

# Child Welfare

March 6, 2024

**Demetrius Starling**, Senior Deputy Director, Children's Services Administration

**Amy Epkey**, Senior Deputy Director, Financial Operations Administration



# Agenda

- Keep Kids Safe Action Agenda.
- Children's Services Administration Updates.
- FY 2025 Budget Investments.



# Mission

MDHHS provides services and administers programs to improve the health, safety, and prosperity of the residents of the state of Michigan.

# Keep Kids Safe Action Agenda Pillars

## Prevention

Upstream focus to **prevent abuse** before it occurs.

Access to **community-based interventions**.

**Connect families to resources and supports** to promote safety and well-being.

**Focused support** for family thriving.

## Intervention

Unyielding **child safety focus**.

**Unbiased assessments** and engagement.

Sensitive to **avoid conflation of poverty with neglect**.

**Strength-based interventions**.

**Family focused, family-driven**.

## Stability

**Engage broad array of stakeholders** to support children and families.

Value **consistent and reliable resources** for families.

**Leverage creativity** to address family specific challenges.

## Wellness

**Trauma-informed, family focused**.

**Person-centered planning** to meet unique needs.

Access to quality **physical and behavioral health supports**.

Achieve **educational outcomes**.

Access to **safe and stable housing**.

## Workforce

**Entrusted to take action** to ensure safety and support for families.

**Value for professionalism and expertise**.

Encourage **innovation**.

**Avoid deficit thinking**.

Value **public/private partnerships**.

Support **wellness and a positive work-life balance**.

# Children's Services Administration

## State-Administered Child Welfare System:

- **83** counties.
- **5** Business Service Center (BSC) regions.
- **2,797** child welfare workers.
- Contracts with **58** agencies to provide family preservation, foster care, licensing, and adoption services.

### Children's Protective Services

- Abuse-neglect referrals: **59,804**.
- Abuse-neglect investigated: **22,929**.
- Confirmed cases of abuse-neglect: **4,727**.

### Foster Care

- **10,036** youth in care.
- **9,361** youth in out-of-home care.
- **364** youth placed in a child caring institution (CCI).
- Children entered foster care: **3,785**.
- Children exited foster care: **4,083**.

### Prevention

- Prevention cases: **772**.
- Title IV-E prevention cases: **74,615**.

### Adoption

- **1,956** completed adoptions.
- **240** youth available for adoption without an identified home.

### Juvenile Justice

- **447** youth supervised by MDHHS.
- **211** dual wards.
- **87** youth placed in a child caring institution (CCI).

## Challenges:

- 26.8% turnover in FY 2023.
- Increased acuity of cases.
- **Emotionally** demanding.
- Burnout.
- **Unpredictable** hours.
- High workload.

## Efforts:

- Title IV-E educational program partnership with universities match to provide bachelor's and master's degree social work students with stipends for tuition and educational expenses.
  - Students are required to work in child welfare for a specified period of time.
- Mass hiring efforts in partnership with civil service.

