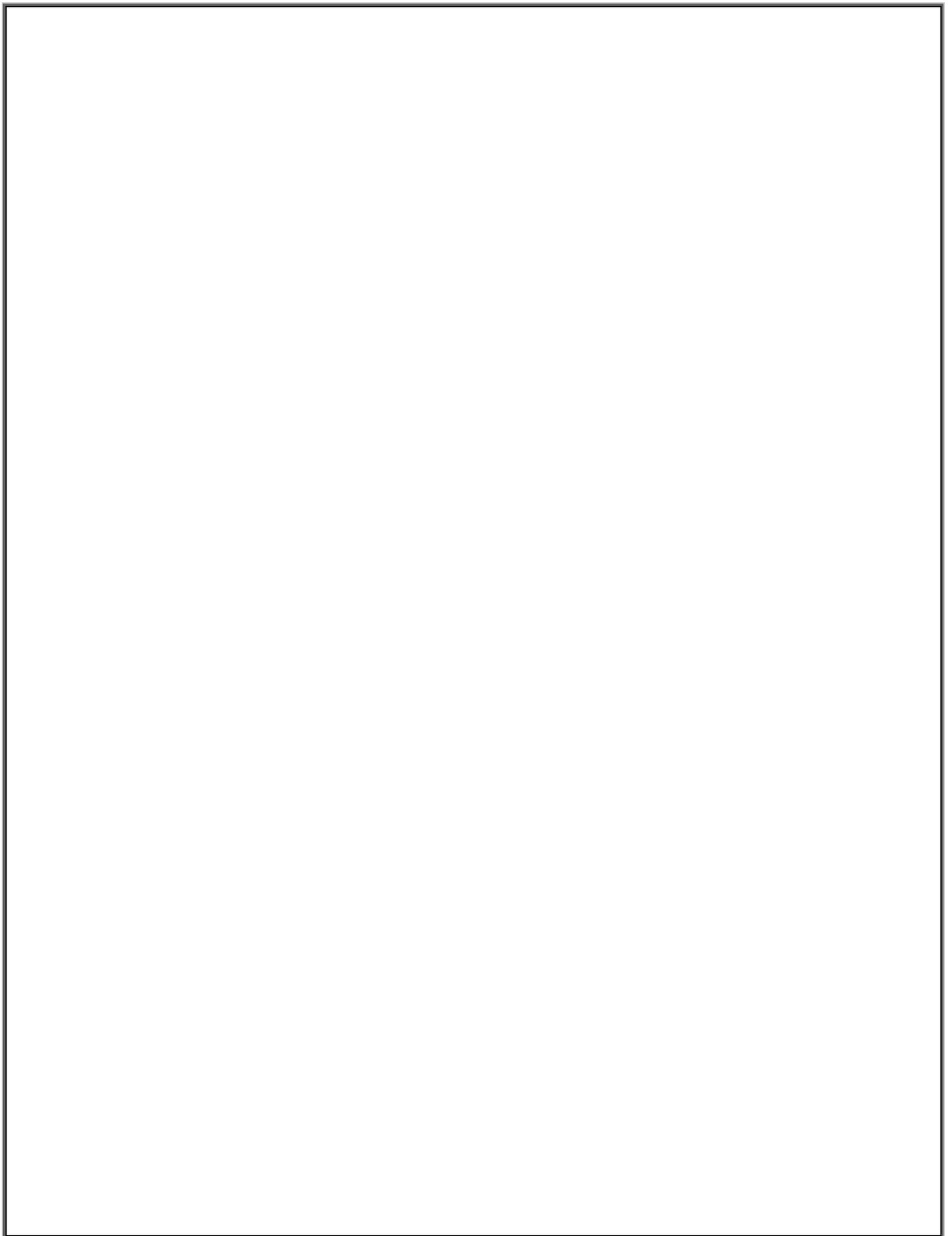


Michigan Supreme Court
State Court Administrative Office

**Michigan Foster Care Review Board
2008 ANNUAL REPORT**







Michigan Supreme Court

State Court Administrative Office
Michigan Hall of Justice
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Carl L. Gromek, Chief of Staff
State Court Administrator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor Jennifer Granholm
Honorable Members of the Michigan Legislature

FROM: Carl L. Gromek, State Court Administrator

DATE: July 10, 2009 

SUBJECT: 2008 Foster Care Review Board Annual Report

It is my pleasure to present the 2008 Annual Report of the Foster Care Review Board. This report, submitted to you pursuant to 1997 PA 170, Section 9, provides both an overview of the review board's functions and some program highlights and details from this past year. Included are data, trend summaries, and observations gleaned by the board during 2008 from the review of cases involving over 1,500 children in foster care. These reviews were conducted by 200 dedicated and well-trained citizen volunteers. The information obtained from those case reviews provides an objective, third-party evaluation of the care that Michigan's foster care system provides to abused and neglected children.

This year's report discusses significant changes made to the program's review process in order to accommodate changing economic conditions and the multiple challenges facing the Department of Human Services in its efforts to ensure safety, well-being, and timely permanency for the children in our foster care system. The report focuses particularly on Michigan's performance in reunifying families, including recommendations for further improvements.

I hope the enclosed report will prove valuable to all involved parties as we work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for the children and families served by our state foster care system.

Please feel free to contact Jim Novell, Program Manager for the Foster Care Review Board, at (313) 972-3288 with any questions you may have regarding this report.

