



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for  
Children & Families

November 14, 2013

Region IX  
90 7th Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Amber Howell, Acting Administrator  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Child and Family Services  
4126 Technology Way, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Carson City, NV 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, Administration for Children and Families, on December 1, 2010. As of August 31, 2013, Nevada completed Quarter 11 of the PIP and submitted a status report on October 22, 2013. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a status report on progress the State has made in meeting the terms and conditions of the PIP.

**Action Steps and Strategies**

The State has fully completed all action items and benchmarks listed in the PIP.

**Performance Measures**

As the State requested, the baselines for performance measures were prospective and established during the review cycle of January 2011 through December of 2011. The State has met the negotiated baselines for the Item measures as follows:

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Safety Outcome 1:     | Item 1-Timeliness of initiating investigations               |
| 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 19-Visits with children in foster care                  |
| Well-Being Outcome 1: | Item 20-Caseworker visits with parents                       |

However, the State has *not* met the National Standard for the Safety Outcome of Absence of Maltreatment of Children in Foster Care. Your current performance is 99.43, while your goal is 99.64. Since there is a pending data measure, the State continues to be in the non-overlapping period, which ends March 31, 2014.

As you discuss in your Q11 submission letter, you have focused your effort on data clean-up and particularly focused on 2010 data, which is the data that you believe will meet the National Standard goal. To date, you have resubmitted the data and await the receipt of your data profile to determine whether you have met the target. Please understand that any changes in the baseline data may result in changes to the baseline and consequently changes to the negotiated improvement goal.

We strongly encourage you to continue your analysis and to evaluate your programs and practices (in addition to your strategies of refining your data), to determine other avenues that may improve safety outcomes for children in 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 **\$362,266**.

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 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 Mark Marshall, State Specialist at (415) 437-8554 or by email at [mark\\_marshall@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:mark_marshall@acf.hhs.gov) .

Sincerely,



Douglas Southard  
Regional Program Manager  
Children's Bureau Region IX

Cc:

Jill Marano, Deputy Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services,  
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Jan Fragale, Social Services Chief III, Division of Child and Family Services,  
4126 Technology Way, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Carson City, NV 89706

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

