



Administrative Support Center
4001 Pelee Street
Orlando, FL 32817
EmbraceFamilies.org

November 26, 2019

Office of Governor Gretchen Whitmer
P.O. Box 300
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Governor Whitmer,

We represent approximately 11% of child welfare operations in the State of Florida, a state that has successfully implemented a community-based care model for child welfare that is similar the model West Michigan Partnership for Children (WMPC) is piloting in Michigan. We know that this model works in improving quality and consistency of care for children and families in the child welfare system, and we are therefore urging restoration of the \$2 million transferred from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' foster care line item for WMPC.

We understand that without these critical funds WMPC will be unable to continue oversight of foster care in Kent County, MI after two years implementing a performance-based foster care pilot which has yielded successful outcomes.

We have enjoyed learning about WMPC's initial successes and achievements in its first two years of operations which include:

- Decreasing length of stay for children in foster care by 5 percent, or 40 less days than the historical benchmark;
- Five percent less children placed in residential settings;
- 20 percent less days children spend in residential care;
- meeting or exceeding statewide performance in 10 of 11 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

We believe these are markers that the pilot is working in achieving intended outcomes.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide further information on how performance-based child welfare models have helped Florida move forward and can help Michigan move toward successful achievement of the federal Child Family Service Reviews, out of burdensome consent decrees, and most importantly, positively changing the lives of children and families. Please feel free to contact me at 321-441-2060 or at Glen.Casel@EmbraceFamilies.Org for additional information.

We urge you to restore 100% of this critical funding before this innovative pilot unravels. Rather than discontinuing a model that is yielding improved results for families and children, we encourage Michigan to begin planning for replication of this model statewide.

Sincerely,

Glen Casel, Chief Executive Officer
Embrace Families, Inc.

