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Data Access

1 message

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During yesterday's LJ call, there was a discussion about what data was and was not available for the 65th Report period (July 1 – December 31, 2021). Here is the data of which I am aware covering that period of time:

1. DHS posts SSA Child Welfare Data monthly on its website. <https://dhs.maryland.gov/business-center/documents/> under the folders Data and Reports/SSA/Monthly Child Welfare Data.
2. When Defendants shared a draft of the 65th Report, there were numbers filled in for the 65th Report period for most of the measures. I told Brandi that I did not feel that the reported compliance levels could be considered reliable, valid or accurate and was concerned about incorrect information continuing to be filed with the court. Brandi acknowledged problems and agreed. At that time the parties were in the process of working to complete measure instructions and develop data reporting that would lead to valid, reliable and accurate reports.
3. There are folders with some raw data files for the 65th Report period posted on the agency Google drive. Except for a very few measures, I did not attempt to validate that information.
4. There are some weekly OHP milestone reports posted on the agency Google drive. Based upon my experience working with LJ report development this summer, I know that a significant amount of the data in those reports, including the total population numbers, is not accurate. In addition, that data is a snapshot of the data status as of a particular day of the week and does not provide cumulative information. (Children do not remain on the spreadsheet after the end of the month in which they exited OHP.)
5. SSA produces a weekly data file that is sent to the local jurisdictions which provides updates on whether or not children were visited by their caseworkers during the month in question. That data file also includes some information about children's placements. The data about children's removals and end dates of removals is cumulative for about two years but the other data, e.g., children's placements, is "snapshot."
6. There are now 5-6 reports that have been developed to extract data from CJAMS. I believe that at least a few of those reports are reliable insofar as I have been able to validate them. I cannot verify the accuracy of the data, particularly for the 65th Report period, when CJAMS was just beginning to be used.

Because of the plan to continue this discussion at next week's LJ Forum, I am copying Judy and Kathleen on this email as well. I apologize if there is anyone I missed copying on this email.

Thank you all.

Rhonda

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