



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
1250 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024

FEB 04 2008

Reginald Bicha, Administrator  
Wisconsin Division of Children  
and Family Services  
1 West Wilson Street  
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Administrator Bicha:

The Children's Bureau (CB), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), congratulates the State of Wisconsin on the completion of its Program Enhancement Plan (PEP), developed and implemented as a result of Wisconsin's first Child and Family Services Review (CFSR). Wisconsin is the third State in Region V to have successfully completed all provisions of its PEP.

In August 2003, Federal and State review teams completed an on-site review of child welfare cases receiving services from the Wisconsin Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS). In response to the review findings, Wisconsin developed a PEP to address those areas not found to be in conformance with Federal standards. Wisconsin's PEP was approved in November 2004 and included a two-year implementation period which ended October 31, 2006. At the conclusion of the implementation period, Wisconsin had successfully completed all action steps and data goals negotiated between ACF and DCFS, with the exception of the data goal related to the rate of children's re-entry into foster care.

States have one year following their PEP implementation period to successfully meet all outstanding data goals. This period is called the year of non-overlapping data and the time frame corresponds to the six-month Adoption Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) reporting periods. Wisconsin's non-overlapping period began April 1, 2007 and was scheduled to end on March 31, 2008. However, the data profiles developed by ACF in December 2007 indicate that Wisconsin met its re-entry into foster care goal for the 12 month period ending September 30, 2006. These results are attributable to the concentrated efforts DCFS staff members have put forth toward improving the quality and accuracy of the data being submitted to AFCARS. While there are still some overall data quality issues that need to be addressed, the current improvements regarding re-entry into foster care reflected in the recently updated data profiles indicate that all PEP goals have now been met. Therefore, all applicable penalties based on our initial determination of areas not in substantial conformity have been rescinded.

The completion of the PEP is a tremendous accomplishment for the Wisconsin child welfare community. It is a milestone that signifies many years of dedication and commitment from DCFS and county human service personnel at every level, as well as from your partners in child welfare

across the State. DCFS leadership and staff have invested countless hours developing and improving upon programs and policies, implementing a rigorous quality assurance program, improving data collection and reporting, and partnering with the State Courts Office and other internal and external stakeholders to improve the quality of services available to Wisconsin's children and families. CB would specifically like to recognize John Tuohy for his hard work and leadership on all aspects related to the CFSR process in Wisconsin. We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of DCFS leaders Mark Campbell, Mark Mitchell, Michelle Rawlings, Harry Hobbs, Connie Click, Dale Langer, June Paul, Beth Wydeven and State Courts Office leaders Michelle Jensen-Goodwin and Bridget Bauman and all of their staff in bringing the PEP to conclusion. CB applauds your efforts and we look forward to continuing our partnership founded upon improving the outcomes of children and families served by the child welfare system in Wisconsin.

Please contact Krista Thomas, Children and Families Program Specialist, at (312) 353-1122 or by e-mail at [krista.thomas@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:krista.thomas@acf.hhs.gov), if you have any further questions at this time.

Sincerely,



Christine M. Calpin  
Acting Associate Commissioner  
Children's Bureau

cc:

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Madison, WI  
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