effectiveness.

The workgroup acknowledges the need for juvenile correctional facilities to work in collaboration with adult correctional facilities, courts, and law enforcement in order to develop the needed data, however currently there is no source of funding to support these efforts.

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 on DHS
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
Senate and House Standing Committees on Families and Human Services