Michigan Department of Human Services

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INTERIM DIRECTOR

Agenda

- Assistance and Services
- Modified Settlement Agreement
- DHS Accomplishments
- The Future of DHS/DCH
- Contact Information

DHS Mission/Vision

Mission:
Improving the quality of life in Michigan by providing services to vulnerable children and adults that will strengthen the community and enable families and individuals to move toward independence.

Vision:
Protection. Compassion. Independence

Protecting the Vulnerable

The DHS mission includes protection and services for vulnerable children and adults:

- Children's Protective Services, Foster Care, Adoption
- Safe Delivery of Newborns and Safe Sleep for Infants
- Juvenile Justice
- Adult Protective Services, Adult Foster Care and Homes for the Aged
- Rehabilitation Services and Independent Living Services
- Domestic Violence and Prevention Services
- Licensing of Child Caring Institutions, Family and Group Child Care Homes and Child Care Centers

Assistance and Services

- DHS administers an array of assistance programs for Michigan residents on their path to self-sufficiency.
- Includes food assistance, child care, health services, cash benefits, etc.,
- The department works with families in need.
- The department is also responsible for child welfare, including the well-being of nearly 13,000 children in foster care.

Family Independence Program

- Help families achieve self-support and independence.
- Reduce dependence on public assistance and increase self-sufficiency.
- FIP provides a monthly cash assistance grant to assist in covering personal needs costs (clothing, household items, etc.), housing, heat, utilities and food.
- Families must meet income and asset requirements as well and other eligibility standards including (but not limited to): time on assistance, work participation requirements, school attendance and child support requirements.

Food Assistance Program

- Raise the food purchasing power of low-income persons.
- FAP is a federal safety net program and benefits are 100 percent federally funded with administrative costs shared equally between the state and the federal government.
- Households are eligible for FAP benefits based on criteria such as, but not limited to: assets, net income, household size, and certain expenses.

State Emergency Relief (SER)

- Prevent serious harm to individuals and families by helping them obtain safe, decent and affordable shelter and other covered services
- Must face an emergency that threatens health or safety due to factors or conditions beyond their control.
- The SER applicant group must be physically present in Michigan at the time of application.
- Emergency must be resolvable through issuance of SER.
- Covered services include: relocation; emergency shelter; home ownership; home repairs; utility assistance; burial; and heating fuel and electricity.

Michigan Rehabilitative Services

- MRS partners with individuals to achieve quality employment outcomes and independence for individuals with disabilities.
- Vocational rehabilitation services are specific to an individual's disability, related functional limitation(s) and the essential job functions of a position.
- Eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services is determined by vocational counselors who are required to have a master's degree in rehabilitation counseling or related field.

Other DHS Activities

- Community Services
- Office of Family Advocate
- Fraud and Recoupment
- Interagency Collaboration and Reengineering
- Disability Determination

Children's Services

- **Prevention/Family Preservation:**

Preventive Services for Families (PSF) is designed to preserve and strengthen family functioning in order to prevent child abuse and neglect.

- **Children's Protective Services:**

The Children's Protective Services (CPS) program is responsible for investigating allegations of abuse and neglect.

- **Foster Care:**

Foster care identifies and places children in safe homes when they cannot remain with their families because of safety concerns

Children's Services

- **Adoption:**

The primary focus of Michigan's adoption program is the adoptive placement of state and permanent court wards

- **Juvenile Justice:**

The Michigan Juvenile Justice system focuses on building safer Michigan communities and assisting youth to become healthy and productive citizens through proactive delinquency prevention, efficient law enforcement, effective rehabilitative treatment, statewide data collection and data sharing and comprehensive community reintegration and support services.

Children's Services

Guiding Principles:

- ***Safety:*** Our desired outcome is that children are safe from abuse and neglect. Parents/legal guardians are responsible for keeping their own children safe. DHS and private agency providers can intervene on behalf of the child when a safe home does not exist.

