



Michigan
Office of the Auditor General
REPORT SUMMARY

Performance Audit

Report Number:
431-2100-08

Statewide Electronic Central Registry

Department of Human Services (DHS)

Released:
September 2010

Michigan's Child Protection Law (CPL) requires DHS to maintain a Statewide electronic Central Registry to record information about perpetrators of child abuse and/or neglect (CA/N) that DHS identifies during Children's Protective Services (CPS) investigations. DHS and other entities rely on DHS's Central Registry perpetrator information to help identify and prevent a variety of potentially harmful situations in which perpetrators of CA/N have, or could obtain, access to children. As of September 30, 2008, DHS's Central Registry contained a total of 337,000 perpetrator records.

Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of DHS's efforts to establish internal control to help ensure that the Central Registry includes all perpetrators of CA/N that are required to be listed in the Central Registry.

Audit Conclusion:

We concluded that DHS's efforts to establish internal control to help ensure that the Central Registry included all perpetrators of CA/N that were required to be listed in the Central Registry were not effective. We noted three material conditions (Findings 1 through 3) and one reportable condition (Finding 4).

Material Conditions:

DHS had not established effective internal control to help ensure that it always added the substantiated perpetrators of CA/N to the Central Registry that DHS identified during CPS investigations (Finding 1).

DHS had not established effective internal control to ensure that it completed and reviewed CPS investigations timely (Finding 2).

DHS had not established effective internal control to help DHS ensure that it prevented

the improper expungement of perpetrator records from the Central Registry (Finding 3).

Reportable Condition:

DHS needs to seek amendatory legislation to specifically add enrolled child day-care providers to Section 8d(3) of the CPL (Finding 4).

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of DHS's efforts to establish internal control to help ensure that the Central Registry contains sufficient, accurate, and complete information to identify perpetrators of CA/N.

Audit Conclusion:

We concluded that DHS's efforts to establish internal control to help ensure that the Central Registry contained sufficient, accurate, and complete information to identify perpetrators of CA/N were not effective. We noted three material conditions (Findings 5 through 7).

Material Conditions:

DHS had not established effective internal control to help ensure that it obtained and maintained sufficient, accurate, and complete identifying information for substantiated

perpetrators of CA/N in its Central Registry (Finding 5).

DHS, in conjunction with the Department of Technology, Management & Budget, had not established effective internal control for the processes used to electronically convert Central Registry perpetrator records from DHS's previous Central Registry perpetrator database to DHS's current Services Worker Support System - Children's Protective Services (SWSS-CPS) Central Registry perpetrator database (Finding 6).

DHS had not established effective internal control over system access for users with the capability to edit key Central Registry perpetrator identifying information fields. In addition, DHS had not established effective internal control over the monitoring of edits made to Central Registry perpetrator information. (Finding 7)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Audit Objective:

To assess the effectiveness of DHS's efforts to establish internal control to help ensure that DHS's Central Registry clearance procedures appropriately identify perpetrators listed in the Central Registry.

Audit Conclusion:

We concluded that DHS's efforts to establish internal control to help ensure that DHS's Central Registry clearance procedures appropriately identify perpetrators listed in the Central Registry were not effective. We noted two material conditions (Findings 8 and 9).

Material Conditions:

DHS, in conjunction with the Department of Technology, Management & Budget, had not established effective internal control over DHS's automated Central Registry clearance processes (Finding 8).

DHS had not established effective internal control over DHS's manual Central Registry clearance process (Finding 9).

Audit Summary:

Our review was limited to the Central Registry perpetrator information that DHS recorded and maintained in the Central Registry at the time of our audit. DHS recorded and maintained those records under the material conditions we report in Findings 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 7 (see also Exhibit 2). As a result of the control weaknesses we found to exist related to the sufficiency, accuracy, and completeness of DHS's Central Registry perpetrator information, readers of our report are advised that the actual number of CA/N perpetrators that DHS did not detect in potentially vulnerable situations with children likely exceeded the number we could identify and report in Findings 8 and 9.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Agency Response:

Our audit report includes 9 findings and 11 corresponding recommendations. DHS's preliminary response indicates that it agrees with all of the recommendations.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

A copy of the full report can be obtained by calling 517.334.8050 or by visiting our Web site at: <http://audgen.michigan.gov>



Michigan Office of the Auditor General
201 N. Washington Square
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Thomas H. McTavish, C.P.A.
Auditor General

Scott M. Strong, C.P.A., C.I.A.
Deputy Auditor General