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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

MAURA D. CORRIGAN
DIRECTOR

February 7, 2014

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 the Department of Human Services' (DHS') Fiscal Year 2014 Appropriations Act, PA 59 of 2013, Article X, Section 583. This section requires that DHS submit a report on the number and percentage of foster parents that dropped out of the program in the previous fiscal year, the reasons the foster parents left the program and how those figures compare to prior fiscal years. This section also requires that DHS submit a report on the number and percentage of foster parents successfully retained in the previous fiscal year and how those figures compare to prior fiscal years.

The attached report addresses the aforementioned reporting requirements. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Campau, executive assistant to Children's Services Director Steve Yager, at (517) 241-8606.

Sincerely,

Susan Kangas
Chief Financial Officer

Attachment: Boilerplate Report Section 583

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

Boilerplate Report Section 583

Foster Home Closures:

In FY 2013, 2,327 foster homes closed with a 33% attrition rate.¹ Twenty-six percent of the foster homes that closed were relative homes and 74% were non-relative foster homes. In FY 2012, 2,089 foster homes closed with a 29% attrition rate. Twenty-four percent of the foster homes that closed were relative homes and 76% were non-relative foster homes.

Since FY 2010, the number of children exiting foster care has exceeded the number of children entering foster care by 13%. Despite a slight increase in the number of foster homes closed in FY 2013, the Department of Human Services (DHS) remains committed to ensuring a sufficient and adequate array of foster homes for children entering foster care.

Foster Home Retention:

On October 1, 2012, there were 7,023 licensed foster homes. On September 30, 2013, 4,888 of those licensed foster parents remained licensed, which is a 70% retention rate and a 3% increase from FY 2012. At the beginning of FY 2012, there were 7,238 licensed foster homes. On September 30, 2013, 4,883 of those licensed foster parents remained licensed, which is a 67% retention rate.

In addition to a 70% retention rate for FY 2013, 92% of the 2,321 foster homes licensed during FY 2013 remained licensed as of September 30, 2013, which is a 2% increase from fiscal year 2012. Ninety percent of the 2,143 foster homes licensed during FY 2012 remained licensed at the end of FY 2012.

Reasons Foster Parents Left the Program: Foster Home Closure Surveys:

To assist DHS in recruiting and retaining foster homes, each month the Bureau of Child Welfare sends surveys to DHS and Private Agency Foster Care (PAFC) foster parents whose foster care home closed during the previous month. The survey inquiry includes the length of time as a foster parent, reasons for becoming a foster parent, issues and concerns associated with being a foster parent, and the reasons for not continuing as a foster parent. There was a 42% response rate to the FY 2013 closed foster care home survey. The following are FY 2013 survey results:

- The top four reasons foster parents closed their license:
 - Adopted the child(ren) placed with them
 - Need to focus on family needs
 - Demands/stress of being a foster parent
 - Frustration with court/agency/foster care system

- The top three challenges of being a foster parent:
 - Child(ren)'s behavior
 - Parenting time
 - Court process

¹ Foster home closures are defined as parents that dropped out of the program due to the following reasons: adoption; death; lack of response to license renewal; voluntary withdrawal and administrative closure.