Michigan Department
of
Health and Human Services

Foster Care Overview

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

MiTEAM
Case Practice Model

MiTEAM

- Links the organizational values and guiding principles of MDHHS to specific interventions and activities that all children, families, and caregivers should experience, such as:
  - Comprehensive assessments of strengths and needs
  - Meaningful involvement in case planning
  - Effective services tailored to identified needs
  - Active involvement in the family teaming process

Foster Care Program Description

The Foster Care Program

- 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.

Children in Foster Care Statistics

- Michigan DHHS is responsible for supervision of 13,009 children as of September 30, 2015.
  - 35% are placed in foster homes
  - 31% are placed with relatives
  - 17% are being supervised in their own homes

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

Children in Foster Care

- Result of CPS investigation/substantiation

  AND

  court intervention to remove child from the parental home.

- Court places with MDHHS for care, supervision, and out-of-home placement

MDHHS 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.

MDHHS and Private Agencies…

- 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

The Court's Role…

Formal Court hearings

- Disposition (within 35 days of adjudication/trial)
- Review hearings every 92 days thereafter
- Permanency Planning Hearing no later than 1 year after the child's removal to decide if:
    - Child should be returned home
    - Child should continue in foster care
    - The process should begin to terminate parental rights

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

Foster Care Outcomes

Michigan DHHS

- Continues to improve in ensuring children are safe while in foster care.
- Continues improve in the area of timeliness to permanency within 12 months.
  - Median length of time to reunification is 13.8 months
- Exceeds the national standard in rate of foster care re-entry.
- Exceeds the national standard in timely adoptions and achieving permanency for children in care for long periods of time.
- Exceeds the national standard in placement stability.

Resource Information

DHS Policy and Procedures Manuals
http://www.mfia.state.mi.us/olmweb/ex/html/

Questions?

Thank you!