/jn

FCRB MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Foster Care Review Board is to utilize citizen volunteers to review and evaluate permanency planning processes and outcomes for children and families in the Michigan foster care system. Based on the data collected through case review, the Foster Care Review Board advocates for systemic improvements in areas of child safety, timely permanency, and family and child well-being.



FCRB VISION STATEMENT

The Foster Care Review Board will be viewed and valued by the courts, the Department of Human Services, private child-placing agencies, the Legislature, and the citizens of Michigan as a major source of credible data on the performance of the child welfare system. Additionally, citizens of the state will use the data to shape public policy and promote awareness regarding the child foster care system.

INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present the 2008 Annual Report of Michigan's Foster Care Review Board Program.

The Foster Care Review Board Program (FCRB) provides third-party reviews of cases in the state child foster care system. Established by the Michigan Legislature in 1984 Public Act 422, as subsequently amended by 1986 PA 159, 1989 PA 74, and 1997 PA 170, the FCRB helps ensure that children are safe and well cared for while in the state foster care system, and that their cases move toward permanency in a timely and efficient manner. The FCRB helps to achieve those goals by randomly reviewing individual foster child cases within each county, and then making case-specific recommendations to the family division of the local circuit court, to local offices of the Department of Human Services (DHS), and to contracted agencies.

Citizen review remains a cost-efficient and effective means of providing the courts, DHS, the Legislature, and other interested parties with an objective perspective on the foster care case management process. It also serves to identify systemic barriers to permanency and child well-being.

The FCRB's 30 local review boards are composed of citizen volunteers from a variety of professions and backgrounds. The volunteers are recruited, screened, and then trained on key aspects of the child welfare and foster care systems, including court policy and rules, federal funding requirements, DHS policy, and the state statutes regarding child protection.

This annual report is our opportunity to detail the FCRB's recent efforts and to share with Michigan's policymakers some of the systemic issues that our citizen volunteers have identified while reviewing foster care cases from throughout the state.

In 2008, the FCRB initiated significant revisions to the program's practices and the methods used to conduct reviews. These changes were made in response to (a) continued difficulty obtaining essential case information from the Department of Human Services, and (b) recommendations made by the State Auditor General in his 2007 report. Revision highlights include the following:

- Case reviews and appeals are no longer conducted at designated community-based sites; all reviews are now held at local county DHS offices.
- The board now reviews the actual case file, eliminating the need for local DHS offices to copy case files and mail them to the board. DHS electronically transmits "Updated Service Plans" to the FCRB office, which are then sent to volunteers prior to each review.

The primary benefits of these revisions are as follows:

- A more efficient review process that reduces the workload (and frustrations) of both FCRB and DHS staff related to the transfer and processing of case information.
- A significant decrease in annual program costs for paper, copy supplies, and postage (estimated at \$35,000 annually).
- A reduction in travel for DHS workers.

- Increased participation by interested parties, resulting in a more comprehensive review of each case.
- Improved relationships and collaboration between the FCRB and the local DHS offices.
- Fewer case cancellations and missed reviews.

Michigan's foster care system remains under close scrutiny due to the upcoming federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) in September 2009, and the *Children's Rights (Dwayne B v Granholm)* lawsuit settlement agreement that requires significant upgrades and improvements to Michigan's child welfare system (many of which were recommended in previous FCRB Annual Reports).

The 2007 FCRB report highlighted concerns regarding the local courts' role in facilitating safe and timely permanency for children in foster care. Related recommendations regarding initial judicial training are being addressed through the Court Improvement Program (CIP) of the State Court Administrative Office. (This includes development of a training curriculum for new judges assigned to child protection cases and a process for training new judges shortly after they are assigned.) The CIP has obtained a data grant from the federal government to establish with DHS a shared data system that will help to track court processes related to timeliness of permanency and child safety and well-being. Our recommendation regarding continuing education for judges and attorneys was included in the Michigan Child Welfare Improvement Taskforce report in April 2009. The recommendation for tracking court compliance with federal regulations is to be addressed through the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) that will be developed in response to the outcome of the 2009 Child and Family Services Review. Another recommendation, for the direct election of judges to the family division of the circuit court, reportedly would require a constitutional amendment that presently does not appear to have legislative or judicial support. Finally, the FCRB has not received a response from DHS regarding the recommendation that they collaborate with the SCAO in training case workers to interact effectively with the court.

This year's annual report focuses on important issues related to reunifying children with their families. Data generated by the Department of Human Services and by FCRB case reviews during this past year indicate that a relatively low percentage of foster children in Michigan are reunified with their parents after being removed from the parents' care and placed in foster care. Furthermore, the average successful reunification takes longer than the time frame established by the federal Children and Family Services Review.

As always, FCRB program staff and volunteers hope that the information, observations, and recommendations in this annual report will be strongly considered and acted upon by the leaders and officials in our state who are ultimately responsible for the safety and well-being of the children served by our state foster care system.

2008 PERMANENCY OUTCOMES

Number of children closed for review in 2008 who Achieved the following permanency goal or discharge status	#	Average Number of Days in Care	Percent of Children
Placement with Parent(s)	198	611	34.14%
Permanent Relative Placement	3	1,735	0.52%
Adoption	317	915	54.66%
Legal Guardianship	3	625	0.52%
Long Term Foster Care	4	1,010	0.69%
AWOL	2	2,749	.34%
Other (Tribal Ward, etc.)	20	1,264	3.45%
APPLA- Another Permanency Planned Living Arrangement			
Permanent Foster Family Agreement	19	1,068	3.28 %
Independent Living	1	3,391	0.17%
Emancipation	13	1,204	2.24%

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

In the child welfare context, “family reunification” refers to the process of permanently returning foster children to their family of origin. This is the preferred permanency goal for children in out-of-home care under a court’s jurisdiction. Timely reunification serves a child’s best interests because children suffer significant adverse emotional and developmental consequences when separated from their parents for long periods of time -- or when family ties are permanently dissolved. In addition, the safe and timely return of children to their parents’ homes conserves the increasingly limited resources of the child welfare system.

