



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for
Children & Families

April 25, 2012

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, 1st 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 February 29, 2012, Nevada completed Quarter 5 of the PIP and submitted a status report and associated matrix by March 1, 2012, 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 5 Action Steps: 1.1.3, 1.1.3(A), 2.3.1(A), 3.1.3(A), 4.1.4(B) and 5.1.6. Overall, the State has completed the following goals: Primary Strategy One: Goal 2; Primary Strategy Two, Goal 2; Primary Strategy Three, Goal 1.

In looking ahead, the State's Q6 submission will report out on the following action steps: 1.1.3(A) Deliver the safety assessment in Washoe, 2.1.2 Develop and implement a workforce development plan for caseworkers and supervisors to enhance knowledge and skills for engaging parents in team meetings (Clark), 5.1.4(A) Develop a standardized curriculum for specialized foster parents, 5.1.4(B) Evaluate contracts and require the standardized curriculum for specialized foster parents, 5.1.5 Identify foster parent champions and disseminate contact information to foster parents (Clark and Washoe).

As the State indicated during our conference call on April 23, 2012, there are several benchmarks that require review to determine if they need to be renegotiated. Benchmark 2.1.2 requires a parent survey that may require more time to complete; benchmarks 5.1.4 (A) and 5.1.4 (B) requires a standardized curriculum which may not meet the needs of the population served. The State will evaluate these benchmarks further to determine whether renegotiation makes most sense.

Performance Measures

As the State requested, the baselines for performance measures are prospective and were established during the review cycle of January 2011 through December of 2011. As of Q5, the State has met the negotiated baselines for the following:

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

The State has not yet met the performance for the following:

- Safety Outcome 1: Item 1-Timeliness of initiating investigations
- Permanency Outcome 1: Item 7- Permanency Goal
- Well-Being Outcome 1: Item 19-Visits with children in foster care
- 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. Again, 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 could be \$1,318,797.

Enclosed is a copy of the State's PIP fifth quarter report matrix that includes our comments, when applicable, regarding the action steps/benchmarks and the date we consider an action step/benchmark completed. Also included is your current Q5 data performance.

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.

3. Ms. Amber Howell

If you have questions or comments related to the PIP, please contact Wendi Ellis, State Specialist at (415) 437-8476 or by email at wendi.ellis@acf.hhs.gov or Liz Walker, ICFI Consultant, CB Region IX Child Welfare at (415) 437-8660 or by email at elizabeth.walker@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Douglas Southard
Regional Program Manager
Children's Bureau Region IX

Enclosure:

Copy of the Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Matrix, 5th Quarter

Cc:

Jill Marano, Deputy Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services,
4180 South Pecos, Suite 150, Las Vegas, NV 89121

Jan Fragale, Social Services Chief III, Division of Child and Family Services,
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Angela Adams, JBS Contractor, CFSR Unit; Children's Bureau, Washington, DC