



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

**Administration for
Children & Families**

January 30, 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, 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 November 30, 2012, Nevada completed Quarter 8 of the PIP and submitted a status report and associated matrix by December 31, 2012, as required. 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 completed the remaining action step: 2.3.1(C): Each jurisdiction will implement a peer or supervisory review to evaluate the quality of contacts with a deliverable of the description of the peer or supervisory review by jurisdiction. Further, 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 are prospective and were established during the review cycle of January 2011 through December of 2011. As of Q8, the State has met the negotiated baselines for the following:

- 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 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

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Well-Being Outcome 1: Item 20-Caseworker visits with parents

With a negotiated goal of 62.0 and current performance of 61.9, the State has *not* yet met the performance for the following:

Permanency Outcome 1: Item 7- Permanency Goal

In addition, the State has *not* met the National Standard for the Safety Outcome of Absence of Maltreatment of Children in Foster Care (current performance: 99.43; national standard goal: 99.64).

Since there are two pending data measures, the State now moves into the non-overlapping period, which ends March 31, 2014. These data measures require further direct attention for change to occur; immediate action on behalf of the Agency is indicated. The Regional Office is available to offer assistance.

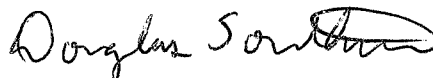
As the State is aware, the Children's Bureau is required to assess a penalty, pursuant to 45 CFR 1355.36, if a State is unable to successfully complete its PIP. If the State fails to meet the negotiated improvement goals, the estimated potential assessed penalty could be **\$594,397**.

Enclosed is a copy of the State's PIP eighth-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 the State's current Q8 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.

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

. Ms. Amber Howell

Enclosure:

Copy of the Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Matrix, 8th 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,
4126 Technology Way, 3rd Floor, Carson City, NV 89706

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