The principle of family reunification is both inherently natural and deeply rooted in American law and tradition. A key underlying tenet of state and national child welfare policy holds that it serves a child’s best interests to be raised by his or her parents whenever possible. Numerous federal court decisions have concurred that parents have the fundamental right to direct the care, custody, and control of their children; our society presumes that, unless proven otherwise, parents will act in the child’s best interests.

The primary objectives of federal child welfare legislation¹ are to prevent the unnecessary removal of children from their own homes and reduce the length of time a child spends in foster care. If removal does become necessary, children should then be reunited expeditiously with their parents, provided that the parents have received and benefitted from support and services ensuring that they can safely care for their children.

Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS)² data shows that nationally, family reunification is the route by which the majority of children (53 percent) exit the foster care system.

¹ The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 and the subsequent Adoption and Safe Families Acts of 1997.

² Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) report, FY 2006, www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm#afcars

In Michigan, 51 percent exited by reunification in 2008, but we lag significantly in the timeliness of reunifications. Whereas the national standard for reunification within 12 months is 75 percent, Michigan reunified only 48 percent of foster children within 12 months. Whereas the national median length of stay for ultimately reunified children is 5.4 months, Michigan's median length of stay currently is 12.5 months.

Foster Care Review Board data for 2008 indicates that in Michigan, only 34 percent of the children whose cases were closed in 2008 were reunited with their parents. The average length of stay in foster care for those children was 617 days.

Michigan does have one of the best rates in the nation for keeping children in their own parents' homes permanently once they return home. However, no significant studies link long stays in foster care to the permanency of reunification. To the contrary, the literature suggests that the longer children are in foster care, the less likely they are to achieve reunification.

A review of the literature, including information obtained from the (federal) Children's Bureau's State CFSR Final Reports, shows that numerous factors interact and play important roles in a state's ability to reunify foster children with their birth families in a timely manner.

As a prologue to this annual report's recommendations, we will summarize the factors considered essential to safe and timely reunification; identify practices in those states that do well in achieving safe and timely reunification; identify barriers that may interfere with the process, specifically those observed by the FCRB's local boards in Michigan cases; and note some best practices and available technology that would further promote safe and timely reunification of children with their families.

Various studies identify the following case activities as *essential* to the reunification process:

- Accurate early assessments of parental needs and strengths.
- Case service plans that clearly specify what parents must achieve and demonstrate in order to have their children returned to their care.
- Inclusion of the parents/family in the case planning process.
- Supportive engagement of the family in services.
- Timely service provision.
- Provision of services that effectively address the parent's *specific* needs.
- Strong judicial oversight to ensure that reasonable efforts are made to achieve the permanency plan.
- Strong and competent legal representation for parents.
- Provision of postreunification services once the child is back in the home.

PARENTAL VISITATION

Parental visitations with children after they have entered foster care can be a key to achieving timely reunification. Research indicates that regular and frequent parental visitation, preferably in the child's home or the home of a relative, increases the likelihood of successful reunification, maintains or promotes healthy attachment, and reduces the traumatic effect of the separation for both the child and the parent.

The literature indicates that parent-child visitation should be viewed not just as a perfunctory requirement, but as a planned therapeutic intervention that offers the opportunity to begin healing a damaged or troubled relationship. Frequent visitation allows the parent to practice new parenting skills and attitudes. It also allows the caseworker to evaluate the parent-child relationship and the parents' ability and willingness to learn new ways of interacting with their child.

Research concludes that visitation usually occurs too infrequently, much to the detriment of the parent-child relationship. Frequent visits (minimum of once a week, and more frequently for children ages 0-3) are recommended. Frequent visits help to determine at an early stage the likelihood of successful reunification, and they are absolutely essential to maintaining a sense of connectedness between the child and parent. This is especially important with parents who are ambivalent about their commitment to the child. Frequent, supportive visitation helps to maintain the parents' connection to the child and increase their confidence in their ability to become successful parents.

The literature also shows that agencies often justify too infrequent visitation opportunities by citing either a lack of resources to provide the necessary supervision and parental support or the agency's belief that parents must "earn" additional time with their children. This issue was addressed in an article by Judge Leonard Edwards, former president of the National Council on Juvenile and Family Court Judges, who wrote:

"Removing children from their parents is not about punishing the child or the parent for abusive or neglectful behaviors. The criminal law is written to address punishment for bad actions. The child protection system is about protecting children, supporting parents' growth, and, if possible, reunifying children with their parents. It is also about serving the best interests of children. In this context, visitation is a critical element, one that is often overlooked by members of the child protection system."³

Judge Edwards also advises that the court's obligation to make "reasonable efforts" findings requires the jurist to decide whether the parent has been afforded frequent and meaningful visitation. He, too, believes that a state agency's plea of insufficient resources should not excuse restricting visitation. He suggests, for example, that the court and agency employ creative visitation methods that include not only face-to-face supervised interactions, but also parent participation in school functions, religious ceremonies, medical and dental appointments, and extracurricular activities such as sports and school plays.

³ *Judicial Oversight of Parental Visitation in Family Reunification Cases*, Judge Leonard P. Edwards, *Juvenile and Family Court Journal*, Spring 2003.