- ***Permanency:*** The primary goal for the children and families involved with DHS and private agency providers is permanency – a safe, stable home in which to live and grow including life-long relationships with a nurturing caregiver. When the home is not safe and stable option, the goal is to move children from the uncertainty of foster care to the security of a permanent family.

- ***Child Well-being:*** Implementing interventions that provide protective and positive outcomes to ensure that children thrive in safe, permanent homes with access to necessary resources for long-term stability.

Children's Services

- 13,036 Youth in foster care
- 2,576 Youth available for adoption
- 11,636 CPS complaints filed in December.
- 665 Active Juvenile Justice youth within DHS
- 100 Youth in state facilities at end of December

Modified Settlement Agreement

- Complied or substantially complied with 165 of 211 federal goals in child welfare system modified settlement agreement.
- Department goal is to eventually exit modified settlement agreement, or reduce areas of monitoring where targets have been met.
- DHS continues to work with judge, court monitors and plaintiffs to demonstrate improved outcomes for children.

Modified Settlement Agreement

- Adoptions and Guardianships - 89% of children available for adoption were adopted in 2013, far exceeding the MSA goal 77%.
- Exceeded goal in the MSA to finalize 165 juvenile guardianships and finalized in 508 in 2013.
- Staff Training – 94% of new workers completed initial training within required timeframes and 99% of workers and supervisors completed yearly in-service training as required.
- Caseloads - Significantly lowered caseloads, exceeding interim caseload targets for supervisors, CPS investigators and ongoing workers and meeting the final target for licensing workers. Within 4% of target for foster care, adoption, and POS workers.
- Federal Permanency Outcomes - Continues to exceed the national standards on permanency outcomes for three of the four outcomes.

DHS Accomplishments

- The Fostering Futures scholarship fundraising led by MET in conjunction with DHS raised more than $227,000. Fostering Futures created further educational attainment opportunities for almost 400 foster youth attending higher education institutions.

- Reinvented the child support case intake process, increasing productivity by 36 percent, reducing complaints by 90% and reducing customer wait times from weeks to less than 5 minutes.

- Selected as one of 4 states to participate in National Governors Assoc. Learning Lab on Improving Outcomes for Justice-Involved Youth, which make recommendations on improvements to the juvenile justice system.

DHS Accomplishments

- The Children's Trust Fund brought together more than 500 policymakers, business leaders, advocates and others to raise more than $500,000.

- Pathways to Potential continued to expand and reduce school attendance issues. Pathways caseworkers are now in 219 schools in 22 counties. Chronic absenteeism in Pathways schools decreased by 33 percent.

- The work participation rate for cash assistance clients increased to 62 percent – up from just over 20 percent in 2010.

DHS Accomplishments

- Worked with DCH to successfully implement Healthy Michigan Plan, enrolling more than 530,000 beneficiaries.
- Complied or substantially complied with 165 of 211 federal goals in child welfare system modified settlement agreement.
- Expansion of the Michigan Youth Opportunity Initiative programing to older youths in foster care with the addition of three more sites. An additional 250 new youths were enrolled statewide, resulting in more than 700 youth actively enrolled in 2014.

Pathways to Potential

To help families, Pathways to Potential places a qualified DHS workers, called success coaches into schools to address families' barriers to self-sufficiency in key outcome areas:

- Safety
- Health
- Education
- Attendance
- Self-sufficiency

Pathways is in 219 schools in 22 counties.

Pathways to Potential

Focus Areas:

- Going into the community where the customer is located.
- Working one-on-one with families to identify and remove barriers.
- Engaging community partners and school personnel to help students and families find their pathway to success.

