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Governor's Office for Children

Larry Hogan, Governor

Boyd R. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Jaclin Warner Wiggins, Acting Executive Director

October 1, 2018

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 the progress in implementing a system for outcomes evaluation.

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

Sincerely,

Jaclin R. Warner Wiggins
Acting Executive Director

Enclosure

c: Emily Vianna, 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 2018**

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On October 1, 2015, the regulations under Human Services Article § 8-1003 requiring the aforementioned activities were repealed.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 continues to work towards the development of a modern, interagency 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. Once developed and operational, MD THINK will allow agencies to establish an integrated outcomes evaluation system. Until MD THINK is complete, the licensing, contracting, and reporting requirements remain in effect with individual agencies, who will continue to monitor outcomes.

As part of the MD THINK effort, development is currently underway for the Child, Juvenile and Adult Management System (CJAMS), a joint effort between the Departments of Human Services and Juvenile Services that will replace current systems used for Child Welfare (MD CHESSIE), Adult Services (DHS Client Information System), and Juvenile Services (ASSIST). Implementation of CJAMS will take place during 2019, and represents a substantial step for Maryland in fulfilling the vision of MD THINK, as two of the licensing agencies will be participating.

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. CJAMS implementation during 2019 brings Maryland one step closer to reaching the vision of an interagency outcomes evaluation system.