ADDITIONAL KEY ELEMENTS

Two additional key elements necessary for promoting timely reunification are identified in the literature: (1) the relationship between the caseworker and the family, and (2) the involvement of foster parents.

Factors identified as important to the caseworker's ability to establish a relationship with the parent that is conducive to reunification include:

- An ability to facilitate open, honest communication with the parent.
- Willingness of the caseworker to request and utilize family input and feedback while developing the case plan.
- Provision of supportive instruction and reinforcement to parents during activities and interactions with the child.

Foster parent involvement that promotes reunification includes:

- The mentoring of birth parents by foster parents.
- Support of parental visitation and the foster parents' willingness to supervise visits.
- The foster parents' willingness to maintain an ongoing supportive relationship with the parent and children subsequent to reunification.

BARRIERS TO REUNIFICATION

Systemic barriers to timely and permanent reunification include the absence of many of the above-noted essential practices.

Additional barriers include the absence of adequate and effective services for parents, particularly those with severe and recurring mental health or drug abuse problems; long waiting lists for needed services; limited low income housing; inexperienced caseworkers; high caseworker caseloads and turnover rates; crowded court dockets; and inadequate parental legal representation.

While reviewing individual children's cases, the Foster Care Review Board has noted many substantive barriers to reunification. They include:

- Absence of frequent visitation that is supportive, instructive, and sufficient to maintain the parent-child connection.
- Parenting classes that are generic and didactic and do not address individual parents' specific needs or accurately measure their improved parenting skills.
- Lack of meaningful parental involvement in the case planning process. (Most parents report that the plan is developed by the caseworker and essentially imposed upon the parent.)

- Case service plans that do not clearly specify what parents must achieve or demonstrate to have their children returned.
- A propensity of courts and agencies to wait 12 months or longer to determine if reunification should remain the primary permanency plan.
- Inadequate legal representation for parents. In some counties, the court fails to appoint counsel unless requested by the parents. Many parents report a lack of contact with their court appointed attorney, and often a lack of knowledgeable and zealous representation by the attorney.

BEST PRACTICE STRATEGIES

Three systemic strategies that have contributed to achieving more frequent and timely reunification in other states include:

1. Concurrent permanency planning.
2. Permanency planning mediation.
3. “Front-loading” services.

These strategies share a common theme. They all focus on respectfully and fully engaging families in the decision-making process as it concerns their children and themselves, thus increasing a parent’s willingness to invest in the process.

Concurrent permanency planning has been utilized in a number of states that have good reunification outcomes. They value this planning method for its structured, focused, and respectful involvement of parents and family members early in the planning process. The concurrent planning model encourages frequent parent-child visitation, focused intensive services for the parents, and family group decision-making strategies that increase options and give reunification every chance to succeed.

Permanency planning mediation has been used by other states to reduce the time required to achieve reunification. Mediation is nonadversarial and supportive of parents. It reduces the parents’ sense of alienation and helplessness, and empowers them to participate in planning their children’s futures. It can be used in the development of case service plans, which should be negotiated agreements, but typically are not. Mediation can also help a parent recognize and accept the preconditions for their child’s return.

“Front-loading” of services is a conceptual approach to case management in which the court and child welfare agencies expedite the provision of services in child protection cases in a manner similar to the way hospitals handle medical emergencies. The longer conditions go untreated, the more likely they will become exacerbated and less amenable to intervention. This approach is consistent with “crisis theory,” which essentially states that the greatest opportunity for promoting substantive and lasting change is at the apex of the crisis.

Front-loading of services allows everyone involved to quickly evaluate the parent's motivation and ability to work toward reunification. Early and intensive intervention and attention to the complex needs of the child and family can avoid long, drawn out litigation and promote timely reunification. Shorter times to adjudication, immediate referrals for services, and more frequent court reviews early in the case inculcate a sense of urgency in both the parents and the agency. Distinct timelines for achieving parental objectives, the court's diligent monitoring of the case services plan, and jurists who hold parties accountable to agreed-upon tasks and timelines are key elements of this approach.

SUMMARY

There is an obvious need to identify and implement workable strategies to increase the number of children permanently reunited with their parents and reduce the time that those children spend in foster care. In addition to the essential task of producing positive outcomes for children and families in our state foster care system, and the necessary task of meeting federal funding standards, the literature indicates that these recommended strategies will reduce the financial costs associated with caring for children in a state foster care system, and avoid the costs of subsidized alternatives to reunification.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **We recommend that the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) establish case flow management standards and practices that are specific to child abuse and neglect cases, consistent with those recommended by the National Center for State Courts.**
2. **We recommend that the Department of Human Services (DHS) develop and implement a statewide, clearly defined, evidence-based model of practice that facilitates the achievement of safe and timely reunification of children with their parents.**

