



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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

FEB 14 2012

Amber Howell
Acting Administrator
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Child and Family Services
4126 Technology Way, 1st Floor
Carson City, Nevada 89706

Dear Ms. Howell:

This letter is in regard to the Nevada Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan (PIP) that was approved by the Children's Bureau (CB), Administration for Children and Families, on December 1, 2010. As of November 30, 2011, Nevada completed Quarter 4 of the PIP and submitted a status report and associated matrix by December 31, 2011 as required. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a status report on progress the State is making in meeting the terms and conditions of the PIP.

Action Steps and Strategies

The State has fully completed the following Quarter 4 Action Steps: 1.1.1 (a), 1.1.2, 2.2.1 (b), 2.3.1 (a), and 3.1.3. Nevada has partially completed 5.1.5; the Regional Office has received documentation from the Rurals demonstrating completion of this benchmark in this jurisdiction. However, Clark and Washoe require additional time to find foster parent champions that are available for contact. Further, Clark is facing complications systemically; creating a system that will endure through time and keep lists viable is proving to be challenging and time is needed to sort out the solution. Nevada has requested this deliverable be changed to Q6. The Regional Office has agreed.

The Regional Office also would like once again to commend Jan Fragale for her diligent effort in tracking, monitoring, and facilitating all of the work and in keeping the Regional Office advised of the State's progress.

In looking ahead toward Q5 progress and the State's next submission, the State has indicated that in working with Chapin Hall and attempting to create a reliable, accurate database to generate effective permanency reports, more time is required to ensure UNITY data is converted and/or changed to meet Chapin Hall requirements. This additional work will delay the completion of 4.1.1 (a) and 4.1.2 from Q5 to Q7. Although the State indicates that 2.3.1 (a) will be completed on time in Q5, Washoe is involved in PII. This research-based training calls for a random sample of supervisors to be trained initially and then a review and evaluation of training prior to rolling

the training out to the rest of the staff. The Regional Office has agreed to accept the pilot training for Washoe for this benchmark, provided documentation demonstrates successful completion.

Performance Measures

As the State has requested, the baselines for performance measures are prospective and have been established during the review cycle of January 2011 through December of 2011. The State has submitted the review data and the baselines are now included in the matrix. The State's Q5 submission will include the first item data elements. Consequently, the State has not yet met the performance for the following:

Safety Outcome 1: Item 1-Timeliness of initiating investigations
Safety Outcome 1: Item 2-Repeat Maltreatment

Safety Outcome 2: Item 3-Services to family to prevent removal
Safety Outcome 2: Item 4-Risk of Harm

Permanency Outcome 1: Item 7- Permanency Goal
Permanency Outcome 1: Item 10-Other planned permanent living arrangement

Well-Being Outcome 1: Item 17-Needs and services of child, parents, foster parents
Well-Being Outcome 1: Item 18-Child and family involvement in case planning
Well-Being Outcome 1: Item 20-Caseworker visits with parents

In addition, the State has not met the National Standard for the Safety Outcome of Absence of Maltreatment of Children in Foster Care. During the Q4 conference call, the State has indicated they have made a diligent attempt to improve data and have pulled each and every case impacting this performance indicator and corrected all errors. Upon this next submission, the State is hopeful that it will meet this National Standard. The Regional Office cautions that moving this National Standard may require further attention, if the State fails to meet the indicator after the data has been corrected; immediate action on behalf of the Agency will be indicated. The Regional Office is available to offer assistance.

As the State is aware, the Children's Bureau is required to assess a penalty, pursuant to 45 CFR 1355.36, if a State is unable to successfully complete its PIP. If the State fails to meet the negotiated improvement goals, the estimated potential assessed penalty would be \$1,640,087.

Enclosed is a copy of the State's PIP fourth quarter report matrix that includes our comments, when applicable, regarding the action steps/benchmarks and the date we consider an action step/benchmark completed.

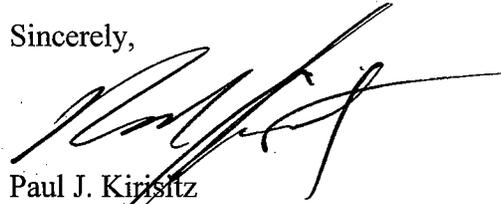
We appreciate all of the hard work and dedication that your staff has demonstrated in successfully completing the elements of the PIP that the State has met. We will continue to work with your

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staff by providing technical assistance in an effort to meet the outstanding requirements. Your efforts to improve the permanency, safety and well-being of Nevada's children are greatly appreciated.

If you have questions or comments related to the PIP, please contact Wendi Ellis, State Specialist, at (415) 437-8476 or by e-mail at wendi.ellis@acf.hhs.gov, or Liz Walker, Children and Families Program Specialist, at (415) 437-8660 or by e-mail at elizabeth.walker@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Paul J. Kirisitz
Director of Regional Programs
Children's Bureau

Enclosure

Jill Marano, Deputy Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services;
Las Vegas, Nevada

Jan Fragale, Social Services Chief III, Division of Child and Family Services;
Carson City, Nevada

Angela Adams, CFSR Unit; CB, Washington, DC

Douglas Southard, Child Welfare Regional Program Manager; CB, Region IX; San Francisco, CA