



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
**Administration on Children, Youth and Families**  
1250 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

MAR 25 2015

Office of the Governor  
The Honorable Brian Sandoval, Governor  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor:

I am writing on behalf of the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Children's Bureau (CB) to congratulate the State of Nevada on the successful completion of its Program Improvement Plan (PIP), developed and implemented as a result of the state's Federal Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) and was approved by the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, on December 1, 2010. The state has now completed all required PIP action steps and achieved all of its PIP goals.

We commend you and your Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) Administrator, Ms. Amber Howell, for the leadership and continued support provided to improve safety, permanency, and well-being for the state's most vulnerable children and families.

The CB, in collaboration with the Nevada DHHS, conducted the CFSR to identify strengths and areas needing improvement in the state's child welfare system. The review focused on seven outcomes in the areas of safety, permanency, and well-being and seven systemic factors that impact those outcomes. The CFSR culminated in an on-site review the week of August 31, 2009.

The final report notified the state that it did not meet the national standards for the data indicators pertaining to the absence of maltreatment recurrence, the absence of maltreatment of children in foster care, placement stability, the timeliness of adoptions, or permanency for children in foster care for extended time periods. The State was not in conformity with six of the seven outcomes and met only Well-Being Outcome 2: Children receive services to meet their educational needs. With regard to systemic factors, Nevada was in substantial conformity with the systemic factors pertaining to its Quality Assurance (QA) System; Agency Responsiveness to the Community; and Foster and Adoptive Parent Licensing, Recruitment, and Retention. The State was not in substantial conformity with the systemic factors pertaining to Statewide Information System, Case Review System, Staff and Provider Training, or Service Array and Resource Development.

As a result, the state implemented an extensive and comprehensive PIP during the two-year period from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2012; as the state requested, the state used prospective baselines for performance measures that were established during the review cycle of January 2011 through December of 2011. As of December 31, 2012, the state had not met one national standard.

Through an ongoing partnership, the CB and the state jointly assessed progress throughout the PIP period. By the end of the two-year PIP, the state had successfully completed all of the PIP action steps and achieved conformity in all areas except the national standard of Absence of Abuse in Care. Consequently, the state was afforded until March 31, 2014 (referred to as the "non-overlapping period") to demonstrate achievement. After submission of 2013B and 2014A data, the state met the remaining goal. As a result, the CB rescinds all associated CFSR penalties.

We appreciate all of the hard work and dedication that Nevada has demonstrated in successfully completing the elements of the PIP. Your efforts to improve the permanency, safety and well-being of Nevada's children are greatly appreciated. We look forward to our continued collaboration.

Sincerely,



JooYeun Chang  
Associate Commissioner  
Children's Bureau

cc:

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