

**Michigan Director's Statement of Support
and Interdepartmental Commitment**



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Child Welfare, Courts, and Substance Abuse Services Technical Assistance Project

Continuing Inter-Departmental Response to Child Welfare Cases involving Parental Substance Abuse

Directors' Statement of Support and Inter-Departmental Commitment

Each of our state agencies has an important role in addressing the complex issues involved in child abuse and neglect cases where parental substance abuse is an issue. In response, during the past four years we have increased our efforts to improve inter-departmental coordination and collaboration in these cases. We have produced training and technical assistance opportunities, protocols to improve communications across systems, opportunities for community forums throughout the state, and a state-level strategic plan.

In the course of these recent efforts, our staffs have had the opportunity to work with and receive technical assistance from the National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW), a nationally recognized source of technical assistance on effective cross-system response to child welfare cases involving parental substance abuse. Their consultation has been both valuable and relevant to our inter-departmental work.

Through a federal grant from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), the National Center has been provided the resources necessary to provide comprehensive technical assistance to four states. We directed our staffs to apply for this assistance and we are pleased that Michigan has been selected as a recipient.

With assistance from the National Center, we will explore ways to maximize funding for needed services, continue to provide training and technical assistance opportunities, and work with interested jurisdictions to establish family drug treatment courts. Our three State agencies are strongly committed to implementing our strategic plan so that we can effectively address the substance abuse problems of the families in the child welfare systems. We have assigned staff to an inter-departmental work group for this initiative, and we are committed to their continued involvement.

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