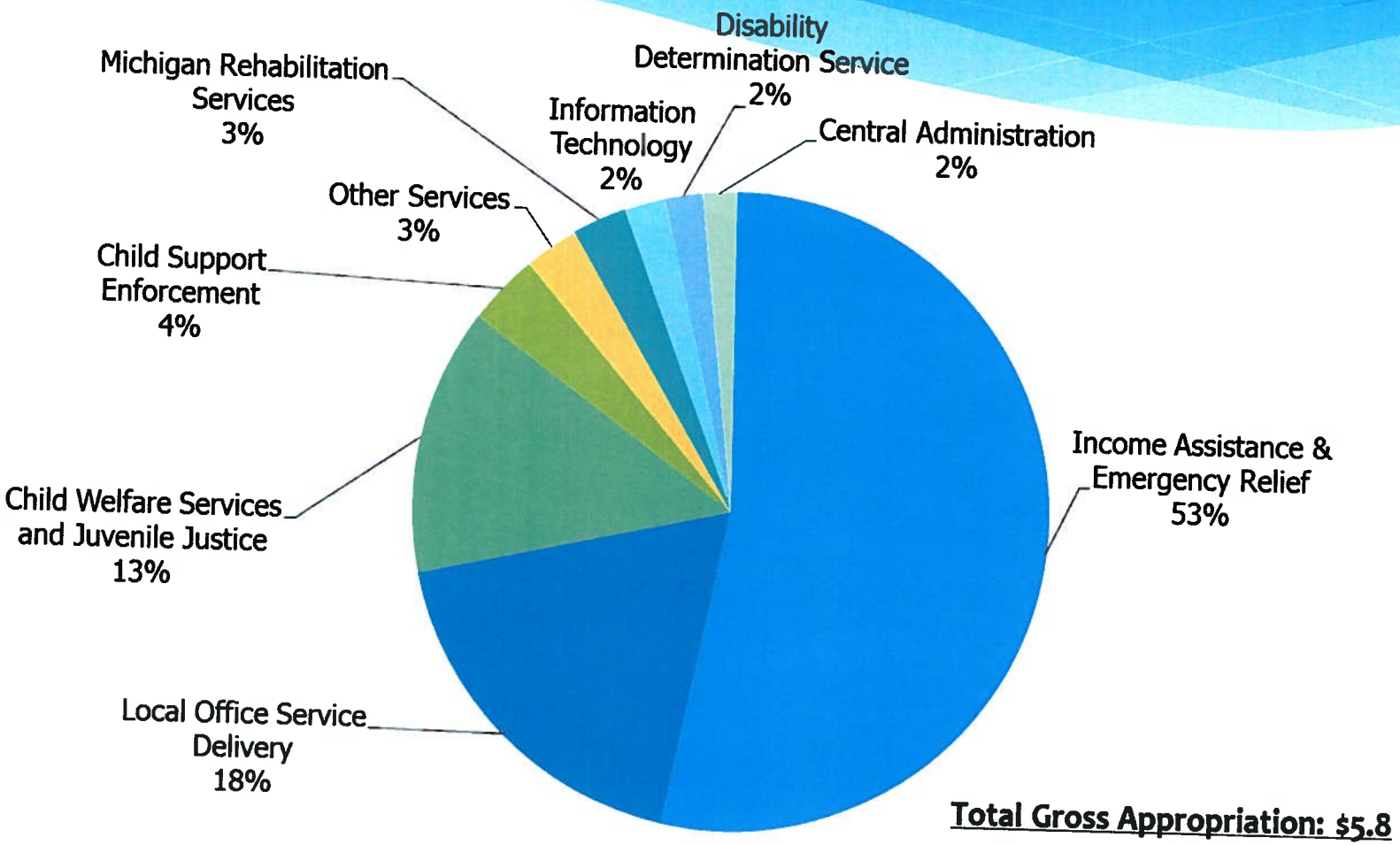
The Future of DHS/DCH

- The River of Opportunity
- New way to structure government that puts people first.
- Efficient, effective, and accountable government that collaborates on a scale never seen to provide good service.
- Pathways Potential to Potential Program is an example, placing caseworkers in schools so they can focus on the whole person/family.
- Forthcoming Executive Order

