



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**  
REP. JOHN ROTH  
CHAIR

**COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Noon.

Room 521, House Office  
Building

The House Appropriations Subcommittee Committee on Human Services was called to order by Chair Roth.

The Chair requested attendance to be called:

Present: Reps. Roth, Kelly, Mueller, Beson, DeSana, Edwards, and Longjohn.

Absent: None.

Excused: None.

Representative Beson moved to adopt the meeting minutes from March 11, 2025. There being no objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Amy Epkey, Senior Deputy Director, Financial Operations, DHHS, and Demetrius Starling, Senior Deputy Director, Children's Services Administration, DHHS, gave a presentation to the Subcommittee on state foster care and kinship care efforts. Ms. Epkey and Mr. Starling provided copies of their presentation to the Subcommittee.

Ms. Epkey and Mr. Starling received and answered questions from the Subcommittee, and agreed to provide the following:

1. Information regarding federal grants awarded to the state for foster care and kinship care.
2. The number of children placed with fictive kin.

Nicole Lawson, President and CEO, Orchards Children's Services and Kelsey Wisotsky, Program Officer, Placement Services, Orchards Children's Services gave a presentation to the Subcommittee on services provided by Orchards Children's Services. Ms. Lawson and Ms. Wisotsky received and answered questions from the Subcommittee.

Debbie Frisbie, Kinship Caregiver, Michigan Kinship Care Coalition, gave a presentation to the Subcommittee on the experiences of kinship caregivers outside of the formal child welfare system and suggested possible improvements to services for informal kinship caregivers. Ms. Frisbie provided additional written materials to the Subcommittee, and received and answered questions from the Subcommittee.

Dave Morin, CEO, Samaritas, and Rachel Sykes, Vice President of Family Services, Samaritas, gave a presentation to the Subcommittee on services provided by Samaritas and the need for

foster care services. Mr. Morin and Ms. Sykes received and answered questions from the Subcommittee.

There being no further business before the Subcommittee, Chair Roth adjourned the meeting at 12:57 PM.

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Representative John Roth, Chair

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