



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

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INTERIM DIRECTOR

February 5, 2015

The Honorable Peter MacGregor, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS  
Michigan State Senate  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

The Honorable Earl Poleski, Chair  
House Appropriations Subcommittee on DHS  
Michigan House of Representatives  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator MacGregor and Representative Poleski:

This report is provided pursuant to the Department of Human Services' (DHS') Fiscal Year 2015 Appropriations Act, PA 252 of 2014, Article X, Section 513 (6). This section requires that DHS submit a report on the status of efforts to work in conjunction with the courts and the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) to identify data needed to calculate statewide recidivism rates for adjudicated youth placed in either residential secure or non-secure facilities, defined at six months after a youth is released from placement.

In the course of the department's collaboration with the courts and SCAO to identify the data needed to calculate statewide recidivism rates, DHS noted the following:

- A statewide definition of recidivism cannot be readily agreed upon and established, as the data elements to measure recidivism are dependent on the purpose and population of the measure. For example, using the same measurement of recidivism for youth adjudicated of a status offense released from a non-secure treatment facility and a youth adjudicated of a felony sex offense released from a secure treatment facility may be invalid simply due to the nature of the offense and/or differing treatment program components. Rather, it is recommended that definitions of recidivism should be individually defined by the program and the specific population in focus.
- Recidivism data is not readily available to either public or private facilities, as it requires access to local law enforcement, MSP, and juvenile/adult court data to conduct a comprehensive and complicated individualized match of youth identifying data from public and private facilities.

- Recidivism rates for a specific program and population require multiple measures over time to develop a baseline and must be considered along with positive outcome measures such as engagement in education and employment when evaluating treatment program effectiveness.

The DHS acknowledges the need for juvenile correctional facilities to work in collaboration with adult correctional facilities, courts, and law enforcement in order to develop the needed data; however currently there is no source of funding to support these efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Herman McCall, Juvenile Justice Programs director, at (517) 335-3489.

Sincerely,



Susan Kangas  
Chief Financial Officer