3. We recommend that the Legislature ensure that the DHS has adequate resources to implement the aforementioned practice model.
4. We recommend that the DHS work with the Legislature and local communities to establish family visitation centers or similar resources within those communities, which will enable them to provide the quality and quantity of parenting time required to achieve more reunifications and reduce children's time in foster care.
5. We recommend that the SCAO perform an evaluation of judicial caseloads for jurists presiding over child abuse and neglect cases to determine if they are consistent with caseload standards recommended by the National Council of Family and Juvenile Court Judges and appropriate for meeting the permanency outcome standards required by the federal Child and Family Services Review.
6. We recommend that the DHS work with local communities throughout the state to develop "parent partner programs" similar to those established by the Wayne County Department of Human Services in collaboration with their community partners.
7. We recommend that the Michigan Supreme Court enforce MCL 712A.17c (4)(5), which requires the appointment of an attorney for the parents in all cases where the parents are indigent. We also recommend that the Legislature pass a statute outlining the attorney's responsibilities in representing parents, much like MCL 712A.17d does for the legal representation of children.
8. We recommend that the SCAO establish practice standards and training requirements for attorneys representing parents.
9. We recommend that the DHS establish policies and practices to ensure that the parent-training entities with which DHS contracts address each individual's assessed parenting skill deficiencies and provide a report of the parent's specific progress at the completion of the training.
10. We recommend that the DHS Bureau of Children and Adult Licensing (BCAL) implement licensing rules addressing the need for foster parents to establish supportive relationships with the child's family. We further recommend that BCAL collaborate with the Michigan Association for Foster Adoption and Kinship Parents (MAFAK) and the Michigan Federation for Children and Families to establish such rules.

FOSTER PARENT APPEALS

Pursuant to 1997 PA 163, foster parents may appeal the removal of a ward from their home. If the local foster care review board, which hears the appeal, agrees that a move is not in the child's best interests, the court must hold a hearing -- or, if the child is a Michigan Children's Institute (MCI) ward, the MCI superintendent must review the case. Last year, the Foster Care Review Board Program received 121 calls from foster parents who inquired about appealing a removal decision. Local FCRB conducted 82 appeal hearings. In those 82 cases, the boards' decisions supported foster parents 34 times (41%) and agencies 48 times (59%).

2008 Foster Parent Appeal Outcomes	Supported Foster Parents ⁴	Supported Agency
Department of Human Services	16	23
Purchase of Service Agencies	18	25
Total	34	48

As explained above, either a court or the MCI superintendent later reviewed the 34 cases in which local FCRB boards supported the foster parents. The courts upheld the boards' decision 11 times and supported the agencies 4 times. The MCI superintendent also upheld the boards' decisions 11 times and supported the agencies 4 times. Two other cases were not subsequently reviewed by either a court or the MCI superintendent because the agency agreed to leave the child(ren) in the foster placement. In one case, the foster parents withdrew their appeal. Finally, the FCRB does not yet know the outcome of one judicially reviewed case.

Final Outcomes

Court Decisions			MCI Decisions		
FP	AG	U/K	FP	AG	U/K
11	4	1	11	4	0

⁴ Must be reviewed subsequently by court or MCI superintendent.

BIANNUAL PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT GOALS 2008 - 2009

The Foster Care Review Board (FCRB) established the following biannual goals for 2008-2009 at the FCRB 2007 Annual Training. This is part of the FCRB's continuing effort to ensure statutory compliance, meet legislative intent, maximize utilization of our available resources, and support and benefit system stakeholders.

- 1. Establish an annual forum to present our annual report to the Legislature. This forum would include advocates and professionals from the foster care system who can knowledgeably present and support the "system" and "resource" findings in our report, along with related recommendations.**

Progress: The FCRB continues to pursue this matter with the chairs of the House and Senate DHS Appropriations Committees and the legislative aide for the chair of the House Committee on Family and Children's Services. We have not been able to arrange meetings with the chairs of that House committee or the Senate Committee on Families, Mental Health, and Human Services.

- 2. Establish a system for tracking and documenting instances where the board's review of an individual case contributed directly to the resolution of child safety and well-being issues or the removal of barriers to permanency.**

Progress: Program representatives have been instructed to provide details of these instances to the program manager as they occur.

- 3. Establish an award or means of recognizing outstanding work by professionals in the foster care system.**

Progress: Nomination criteria and a protocol for honoring a caseworker, a judge, and a children's court-appointed lawyer-guardian ad litem have been established. The tentative timeline for our first award presentation is November 2009.

- 4. Increase advocacy by citizen volunteers with state legislators.**

Progress: We are developing protocols for monitoring pending legislation and communicating information to interested citizens.

- 5. Increase the ability of the FCRB Statewide Advisory Committee to monitor, identify, and address critical systemic issues that delay permanency for children and compromise child safety and well-being.**

Progress: In September 2006, we created a subcommittee to address this issue. We are presently assessing the possible integration of our subcommittees with other statewide committees that also work on systemic improvements and reforms.

- 6. Establish a more efficient review system that fulfills our statutory mandate, reduces case material transfers, increases communication and collaboration with foster care system stakeholders, results in useful recommendations to local courts and foster care agencies, provides accurate data for DHS quality assurance reports, and supports our annual report recommendations.**

Progress: The FCRB implemented a new review system in October 2008.

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The Foster Care Review Board is comprised of citizen volunteers from all Michigan counties and all walks of life, who meet once a month to review cases of abused and/or neglected children in foster care.

