Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators
Position Statement
2020

DHS to support and expand the development of BlueZone Scripts

Proposal

Issue: The platform used for scripts, GitHub, was modified beyond project configuration and counties were advised to stop accessing GitHub for script development. In October of 2018, DHS notified counties that MAXIS scripts would not be receiving updates any longer.

Implementation Strategy: MACSSA requests DHS to continue supporting script development and resolve current script issues. County workers rely heavily on scripts for accuracy and efficiency, particularly for error prone cases. Individually, all counties do not have the capacity to dedicate staff to write scripts for them. For continuity, MACSSA encourages the state to dedicate resources towards script support to help promote collective efficiency, while keeping agency errors down. Additionally, the state has the ability to vet scripts though policy and complete necessary testing prior to release. DHS script support is essential to promote standardization across all counties, which benefits both counties and the state.

Systemic Priority Alignment
(check all that apply and explain why)

☐ Equity   ☐ Service Integration   ☑ Fiscal Framework

Comments:

Operational Priority Alignment
(check all that apply and explain why)

☐ Behavioral Health   ☐ Case Management   ☐ Child Well Being   ☐ Community Based Settings & Services

☐ Health Care   ☐ Housing & Transportation   ☐ Modernization   ☑ Self Sufficiency

Comments:

Rationale/Background:

Scripts need to be supported at the statewide level. They are imperative for both worker efficiency and case accuracy. After scripts were released to counties and efficiencies were recognized, counties staffed accordingly based on workload. Loss of 'broken' scripts or lack of rolling out additional ones at a state level has a large impact on day to day work. It has been approximately one year since DHS has supported any script updates or additions, meaning that scripts that include old fiscal amounts or changed policy are incorrect ~~or~~ and have to be manually updated.

Counties are asking for two-fold script support. First, counties encourage DHS to establish a more formal training program for agency scriptwriters so when counties do have a staff to dedicate towards scripts there is training available. This would provide consistency and continuity in scripts writing, reducing current inefficiencies when child support and financial assistance staff have to learn code and how to write scripts on an individual basis. Second, for counties who are not able to invest agency resources toward scripts writing, DHS should have a scripts writer and/or a scripts coordinator to ensure

adherence to policy. At a very minimum, MACSSA urges DHS to open GitHub and allow for the exchange of script code from county to county, which supports administrative efficiencies in both MAXIS and PRISM.

Additional Information:

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Approved on: [insert date position was approved]