Agenda

• Foster Care Program Overview
• Performance Based System
• Modified Settlement Agreement
Child Welfare Vision and Mission

**Vision:** DHS will lead Michigan in supporting our children, youth and families to reach their full potential.

**Mission:** Child welfare professionals will demonstrate an unwavering commitment to engage and partner with families we serve to ensure safety, permanency and well-being through a trauma-informed approach.

- *Child Welfare Guiding Principles*
- *MiTEAM Case Practice Model*
Children in Foster Care

• Result of CPS investigation/substantiation
  AND
court order to remove child from the parental home.

• Court places with DHS for care, supervision, and out-of-home placement.

• DHS provides direct case management or refers to private agencies for case management.
Foster Care Program Description

• Provides placement and supervision of children who have been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect.

• Is a short-term solution to an emergency situation and permanency planning continues throughout the child’s placement in care.

• Goal is to ensure the safety, permanence and well being of children through reunification with the birth family, permanent placement with a suitable relative, or a permanent adoptive home.
DHS and Private Agencies...

- Work with parents to rectify conditions that led to the child’s removal.
  - Provision of services
    (substance abuse programming, parenting education, mental health treatment, etc.)
  - Facilitate frequent parent-child visits

- Supervise child in out-of-home placement to ensure well-being & provision of necessary services.
• Ensure compliance with:
  • Federal and state laws and rules;
  • Modified Settlement Agreement;
  • State policies
• Monitor parents’ progress and compliance with services on a regular basis.
• Report to the court every 3 months as to parents’ progress.
• Make recommendations regarding reunification, termination of parental rights, or alternate permanency plans.
Children in Foster Care Statistics

- Michigan DHS is responsible for supervision of 13,141 children as of January 31, 2015.
  - 36% are placed in foster homes
  - 30% are placed with relatives
  - 19% are being supervised in their own homes

- The number of children under DHS supervision has been declining from a peak of 19,214 in 2003.
Methods of Permanency

- Reunification/return home
- Adoption
- Guardianship
- Permanent placement w/ relative
- Another Planned Permanent Living Arrangement (APPLA)
  - Permanent Arrangement w/ Foster Parent
  OR
  - Independent Living---Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care
Role of DHS

- Recognized by federal government as single state agency (Title IV-E Agency).
- Responsible for oversight and administration of child welfare programs, policies.
- Responsible for meeting statewide child welfare goals set by federal government and federal court.
- Responsible for oversight and outcomes for all cases referred to and managed by private agency providers.
Child Welfare Funding

- Federal Title IV-E
- Federal Title IV-B
- Federal Title IV-A
- Federal Title XX
- Federal Child Abuse and Neglect Grant (CAPTA)
- Federal Chafee Foster Care Independence
- Children's Justice Act
- State General Funds
- County Funds
DHS Collaboration: Designing Performance-Based System

*Child Welfare Partnership Council*

- Private Agencies
- Private Agency Organizations
- Native American Tribes
- County Administrators
- County Commissioners
- Court Administrators
- Department of Education
- Department of Community Health
- Department of Human Services
Reforming Child Welfare
PRINCIPLES

• Maintain public-private collaboration and partnership.
• Conduct all work with transparency.
• Recognize shared responsibility:
  • DHS, private agencies, counties, courts, community
• Prioritize outcomes, not funding.
• Establish shared, transparent measurement and reporting of success and areas needing improvement.
Reforming Child Welfare
OUTCOMES

• Develop a model for a performance-based system for both public and private agencies:
  • Statewide set of goals for outcomes and metrics
  • Statewide expectation for use of MiTEAM practice model
  • Statewide expectation for use of a community-based continuous quality improvement process
• Adopt system of comprehensive assessment and services for children and families.
Reforming Child Welfare
FINANCING

- Create a simplified funding model for child welfare.
- Remove financial barriers for placement and treatment decisions.
- Re-establish cost sharing with state and counties.
- Create process to set private provider rates with periodic reviews.
  - Case Rate and Per Diem Rate
- Create process to review state funding allocations for equity to public providers.
- Allow state to become first payer for child welfare.
  - Cap on County Child Care Fund
- Incentivize positive outcomes for children and families.
FY 15 Statewide Timeline: Development Phase

• Procure contracted experts:
  • Project manager
  • Actuary
  • Independent third-party evaluator

• Plan validation of the defined set of outcomes and indicators.