2008 FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS *

Alcona	Carline Bendig	Ingham	Laura Peiffer	Midland	Diane Bedford
Alcona	Tamara Quick	Ingham	Stephanie Smith	Midland	Stephen Ignatowski
Alger	Rose Wilbur	Ingham	Kimber Thompson	Midland	Nicholas LeFevre
Allegan	Chris Seidel	Ingham	Arnetta Tyus	Midland	Billie Jo Parker
Allegan	Vivien Vandenberg	Ingham	Rhonda Van Hurley-Wilson	Midland	Judy Ruttan
Antrim	Susan Manturuk-Gielda	Ingham	Stephanie Williams	Monroe	Frederick Corser, Jr.
Barry	Ronald Heilman	Ionia	Frederick Puffenberger	Muskegon	Donna Fiebelkorn
Barry	Carol Stanton	Iron	Bobbie Bonetti	Muskegon	Patricia Hanson
Barry	Roberta Taffee	Jackson	Mary Lou Blanchard	Muskegon	Edward Holovka
Bay	David Dunn	Jackson	Edwina Divins	Muskegon	Norman Swier
Benzie	Mary Lou Bonacci	Jackson	Jonathan Hale	Muskegon	Melba White Newsome
Berrien	Robyn Emde	Jackson	Selena Harris	Newaygo	Larry Feikema
Berrien	Jill Ernest	Jackson	Diana Liechty	Oakland	Barbara Allen
Berrien	Frances Rose	Jackson	Susan Sharkey	Oakland	Carol Borich
Berrien	Joan Smith	Jackson	Harold White	Oakland	Cassandra Chandler
Berrien	Mary Wood	Kalamazoo	Joy Light	Oakland	Charles Ludwig
Branch	Michael Ronzone	Kalamazoo	Sally Putney	Oakland	Eleanor Mickens
Branch	Lucinda Wakeman	Kalamazoo	Helayne Smith	Oakland	Darnita Stein
Branch	Jerry Yoder	Kalamazoo	Herman Smith	Oakland	Judith Stephens
Calhoun	Kathryn Hemenway	Kalamazoo	Shirley Topp	Osceola	Brenda Battle
Cass	James Rutten	Kalkaska	Carri Latta	Oscoda	Gerald Corey
Charlevoix	Mary Lee Campbell	Kent	Jan Fotsch-Foxen	Otsego	Vicky Riqueny
Cheboygan	Karin Hayes	Kent	Daniel Groce	Presque Isle	Denise Parrott
Clare	Donald Murray	Kent	Randall Halstead	Roscommon	Kathryn Banqs
Dickinson	Cynthia Donahue	Kent	Joan Irons	Saginaw	Barbara Hill
Eaton	Carol Little	Kent	Vernon Laninga	Saginaw	Vivian Keys Brown
Emmet	Kenda Deschermeier	Kent	Suzanne McCune	Saginaw	Shirley Norman
Genesee	Marilyn Hoffman	Kent	Jacqueline Rudolph	Saginaw	Willie Owens
Genesee	Ann Marie Kenderski	Lake	Frances P. Arquette	Sanilac	Linda Bombard
Genesee	Kimberly Mears-Thomas	Lapeer	Kathryn Bruer	Sanilac	Richard Huq
Genesee	Mel Tormey	Lenawee	Eloise Hosken	Schoolcraft	Judith Ruttan
Genesee	Margaret Vaughter	Livingston	Patricia Siegel	Shiawassee	Jorja Ackels
Genesee	Stephanie Young	Luce	Ronald Ford	Shiawassee	Jacob Drenovsky
Gogebic	Laurie Niemi	Mackinac	Vickie Jersin	St. Clair	Robert Goldenbogen
Grand Traverse	Michael Herron	Macomb	Elayne Winifred Gray	St. Joseph	Judy Holman
Hillsdale	Martha Crow	Macomb	Angie Greenslade	St. Joseph	Kenneth Orlich
Hillsdale	Ronald Hayes	Macomb	Eugene Groesbeck	St. Joseph	Betty Taylor
Huron	Janice Holz	Macomb	R. Steve Mittelstadt	Tuscola	Gary Holik
Huron	Charles Roberts	Macomb	Jackie Pittman	Van Buren	Jennifer Carpio
Ingham	Michael Kessler	Macomb	Rosemary Sear	Van Buren	Anthony Caruso
Ingham	Wendolyn Larson	Macomb	Lynda Steele	Van Buren	Meryl Greene
Ingham	Julie Loveless	Manistee	Marilee Johnson	Washtenaw	Rose Marie Barhydt
Ingham	Kristina Marshall	Marquette	Cara Korhonen	Washtenaw	Marion Hoey
Ingham	Cheryl Mask-Nealy	Marquette	Glenn Wing	Washtenaw	Henry Johnson
		Marquette	Jill Zueger	Washtenaw	Lisa Ruby
		Mason	Barry Matthews	Washtenaw	Gayle Stewart
				Wexford	Pamela Anderson

(Continued – see next page for Wayne County.)

2008 FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS *
(Continued)

Wayne	Brooke Adams		Wayne	Carlton Jackson
Wayne	Derrick Anderson		Wayne	Yvette Jenkins
Wayne	Lillian Bernstein		Wayne	Charmaine Johnson
Wayne	Henry Bohm		Wayne	Rod Johnson
Wayne	Brenda Boyd		Wayne	Ethel Knight
Wayne	Keenan Brown		Wayne	Angelita Krasson
Wayne	Willie Cambell		Wayne	Mark LaBerge
Wayne	Ifetayo Chaffin		Wayne	Mary Lemanek
Wayne	Carol Coccia		Wayne	Robert Lemanek
Wayne	Ida Coleman-Estell		Wayne	Gary Curtis Madden
Wayne	Wilhelmina Cotton		Wayne	Daedra McGhee
Wayne	Tonie Dance		Wayne	Romona McKinney
Wayne	Tara DeFoe		Wayne	Ronald Moore
Wayne	Lynda DeFrain		Wayne	Jacqueline Moss-Williams
Wayne	Doris DeMarco		Wayne	Floyd Myers
Wayne	Marvin Dick		Wayne	Daphne Nedd
Wayne	Fred Durhal		Wayne	Don Novak
Wayne	George Eason		Wayne	Elizabeth Oliver
Wayne	Michael Eberth		Wayne	Sue Parker
Wayne	Doncella Floyd		Wayne	Rita Parker Imathiu
Wayne	Bernice Fulson		Wayne	Granada L. Peterson
Wayne	Brenda Godfrey		Wayne	Michael C. Piper
Wayne	Tina Gomez		Wayne	Rita Ross-Price
Wayne	Remberto Gomez-Baez		Wayne	Wain Saeger
Wayne	Wendy Greene		Wayne	Janine Sladewski
Wayne	Patrick Guentner		Wayne	Tracy Smith
Wayne	Mary Hammons		Wayne	Willie Stanley
Wayne	Warren Harrison		Wayne	Mark Steinhauer
Wayne	Cathy Ann Haynes		Wayne	Ellen Stephens
Wayne	Jonas Hill, Sr.		Wayne	Carol Terpak
Wayne	Loretta Horton		Wayne	Marsha Thacker
Wayne	Kathie House		Wayne	Shelley Thomas
Wayne	David L. Hunt		Wayne	Sara Tyranski
Wayne	Darryl V. Hunter		Wayne	Cassandra Wells

