

Michigan Child Welfare Improvement Task Force

Improving the safe, fair, and equitable treatment of all Michigan's children and families.

MPHI®

MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Michigan Child Welfare Improvement Task Force
2Gen Workgroup Meeting – June 12, 2026

- **Welcome and Introductions**
- **Charge Statement and Connection with Transition to Action Planning-Janet**
- **Updates**
- **Presentation:** Judson Center Fatherhood Program –**George Winn, Chief Strategy Officer**
- **Next Steps and Future Meeting Dates**
  - **Short Summary:** Key priorities emerging from March Meeting-**Janet**

Welcome & Introductions







FY26 Child Welfare Improvement Task Force

Charge Statement

Purpose: Time-limited task force to provide legislative, policy, and practice recommendations to MDHHS on:

To redesign the front-end response of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) to reports of abuse and neglect. We're dedicated to ensuring this response is unbiased and effectively distinguishes between crisis situations and those where families simply need services and support.

By leveraging data, we aim to achieve fair outcomes while promoting safe kinship care, enhancing access to community mental health services, and eliminating inappropriate placements in residential facilities.

We're adopting the Two-Generation approach, addressing the needs of both children and adults to improve the overall well-being of our families.



Updates







JUDSON CENTER
Fatherhood Program

George Winn, Chief Strategy Officer

June 12, 2026



JUDSON CENTER

- Serving those in need for 102 years!
- Started in 1924 as Detroit Baptist Children's Home
- Grown to serve over 13,000 children and families annually
- Accredited by the Council on Accreditation
- **4 Core Service Lines:**
  - Child & Family
  - Integrated Health
  - Autism
  - Disability

OUR MISSION

To provide expert, comprehensive services that strengthen children, adults and families impacted by abuse and neglect, autism, developmental, behavioral and physical health challenges so they can achieve whole health, well-being and maximum potential.

Judson Center | 100 YEARS

OUR VISION

We dream of a day when all children and adults are safe and have loving, strong families with the community support they need to make a unique contribution to the world.

Judson Center | 100 YEARS

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES	GENESEE	MACOMB	OAKLAND	WASHTENAW	WAYNE	JACKSON
ADOPTION					X	
ADOPTION/FOSTER PARENT RECRUITMENT & RETENTION	X	X	X	X	X	
BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERS	X	X	X	X	X	X
CHILD SAFE MICHIGAN (FC, Adoption, Mentoring, Independent Living)		X	X		X	
PARENT EDUCATION HOME BASED		X			X	
FAMILIES TOGETHER BUILDING SOLUTIONS					X	
FOSTER CARE (Judson Center)					X	
MICHIGAN ADOPTION RESOURCE EXCHANGE (MARE)				X (State Wide)		
POST ADOPTION RESOURCE CENTER (PARC)	X (plus 5 counties)			X (plus 12 counties)		
FATHERHOOD					X	

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INTEGRATED CARE

PROGRAM	MACOMB	OAKLAND	WAYNE
OUTPATIENT TREATMENT	X	X	X
IN-HOME TREATMENT	X	X	X
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER OUTPATIENT TREATMENT	X		
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER INTENSIVE OUTPATIENT TREATMENT	X		
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE	X		
MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT	X		

AUTISM SERVICES

SERVICES WE OFFER	ROYAL OAK	WARREN	ANN ARBOR	FARMINGTON HILLS	FLINT
Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)	X	X	X	X	X
Social Skills Groups					
Diagnostic Services	X				X
Behavior Consultation	X	X	X	X	X
Ancillary Services-Speech Therapy	X	X		X	
Ancillary Services-Occupational Therapy	X	X		X	

DISABILITY SERVICES

SERVICES OFFERED	OAKLAND COUNTY	WAYNE COUNTY
Vocational Skill Building Services	X	X
Supported Employment	X	X
Soft Skills Training	X	X
Summer Work Experiences	X	X

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Negative Father Names

- Dead Beat
- Lazy
- No good
- Selfish/Self centered
- Absent
- Irresponsible
- Emotionally absent

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Positive Father Names

- Hero
- Provider/Hard worker
- Protector
- Positive Role Model
- Reliable
- Compassionate

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Problem

Nearly 18 million children in the U.S. reside in a home without a biological, step or adoptive father.