• Plan to implement use of measurable performance outcomes and indicators statewide.
FY 15 Statewide Timeline: Development Phase

- Plan for the transparent publication of statewide outcomes and indicators.
- Evaluate the state, local and federal funding models to be used in Kent, and variances necessary for the model to be applicable in other areas of the state.
- Identify statutory and appropriation options to braid state, local and federal funds into cohesive funding source.
FY 15 Kent County Timeline: Development Phase

- Begin development and implementation of expanded continuous quality improvement.
- Develop a performance-based contract to be used in Kent County.
- Continue pilot work to develop a case rate in Kent County.
- Complete a full cost analysis of the model in partnership with the actuarial rate setting process.
- Finalize the actuarial developed case rate.
FY 16 Timeline: Initial Implementation Phase

• Implement pilot in Kent County.
• Continue to evaluate funding models in Kent County, and variances necessary for use in other areas of the state.
• Validate reports on performance outcomes for private and public agencies statewide and provide transparent access.
• Conduct an analysis of the pilot experience in Kent County to inform further planning for further expansion in other areas of the state.
Modified Settlement Agreement

- Last Monitor Report on Performance (MSA 5) and Status Hearing: September 29, 2014
- MSA 6 Period ended: June 30, 2014
  - MSA 6 Status Hearing: April 13, 2015
- MSA 7 Period: July 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014
- MSA 8 Period: January 1, 2015 – June 30, 2015
Federal Court Update

• Evidence of Sustained Progress
  • Adoptions; Staff Qualifications and Training; Caseloads; Federal Permanency Outcomes

• Challenges/Areas of Focus
  • Timely Commencement of Investigation; Timely Medicals/Dentals; Relative Placements – Assessment, Licensure, Waivers, Support; Safety Outcomes; Detention – DHS opposes when no charge on youth; Overuse of Shelters for Children
Accomplishments

- Adoptions
- Staff Training
- Expanded Services for Older Youth Exiting Care
- Enhanced MiTEAM
- Centralized Intake
- MiSACWIS
- DCQI
Expanded Services for Youth

- Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care (YAVFC)
  - Extension of Foster Care Support Services to Age 21
  - Participants Must Be Employed or Enrolled in an Educational Program

- Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP)
  - Similar to Adoption Subsidy
  - Financial Support to Ensure Permanency Via Guardianship
  - Can Continue Through Age 21 if in School, Job Training, or Employed

- Fostering Futures
  - Partnership Between Michigan Education Trust and DHS
  - College Scholarships for Youth Formerly in Foster Care
MiSACWIS

- Michigan Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System
  - Implemented April 2014
  - Team Approach
  - 3-week Development and Release Cycle
- Strike Teams in the Field
Division of Continuous Quality Improvement

- Quality Services Review (QSR)
  - Assesses County Child Welfare System
  - Relies on Interviews, Focus Groups, and Stakeholder Feedback
  - Identifies Strengths and Areas of Improvement
- QSR Implemented in 8 counties in FY14 and full calendar in FY 15
Areas of Continued Focus

- Safety
- Unlicensed Relative Placements
- Social Work Contacts
- Placements in Shelter, Jail, Detention
Resource Information

- Performance-Based Task Force Report
- Federal Court Reports
  http://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-5459_7701_51390---,00.html
- DHS Policy and Procedures Manuals
  http://www.mfia.state.mi.us/olmweb/ex/html/
Questions?

Thank you!