Contact Information

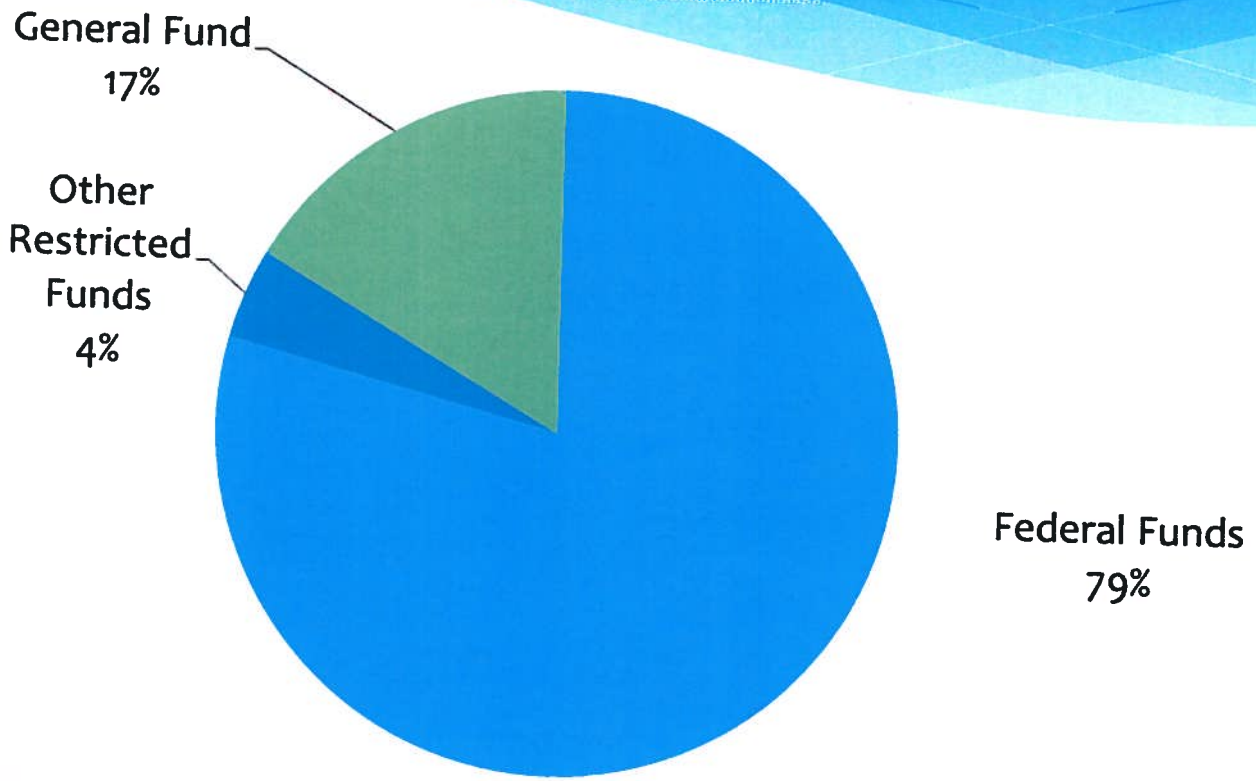
- Nick Lyon, Interim Director 517-335-0267
- Steve Yager, Deputy Director – Children's Services 517-241-7251
- Terry Beurer, Deputy Director – Field Operations 517-241-2352
- Susan Kangas, Deputy Director – Financial Services 517-373-7787
- Karyn Ferrick, Angela Madden, Bruce Noll – Legislative Services 517-241-5012
- David Russell, Acting Director – Office of Inspector General 517-335-7789
- Erin Frisch, Director – Office of Child Support 517-241-7460
- Seth Perksy, Director – Office of Family Advocate 517-335-3969
- Bill Hardiman, Director – Interagency Collaboration 517-241-2205

2015 Gross Appropriation



Total Gross Appropriation: $5.8

2015 Appropriation by Funding Source



Total Gross Appropriation: $5.8 Billion

Questions?

Thank you!