- Roughly 1 in 4—live without a father in the home,
- Significantly increasing risks for poverty,
- Higher drug/gun involvement,
- Lower educational attainment,
- Children in father-absent homes are 4 times more likely to be poor and 7 times more likely to become teen parents,
- **In Michigan, 34% of our children live in a single parent household,**
- Over 9,500 children reside in foster care living with neither parent.

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Problem CONT:

Poverty Link: Children in father-absent homes are 4 times more likely to live in poverty.

Educational Impact: Children without fathers are twice as likely to drop out of school.

- **Based on 2024–2025 data, Michigan ranks near the bottom nationally for reading, with around 44th in 4th-grade performance** (often linked with 3rd-grade trends).
- The preschool-to-prison pipeline remains a real, documented phenomenon in the U.S. where harsh early disciplinary actions, such as suspension, disproportionately affect young Black and minority children. Nearly 250 preschoolers are suspended daily, often for behavior handled by teachers in previous generations, triggering a cycle that increases the likelihood of future juvenile justice involvement.

Incarceration Risk: Children from fatherless homes are 3 times more likely to end up in prison by age 30.

Health and Behavior: Father absence is linked to higher rates of teen pregnancy, juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, and higher infant mortality rates.

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“Why”

Millions of families rely on human service organizations that traditionally focus on mothers, often overlooking the vital role fathers play. With **one in four children growing up without a biological, step, or adoptive father**, too many children are missing out on the benefits of an involved father.

Research shows that **children with involved dads are more likely to have successful outcomes such as better performance in school, avoiding alcohol and substance abuse, and thriving economically and socially.**

Involved fathers and male caregivers are vital for a child’s development, fostering better social, emotional, and intellectual growth. They serve as role models, promoting resilience, empathy, and better peer relationships. Their active presence helps reduce behavioral issues and boosts academic performance.

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“Why” CONT:

Academic Achievement: Involved fathers increase the likelihood of children getting A's by 43% and reduce the chance of repeating a grade by 33%.

According to 2025 Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) results, approximately 61.1% of Michigan third-graders did not achieve proficiency in English language arts.

Emotional Well-being: Actively engaged fathers contribute to higher levels of sociability, confidence, and self-control in children.

Non-Resident Impact: A nonresident father paying child support and remaining engaged can significantly reduce the risks of poverty and delinquency.

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Services:

Judson Center believes that families can grow and change when they have the right support and resources. Our Fatherhood Program works together with Fathers to strengthen the family unit and reduce risk factors.

Judson Center received a Fatherhood contract in 2025 for Wayne County from MDHHS.

Key areas we focus on

- Engagement and accountability skills,
- Teaching child development,
- Enhancing co-parenting skills,
- Positive relationship building skills,
- Promoting mental/physical health,
- Offering practical, flexible support (e.g., childcare, transportation, employment resources) to meet fathers where they are.

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Services CON'T:

Our goal is to reduce the risk of out of home placement or the intervention of Child Protective services.

Improve positive outcomes for children and families

- Change the narrative of how fathers are described
- Create warm and welcoming environments for fathers and male caregivers
- Use promising and evidence base practice curriculums
- Provide safe space for fathers and male caregivers to address systemic barriers
- Focus on strength-based solutions
- Help to reduce or remove systemic barriers
- Person Centered and holistic in nature.

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Services CON'T:

Key areas we focus on are teaching child development, enhancing co-parenting skills, promoting mental/physical health, and offering practical, flexible support (e.g., childcare, transportation) to meet fathers where they are.

Eligibility:

- Must reside in Wayne County
- Must have an open DHHS case and be the biological or legal father
- Had a case closed within 18 months
- Had a CPS investigation within the past 18 months
- One or more children in placement, or at risk of out of home placement.

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QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!!

Next Steps







2Gen Workgroup Dates

All Meeting Times from February thru December will be 9:00am-10:30am

June 12th
July: Summer Break No Meetings
August: TBD
August 21st (Task Force Meeting In-Person Lansing)
September 18th
October 16th
November 20th
December 18th







Thank You for Joining Us Today!!

Questions?