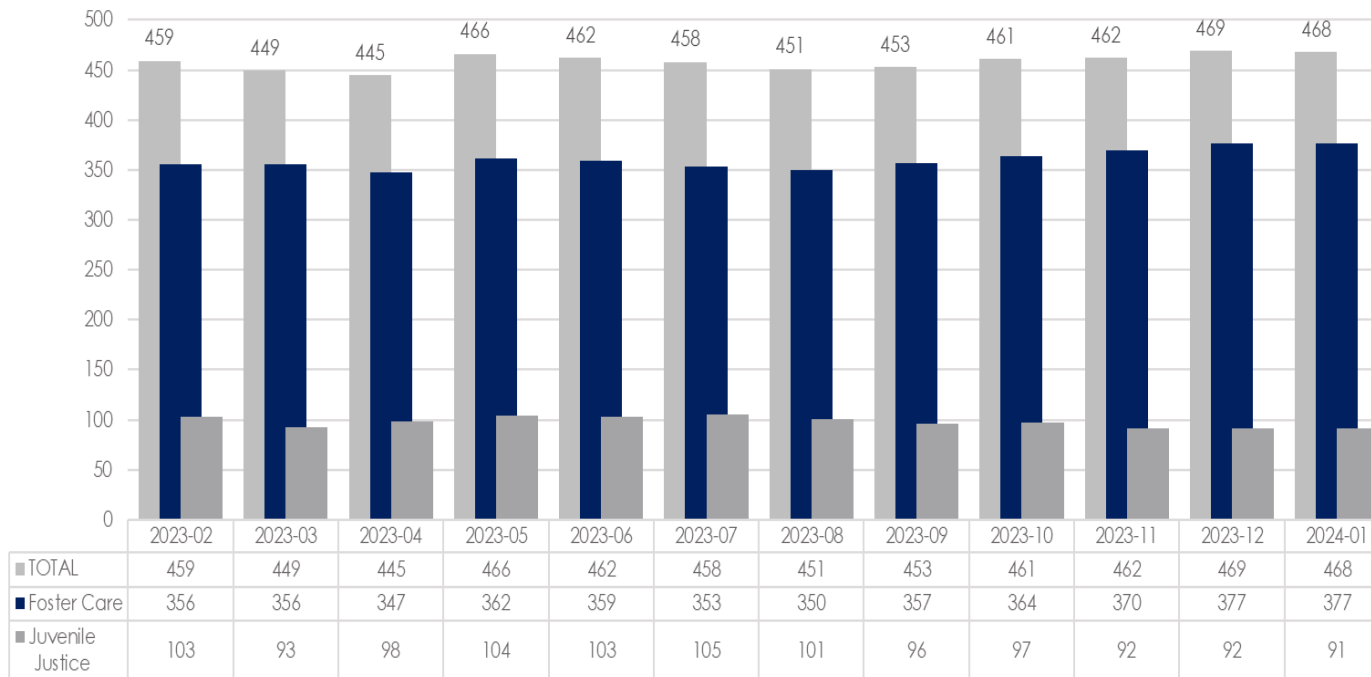
# Placement Array



- ✓ Creating a continuum of care to provide specialized treatment for youth.
- ✓ Focus on access to services to address youth's needs.
- ✓ Cross-system collaboration with children's behavioral health.

# Child Caring Institutions

CCI Population by Program  
February 2023 - January 2024



- Residential Collaboration and Technical Assistance Unit (RCTAU) provides oversight of child caring institutions.
- Partner with 34 providers across the state.
- Average support for 459 children daily.



# Access to Behavioral Health

Inpatient behavioral health/psychiatric treatment capacity is being bolstered within congregate care settings with the addition of new Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) and Intensive Community Transition System (ICTS) beds.

An Institute for Mental Disease (IMD) Exclusion for Mental Health Treatment waiver is under development along with active expansion of the existing Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP).

The department is implementing a standard behavioral health screening and assessment tool (MichiCANS) to ensure treatment needs are identified and appropriately considered when developing treatment plans and assessing placements options.



# FY 2025 Executive Budget Investments Keeping Kids Safe

# Modified Implementation, Sustainability and Exit Plan (MISEP)



## Description

- 74 provisions originally in agreement under U.S. District Court of Eastern District of Michigan oversight since 2008.
- 23 provisions subject to ongoing monitoring as of January 2023.
- Significant progress, including exceeding standards of worker caseload, decreasing the number of children placed in congregate care and decreasing the number of children in foster care.
- Brings Michigan closer to ending 15 years of court oversight with continued focus on keeping kids safe.
- Funds will support additional steps needed.

## Proposed Investments

- \$10 million to keep kids safe and support compliance with court-ordered MISEP.

## Outcomes

- Help keep kids safe.
- Meet MISEP Standards.
- Decrease number of children in congregate care.
- Decrease number of children in foster care.

# Child Caring Institutions



## Description

- MDHHS licenses child caring institutions for the purpose of caring for and supervising children on a 24-hour basis for foster care and juvenile justice needs.
- Still, there is regularly a waiting list for children to get into the facilities and receive necessary services.
- Provider contracts are being restructured and right-sized based on the needs of children across the state.
- Proposal is designed to ensure kids will be placed and receive the services needed each day.

## Proposed Investment

- \$38 million gross (\$30.3 million GF) to provide a simplified rate structure that meets demand for beds of children in need of care in a residential setting.

## Outcomes

- Help keep kids safe.
- Provide financial certainty to contracted service providers.

# Clothing and Holiday Allowances



## Description

- To further assist foster parents supporting children in their care, MDHHS issues semiannual clothing and annual holiday allowances.
- The value of these payments has not been increased in more than 20 years.
- Increase the clothing allowance by 40 to 50%(depending on the age of the child) providing two payments each year of approximately \$150 each.
- Triple the holiday allowance for each child from \$25 to \$75 per year.

## Proposed Investment

- \$1.5 million gross (\$1.1 million GF) to increase clothing and holiday allowances for children in foster care.

## Outcomes

- Help keep kids safe.
- Provide concrete needs for child and caregivers.

# Questions & Discussion

## MDHHS Contact Information:

Chardaé Burton  
Director of Legislative Affairs  
517-243-3221  
[BurtonC5@michigan.gov](mailto:BurtonC5@michigan.gov)

A group of diverse young children are waving from the windows of a yellow school bus. The children are smiling and appear to be saying goodbye. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking up at the bus. The overall tone is warm and appreciative.

Thank you!