

Juvenile Justice

March 5, 2024

Erin House, Director of Juvenile Justice Reform

Demetrius Starling, Senior Deputy Director, Children's Services Administration

Amy Epkey, Senior Deputy Director, Financial Operations Administration



Agenda

- Keep Kids Safe Action Agenda.
- Juvenile Justice System Overview.
- 2025 Budget Investments.



Mission

MDHHS provides services and administers programs to improve the health, safety, and prosperity of the residents of the state of Michigan.



Keeping Kids Safe



Keep Kids Safe Action Agenda Pillars

Prevention

Upstream focus to **prevent abuse** before it occurs.

Access to **community-based interventions**.

Connect families to resources and supports to promote safety and well-being.

Focused support for family thriving.

Intervention

Unyielding **child safety focus**.

Unbiased assessments and engagement.

Sensitive to **avoid conflation of poverty with neglect**.

Strength-based interventions.

Family focused, family-driven.

Stability

Engage broad array of stakeholders to support children and families.

Value **consistent and reliable resources** for families.

Leverage creativity to address family specific challenges.

Wellness

Trauma-informed, family focused.

Person-centered planning to meet unique needs.

Access to quality **physical and behavioral health supports**.

Achieve **educational outcomes**.

Access to **safe and stable housing**.

Workforce

Entrusted to take action to ensure safety and support for families.

Value for professionalism and expertise.

Encourage **innovation**.

Avoid deficit thinking.

Value **public/ private partnerships**.

Support **wellness and a positive work-life balance**.

How Does Michigan's Juvenile Justice System Work?

- **Youth**
 - Enter the juvenile justice system through local county courts via a petition.
 - May remain in system until age 19 or 21 if convicted of an extendable offense.
- **Counties**
 - Operate local probation systems.
 - Receive funding through the Child Care Fund.
- **Courts**
 - Take the following actions:
 - Divert.
 - Determine competency to proceed to trial.
 - Use consent calendar (informal agreement between courts, parents and youth on services).
 - Formal calendar (formal process if youth is not meeting probation requirements).
 - Retain case management or refer or commit a youth to MDHHS.
 - Receive funding through the Child Care Fund.

MDHHS's Juvenile Justice Role



- **Case Management**

- Provides case management and conducts risk assessments on youth referred under MCL 400.55(h) or committed under 1975 PA 150.

- **Pre-Sentence Investigations**

- Conducts pre-sentence investigations for youth who have been waived to the adult system but may be considered for sentencing as a juvenile.

- **Risk Assessments**

- Completes risk assessments, determines the level of care, and matches youth to community-based services or residential services.

- **Supervise Cases**

- As of January 2024, MDHHS supervises 447 juvenile justice cases, of which 211 are dual wards, meaning also have an open foster care case.



Juvenile Justice Reform

Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform

- The Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform was established with Executive Order 2021-06.
- Recommendations from the task force establish a statewide blueprint for aligning policies and practices across the juvenile justice continuum, including the following:
 - Expanding diversion opportunities for youth who are not a public safety risk.
 - Creating a statewide juvenile public defense system and best practice standards.
 - Increasing funding for effective community-based programs, including alternatives to incarceration and tying funding to evidence-based practices.
 - Adopting data-driven tools to guide diversion, court, and detention decisions.
 - Strengthening standards and quality assurance for local probation practices and statewide residential programs.
 - Expanding data collection to measure system performance, outcomes, and equity.
 - Establishing a statewide advisory board of youth and families impacted by the system to help guide ongoing system improvements.

Enhanced the Child Care Fund

- Effective October 2023, the Child Care Fund was enhanced to focus on establishing a framework of juvenile justice best practices statewide.
- The in-home care and community-based reimbursement rate was increased to 75% from 50%.
- The modifications to the fund support the development, expansion, and strengthening of community-based services and formal alternatives to detention and incarceration.

Expanded Placement Options

- Expanded to more than 100 placements for juvenile justice youth in the last year including the following:
 - Spectrum Juvenile Justice Services (Wayne County) – 40 secure residential beds.
 - St. Clair Youth Treatment Center (Macomb County) – 20 secure residential beds.
 - Highfields Inc. (Ingham County) - 12 beds.
 - Holy Cross Children’s Services (Saginaw) - 3 beds.
 - Bethany Christian Services (Grand Rapids) - 2 beds.
 - Team Wellness Center at Eastern Market – 45 placements for day treatment.

Building Local Continuums of Care

- MDHHS was recently awarded \$825,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice for the following:
 - Assist with assessing evidence-based prevention and intervention services.
 - Inform development of a community-based continuum of care for youth at risk of becoming or are already involved in the juvenile justice system.
 - Implement a new vision for the use of detention and secure facilities in the state.
 - Review residential placement criteria to ensure that only youth with higher risk and needs assessments are placed out of home.
 - Incentivize the use of evidence-based in-home and community-based services to serve youth, families and the community.

Uplifting Voices of Youth

- The Michigan Juvenile Justice Advisory Council (JJAC) and Michigan Juvenile Justice Family Advisory Council (JJFAC) were recently created.
- The goal of the councils is to hear from previously adjudicated youth and family members.
- Input will be shared with department, courts, legislature and others to continue to improve the system.



Fiscal Year 2025 Investments

Description

- Establish baseline case management standards.
- Provide incentives to youth.
- Augment reentry services.
- Conduct risk assessment screening.
- Establish case review process.
- Reinstate Medicaid for youth leaving detention.
- Publicly report progress on key measures.
- Improve state-operated facility infrastructure.
- Build staffing capacity.
- Adjust rates to respond to residential cost challenges.

Proposed Investment

- \$6.9 million gross (\$5.7 million GF) to implement recommendations made by the Governor's Task Force on Juvenile Justice Reform.
- \$5 million one-time GF for infrastructure improvements to the Bay Pines and Shawono Centers.

Outcomes

- Help keep kids safe.
- Reduce racial and ethnic disparities.
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of operations.
- Increase accountability and transparency.

Medicaid Community Reentry



Description

- Michigan is seeking a five-year Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver to improve the transition of incarcerated individuals back into the community.
- Federal opportunity provides states flexibility to provide Medicaid coverage for certain services for those returning to the community.
- Includes access to services to address physical and behavioral health needs, including prescription medication.

Proposed Investment

- \$30.5 million gross (\$5.6 million GF) to implement Medicaid community reentry upon approval of the federal waiver.

Outcomes

- Improve access to services prior to release.
- Provide continuity of care for release into the community.
- Reduce risk of reentry.

Questions & Discussion

MDHHS Contact Information:

Chardaé Burton
Director of Legislative Affairs
517-243-3221
BurtonC5@michigan.gov

A group of diverse young children are waving from the windows of a yellow school bus. The children are smiling and appear happy. The scene is captured from a slightly elevated angle, looking into the bus. The overall tone is warm and positive.

Thank you!