PUBLIC COMMENT: JIM CASHA, 540-717-9240
jim.casha@gmail.com

SENATE FAMILIES, SENIORS & HUMAN SERVICES - FEB 18, 2015
CHAIR - SEN. EMMONS

SEVENTY PERCENT OF FOSTER CHILDREN ARE AFFECTED BY PRENATAL ALCOHOL EXPOSURE. THE DIASNOSIS OF FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD) IS PARAMOUNT TO PROVIDING A SAFE PLACEMENT FOR FOSTER CHILDREN AFFECTED BY PRENATAL ALCOHOL EXPOSURE. IT IS CRITICAL THAT AGENCIES, FOSTER PARENTS AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ISSUES RELATED TO CARING FOR THESE CHILDREN.

THE OFFICE OF CHILDREN'S OMBUDSMAN MUST BE AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN DEALING WITH CHILDREN AFFECTED WITH FASD TO DETERMINE IF A HOME PLACEMENT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE CHILD AND EVEN WETHER OR NOT SIBLINGS SHOULD REMAIN TOGETHER. IF NOT, THE CIRCUMSTANCES CAN BE FATAL. FOR EXAMPLE, RICKY HOLLAND.

ON APRIL 1ST, 2014, A REPORT WAS RELEASED BY MDCH ON MICHIGAN'S EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND COMBAT PRENATAL ALCOHOL EXPOSURE. (A COPY IS ATTACHED). THE DETERMINATION WAS THAT MI HAS A SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT THEY ARE NOT DOING ENOUGH ABOUT. A FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO IMPLEMENT A STRATEGIC WORK PLAN WAS DUE ON AUGUST 1ST, 2014. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THIS REPORT WAS NOT COMPLETED. CAN THIS COMMITTEE AND/OR THE OCO LOOK INTO WHY?

FOSTER KIDS CANNOT BE SAFELY AND PROPERLY CARED FOR WITHOUT A PLAN.