



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for
Children & Families

Region IX
90 7th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

July 14, 2011

Diane Comeaux, Administrator
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Child and Family Services
4126 Technology Way, 1st Floor
Carson City, NV 89706

Dear Ms. Comeaux:

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, Administration for Children and Families, on December 1, 2010. As of May 31, 2011, Nevada completed Quarter 2 of the PIP and submitted a status report and associated matrix by June 30, 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 all of the Quarter 2 Action Steps: 1.2.1.A, 2.2.1, 2.3.1, 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.2.B, 3.1.2.C, 5.1.1.

In addition, the State has completed action step 3.1.2.C, which was deliverable in Quarter 4.

In reviewing the documents the State submitted as evidence of completion, the regional office was impressed with the amount of effort the Court demonstrated in understanding and developing individualized and targeted plans to improve the functioning and efficiency of the adoption/TPR process. This effort was collaborative, thoughtful, and specific to the unique characteristics of each jurisdiction. The regional office also would like to commend Jan Fragale and Amber Howell for their diligent effort in tracking, monitoring, and facilitating all of the work and in keeping the regional office advised of the States progress.

Performance Measures

As the State has requested, the baselines for performance measures will be prospective and established during the review cycle of January 2011 through December of 2011. As such, 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.

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 could be \$1,640,087.

Enclosed is a copy of the State's PIP second 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 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 staff providing technical assistance in an effort to meet the outstanding requirement. 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 call me at (415) 437-8425 or contact me by email at James.Toscano@acf.hhs.gov or contact Liz Walker, ICF Consultant, CB Region IX Child Welfare at (415) 437-8660 or by email at elizabeth.walker@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,



James Toscano
Regional Program Manager
Children's Bureau Region IX

Enclosure:

Copy of the Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Matrix, 2nd Quarter

Cc:

Amber Howell, Deputy Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services,
4126 Technology Way, 3rd Floor, Carson City, NV 89706

Jan Fragale, Social Services Chief III, Division of Child and Family Services,
4126 Technology Way, 3rd Floor, Carson City, NV 89706

Linda Mitchell, Child Welfare Program Specialist, CFSR Unit; Children's Bureau,
Washington, DC

Angela Adams, JBS Contractor, CFSR Unit; Children's Bureau, Washington, DC