



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

NOV 15 2011

Diane Comeaux, Administrator  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Child and Family Services  
4126 Technology Way, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Carson City, Nevada 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 (CB), Administration for Children and Families, on December 1, 2010. As of August, 2011, Nevada completed Quarter 3 of the PIP and submitted a status report and associated matrix by September 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 3 Action Steps: 1.2.2, 1.2.3, 2.1.1, 2.2.1 (A), 5.1.2 (A), 5.1.3, 5.1.4.

In reviewing the documents the State submitted as evidence of completion, the Regional Office was impressed with the amount of effort the Agency has put forth in not only completing the benchmarks, but also in monitoring the effectiveness of the benchmarks once completed. For many of the deliverables, the State has fully developed the benchmarks demonstrating a pro-active approach and initiative in making the needed changes to improve the lives of children and families. We believe the State's effort was collaborative among your jurisdictions, thoughtful, and specific to their unique characteristics. The Regional Office (RO) also would like once again 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 State's progress.

In looking ahead, benchmarks 4.1.1 (A) and 4.1.2 may not be deliverable in Quarter 4 due to collaboration with external partners that have pending priorities (priorities that could not have been anticipated at PIP development). The RO is agreeing to move the quarter due of both benchmarks to Quarter 5.

**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

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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, CB 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 third 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 staff 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 Liz Walker in Region IX at (415) 437-8660 or by e-mail at [elizabeth.walker@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:elizabeth.walker@acf.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,



Paul J. Kirisitz  
Children's Bureau  
Acting Regional Program Manager

Enclosure

cc: Amber Howell, Deputy Administrator; DCFS, Carson City, NV  
Jan Fragale, Social Services Chief III; DCFS, Carson City, NV  
Linda Mitchell, Child Welfare Program Specialist, CFSR Unit; CB, Washington, DC  
Angela Adams, JBS Contractor, CFSR Unit; CB, Washington, DC  
Liz Walker, Region IX; Children's Bureau, San Francisco, CA