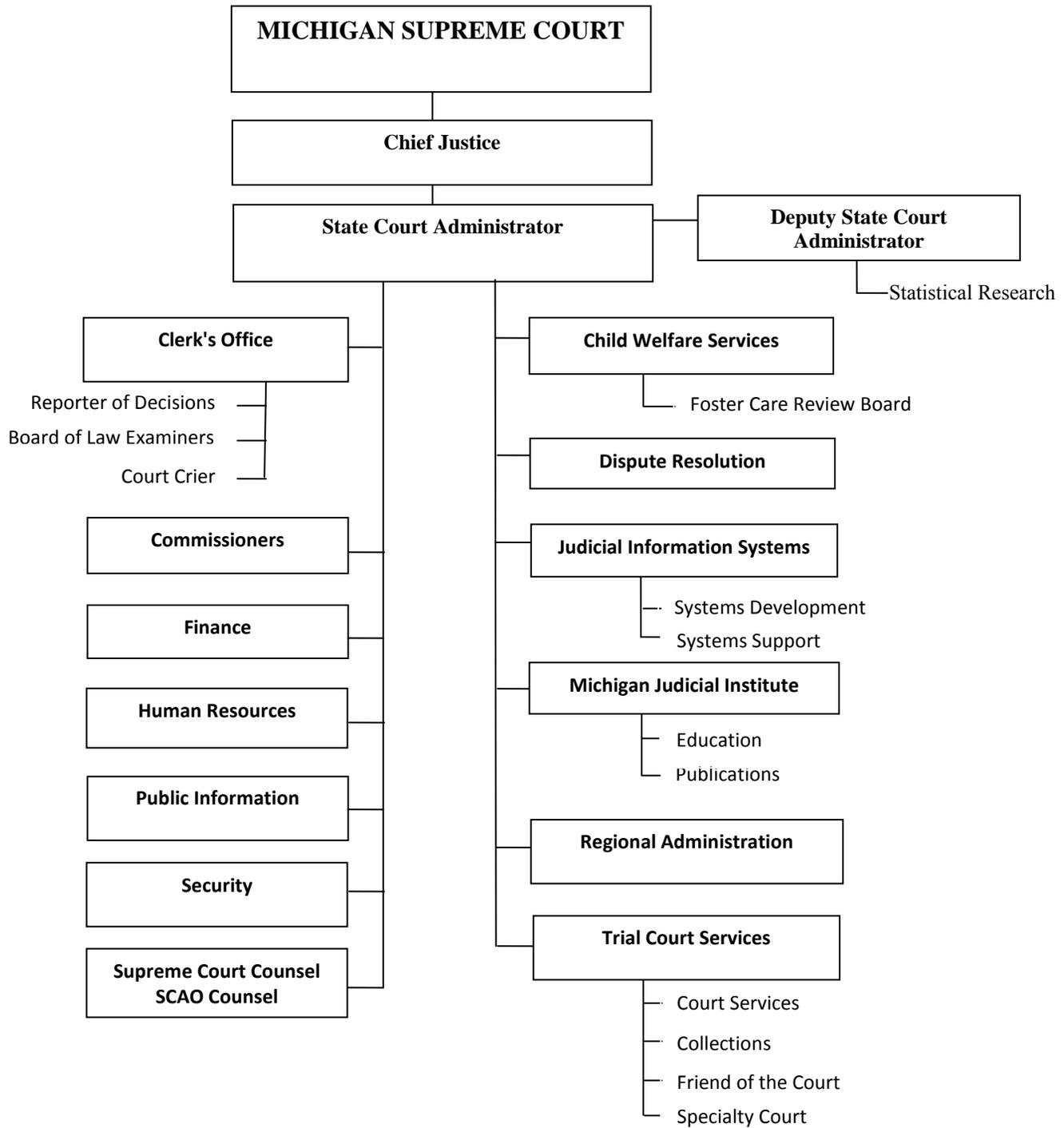
** Board member roster lists were accurate as of December 2008 and do not reflect 2009 membership changes.*

The FCRB Advisory Committee is established pursuant to MCL 722.133(m). It is a collaborative body of representatives from each local board, as well as professionals and advocates from the child welfare community. The information, conclusions, and data presented in this annual report, along with any related recommendations, are the product of the Advisory Committee's collaborative effort and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Michigan Supreme Court or the State Court Administrative Office, under whose auspices this program is conducted.

