

ALGER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk
101 COURT STREET, MUNISING, MI 49862

RESOLUTION #2012-09

OPPOSING THE PROPOSED RATE INCREASE FOR PRIVATE FOSTER CARE AGENCIES


WHEREAS, the Michigan Probate Judges Association has passed a resolution that strongly opposes a rate increase for private agencies supervising foster care and those agencies are already being paid an administrative rate of \$37.50 per day per child to grant these agencies a 22% increase after just one year is unconscionable. Many courts and counties are paying for multiple children – it is not uncommon for a family of 4-5 children to be placed in relative care, and the agency does not provide any special services. A caseworker sees them once per month and the agency is paid \$37.50 per day per child.

WHEREAS, the courts report that when special services to children are ordered, the response can vary from compliance to “we are not being paid for that” and the state mandated preference for private agencies has changed the ideal of placing children in their home communities. We now see frequent instances where children must be placed with an agency that only has beds available in distant counties. Courts and counties are paying higher dollars for reduced services and case workers who are unfamiliar with the community in which the parent is supposed to be served, and;

WHEREAS, Courts and counties are at the breaking point with the current \$37.50 administrative fee and there is nothing to ensure the accountability, competition, and improved services which privatization is intended to provide. The State Department of Human Services is conducting a study to determine appropriate rates for private agency administrative fees, and that research is not concluded, which makes the rate increase premature and unwarranted. It makes more fiscal sense for courts to use that rate money to hire local social workers who are under the control of the court to supervise foster care arrangements. Under the current system there is no accountability, no competition, and no way to recognize credible agencies or sanction poor ones. Furthermore, it is not appropriate to single out private agencies for massive fee increases when, in every other area of social welfare, the state is cutting costs and reducing reimbursements to local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Alger County Board of Commissioners agrees with the resolution of the Michigan Probate Judges Association and opposes the proposed rate increase for private foster care agencies. Copies of the resolution will be sent to the Michigan Department of Human Services Director, Senator and State Representative.

Dated: June 18, 2012

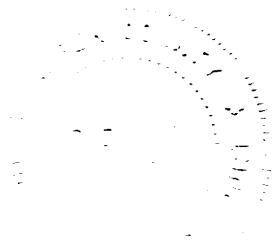



Jerry Doucette, Chairman
Alger County Board of Commissioners

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
County of Alger)

I, Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk of the County of Alger and of the County Board of Commissioners, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the Board at a regular meeting on June 18, 2012.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the County of Alger, this July 25, 2012 at Munising, Michigan.





Mary Ann Froberg, Clerk