



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

OCT - 4 2011

Gregory E. Rose
Deputy Director
California Department of Social Services
Children and Family Services Division
744 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Rose:

This letter is in regard to the California (CA) Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan (PIP) which was approved by the Children's Bureau (CB), Administration for Children and Families on October 19, 2009 with an effective date of July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2011. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a status report on progress CA has made towards meeting the terms and conditions of the PIP based on CB's review of the eighth and final quarterly report.

Status of PIP Achievement

CB has reviewed the eighth quarterly PIP report which was submitted on July 29, 2011 for the quarter ending June 30, 2011. We are pleased to inform you that CA has successfully completed all of the action steps agreed to in the PIP. In addition, CB concurs that CA met the data targets for Item 19 — Caseworker Visits with Child and Item 20—Caseworker Visits with Parents. However, the State has not yet met one remaining National Data Standard: Permanency Outcome 1 Composite 4—Stability in Foster Care. Therefore, CB is not able to conclude that the State has successfully completed the PIP. Consistent with 45 CFR 1355.36, CB has determined that the estimated penalty associated with this level of non-conformity to date is \$4,960,849. This amount is based on one Outcome of non-conformance for the period beginning the first quarter of Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 through the second quarter of FFY 2011. In accord with January 2005 Technical Bulletin #1, CA will have through September 2012 (the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FFY 2012(b) reporting period) to demonstrate achievement of the remaining PIP goal. Therefore, CB will continue to monitor the State's progress towards demonstrating goal achievement and will continue to hold the penalty in abeyance until the PIP goal is achieved, or the non-overlapping period ends, whichever comes first.

Continued Monitoring Plan

The baseline for Permanency Outcome 1 Composite 4—Stability was 92.5 with a target score of 95.3. Movement of this measure has been very slow over time, though it is moving in the right direction. The AFCARS score for the FFY 2009 reporting period was 93.5, for FFY 2010 it was 93.5, and for FFY 2010(b)/2011(a) the score was 94.0.

The Regional Office (RO) has continued to offer assistance to your staff to identify and work with counties that, with some adjustments, can help the State achieve the target for this measure before the end of the or non-overlapping reporting period. We urge you to consider facilitating a meeting with counties to discuss strategies that may lead to improvement during this next year.

Your staff has assured the RO that they are assessing State and county level data and will be using the information to work with individual counties to improve. The staff agreed that it will continue to report to the RO on a quarterly basis the status of this Composite by providing State proxy data and actions the California Department of Social Services has taken to improve these data. The first report will be due October 31, 2011 for the period July 1 – September 30, 2011 and will continue until the measure is achieved as confirmed by AFCARS, or the end of the non-overlapping period, whichever is first.

Enclosed is a copy of the eighth quarterly report matrix that includes an updated status report from CB on each of the action steps. As we have stated in the past, CB is available to offer assistance to you and your staff as you work to continue to meet the goals of this data measure.

If you have questions or comments related to the PIP, please call Debra Samples, Children and Families Program Specialist in Region IX, at (415) 437-8626 or email debra.samples@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,



Joseph J. Bock
Acting Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau

Enclosure

cc: Ellie Jones, Chief, Children's Services Operations and Evaluations Branch, Children and Family Services Division, California Department of Social Services; Sacramento, CA
Dave McDowell, Research Program Specialist II, Outcomes and Accountability Bureau, Children and Family Services Division, California Department of Social Services; Sacramento, CA
Miranda Lynch Thomas, Supervisor; CFSR Unit, CB; Washington DC
Myrrl McBride, CFSR Unit; CB, Washington, DC
Debra Samples, Children and Families Program Specialist; CB, Region IX; San Francisco, CA