2008 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS *

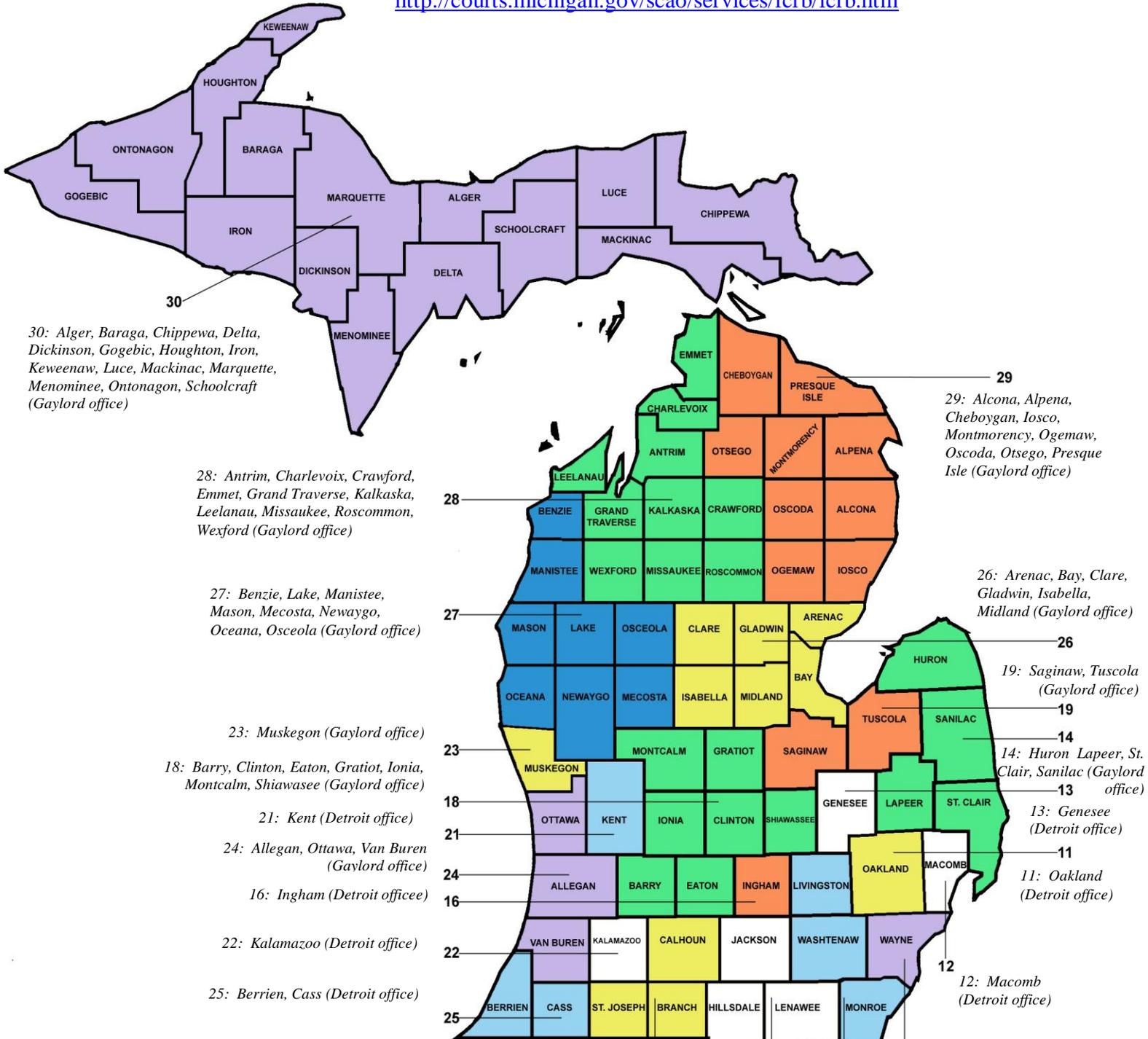
Hon. Michael Anderegg Chief Judge Marquette County Probate Court	Bill Johnson Superintendent Michigan Children's Institute	Carolyn Rayford Deputy Regional Director Lutheran Child & Family Services
Mary Chaliman Foster Care Program Manager MI Department of Human Services	Mary Johnson President MJ3 Consulting	Verlie Ruffin Director Office of the Children's Ombudsman
Carol Coccia FCRB Liaison M.A.F.A.K.	Zoe Lyons Specialist Office of the Family Advocate	Hon. Leslie Kim Smith Circuit Judge 3 rd Circuit Court, Family Division
Jeanne Fowler Child Advocate Big Family of Michigan	Bill Memberto Director, Family Services Ottawa Indians	Janet R. Snyder Executive Director MI Federation for Children & Families
Amy Hartmann Attorney at Law Michigan Children's Law Center	Kathryne A. O'Grady Deputy Director DHS Children and Adult Policy	
Terri Henrizi Education Coordinator Assoc. for Children's Mental Health	Jenifer Pettibone Management Analyst State Court Administrative Office	

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MICHIGAN'S FOSTER CARE REVIEW BOARDS

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/fcrb/fcrb.htm>



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 Assistant: Jacqui Poindexter

Boards 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 20, 21, 22, 25
 Jeanette Bridges, Program Rep
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 Kevin Sherman, Program Rep
 Assistant: Kelly Jencks

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Phone: 1-888-866-6566

Info:

<http://courts.michigan.gov/scao/services/fcrb/98-01AppealPolicy.pdf>