



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

January 31, 2013

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 PA 200 of 2012, Section 511 (2) of the Department of Human Services (DHS) Fiscal Year 2013 Appropriations Act. This section requires that DHS submit a quarterly report on the number and percentage of children in the foster care and juvenile justice systems who received a physical and mental health assessment before placement.

Prior to local courts placing youth with DHS under either the neglect or the juvenile justice systems, a youth's legal parent or guardian has responsibility to meet the child's physical and mental health needs. DHS does not have a system to track a child's participation with either medical or mental health systems prior to placement; therefore DHS is unable to produce pre-placement physical and mental health assessment data.

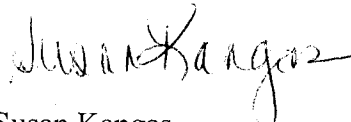
DHS does, however, evaluate the needs of children placed into foster care and juvenile justice under the supervision of the department within 30 days of placement. The assessments conducted specifically require evaluation of medical and emotional/mental health issues and that evaluation drives the development and delivery of appropriate services.

Further, as a function of compliance with the Modified Settlement Agreement, DHS evaluates the completion of initial medical and mental health screenings for children entering foster care. Every six months, the Children's Services Administration, Division of Continuous Quality Improvement evaluates initial medical and mental health screenings through a qualitative case review of a representative sample of children that entered care during a defined three-month period. The case reviews conducted for children who entered foster care between January 1, 2012, and March 31,

2012, indicated 87.7 percent of children received timely health examinations after entry into foster care. For the same sample, 81.5 percent of children entering foster care received a required mental health examination after entry into foster care.

If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Campau, executive assistant to Deputy Director Steve Yager, at (517) 241-3294.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Kangas".

Susan Kangas
Chief Financial Officer

cc: Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees
Senate and House Fiscal Agencies
Senate and House Policy Offices
Senate and House Standing Committees on Families and Human Services