



Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd R. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Arlene F. Lee, Executive Director

Governor's Office for Children

October 1, 2017

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.
State House, H-107
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
State House, H-101
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: Human Services Article § 8-1004

Dear President Miller and Speaker Busch:

Pursuant to Human Services Article § 8-1004, the Governor's Office for Children is providing the required report to the General Assembly on programs for children in out-of-home placement and standards for staff and system for outcomes evaluation.

If you have questions about the report, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Arlene F. Lee
Executive Director

Enclosure

c: Carolyn Ellison, Budget Analyst, Department of Budget and Management
Sarah Albert, Library Associate, Department of Legislative Services

**Report to the Legislature on
Programs for Children in Out-of-Home Placement –
Standards for Staff and System for Outcomes Evaluation
FY 2017**

Introduction

In 2007, SB177/HB53 was passed by the Maryland General Assembly requiring the Department of Juvenile Services, the Department of Human Services, and the Governor's Office for Children to develop, coordinate, and implement a system of outcomes evaluation; and requiring the Governor's Office for Children to coordinate a yearly report on these activities.

On October 1, 2015, the regulations under Human Services Article § 8-1003 requiring the aforementioned activities were repealed. Human Services Article § 8-1004 remains in effect, requiring a yearly report.

Implementation of the Program

On July 31, 2015, the State Children, Youth, and Family Information System and its module for tracking specific data about a child's placements (Children's Services Outcomes Measurement System) and outcomes (Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths) was permanently shut down. The system was discontinued after it was determined it was dysfunctional and wasteful due to outdated programming, reliance on older versions of Internet Explorer, and its inability to capture the information the State needs to speak to the well-being of children in its care.

The Children's Cabinet is working towards the development of a modern technology solution. Maryland's Total Human-services Information Network, or MD THINK, is a cloud-based data repository that will break down traditional silos and data barriers between State Agencies and provide integrated access to programs administered by agencies. MD THINK is an innovative design and project plan to modernize the state's human services technology infrastructure and customer service process. MD THINK will allow the Agencies to establish an integrated outcomes evaluation system. Until MD THINK is complete, licensing, contracting, and reporting requirements remain in effect with individual Agencies, who will continue to monitor outcomes. The State Agencies remain committed to outcomes evaluation and the ability to monitor the care, supervision, education, and treatment of children and youth in placement