

BACKGROUND

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) was created in 2015 as a result of the merger of the former Department of Human Services and Department of Community Health. MDHHS addresses issues related to public assistance, including Medicaid, Family Independence Program (FIP), Food Assistance Program (FAP), State Emergency Relief Program (SER), State Disability Assistance Program (SDA), as well as aging and adult services, public health, behavioral health, state psychiatric hospitals, child support enforcement, foster care and adoption, and field operations among others. The department currently employs just over 14,000 team members statewide and has a \$33 billion budget with 70% of that coming from federal sources.

LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONS/ISSUES

The MDHHS legislative team is responsible for managing and leading the department's legislative priorities and working with legislative offices on the development of legislation that may impact MDHHS. We are always happy to discuss legislation that may be of interest to you and work with our subject matter experts to provide additional information and insights. If you are interested in pursuing legislation, please reach out to Chardaé Burton, Director of Legislative Affairs, at Burtonc5@michigan.gov or (517) 243-3221.

CONSTITUENT CASEWORK

All case work and inquiries should be emailed to MDHHS-legislative@michigan.gov. This email should identify which legislative office it comes from and contain basic information about the case. We will respond as soon as possible. However, if the case is urgent, please make sure to mark the email with high importance and reach out to Lesley Keyton, Manager of Constituent Affairs, at Keytonl@michigan.gov or 517-599-9837. Please note that we do not directly respond to constituents.

Constituent inquiries **MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY COMPLETED RELEASE FORMS**. If the person filling out the form for your constituent is their legal guardian or holds power of attorney, they must provide guardianship papers or an executed power of attorney document. Please have constituents send their paperwork directly to you. Once you have received those documents, please scan all pages of the forms and any additional relevant information into a single document and include that as an attachment to your email.

WHAT WE CANNOT DO

MDHHS cannot release any information on constituent case work to your office without properly executed release forms. MDHHS is prohibited by state law from releasing **ANY** information to a third party on:

- ◆ Adoption cases
- ◆ Child protective services cases
- ◆ Child support cases
- ◆ Foster care

ADDITIONAL TIPS

- ◆ We encourage legislators to form relationships with district directors, however, all constituent cases and development of proposed legislation should be handled by the MDHHS legislative team.
- ◆ Please do not contact MDHHS staff outside of the legislative team directly. This is important in assuring questions and issues are handled properly. MDHHS staff have been informed that if they do receive any correspondence from legislative offices to send that to Legislative Affairs.
- ◆ Please be patient as some issues and constituent cases may require significant amounts of research. We are always happy to provide status updates.
- ◆ Contact via email is the best way to reach us.

SCHEDULING

To schedule meetings with Chardaé Burton, please contact Jackie McKee at MckeeJ1@michigan.gov.