



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for
Children & Families

April 11, 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. On November 30, 2012, Nevada concluded Q8 having completed all action steps and strategies, but with pending data measures (Item 7 and Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care). Consequently, Nevada entered the non-overlapping period and has through March 2014 to achieve the negotiated data measures. As of February 28, 2013, Nevada completed Quarter 9 of the PIP and submitted a status report and associated matrix by March 1, 2013, 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 fully completed all action items and benchmarks listed in the PIP, as of quarter 8.

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 Q9, the State has met the negotiated goal for Item 7- Permanency Goal, with performance of 69.0 and a negotiated goal of 62.0.

However, the State has *not* met the National Standard for the Safety Outcome of Absence of Maltreatment of Children in Foster Care (current performance: 99.35; national standard goal: 99.64).

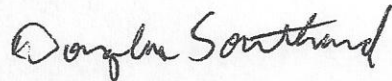
During our conference call with your staff, Nevada will analyze the data pertaining to Absence of Maltreatment of Children in Foster Care and analyze the specific cases contributing to this performance for a further discussion on Friday, April 26th at 10 Pacific (Call in number 866-729-8390, access code 5962426). We must caution the State: time is of the essence and immediate action is required to improve this standard.

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 **\$324,579**.

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 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

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