



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

MAY 17 2010

Mark Washington
Assistant Commissioner
Georgia Department of Human Resources
2 Peachtree Street, NW
Suite 18-486
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Washington,

I am writing to confirm the status of the measures for Georgia's Child and Family Services (CFSR) Program Improvement Plan (PIP), including both the national data standard measures and the agreed-upon item measures.

The State was required to address four of the six national data standards: absence of maltreatment recurrence, absence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care, timeliness of adoptions, and permanency for children and youth in foster care for long periods of time. At the time of the PIP approval, the State had already achieved conformity with the remaining national standards: timeliness and permanency of reunification, and placement stability. The Children's Bureau has determined that Georgia has attained the national standard for absence of maltreatment recurrence, thus satisfying the PIP requirement, and has attained the required amount of improvement toward the remaining national standards to satisfy the PIP requirement.

Please note, however, that meeting the goals toward the national data standards does not mean that the Children's Bureau will rescind penalties - the State must still meet the PIP goals toward the agreed-upon item measures as well as complete the programmatic action steps for each outcome area and systemic factor found to be in non-conformity during the on site review.

The PIP also contains a requirement to meet measures related to nine items. The Children's Bureau has determined that the State has met the following item measures: 1, 3, 7, and 10. The remaining measures have not been met, due to the following reasons. Please note that the State will continue to have the remainder of the PIP and the non-overlapping year to meet these measures.

Item 4: The PIP goal of 73.5% has not been attained. The highest rate achieved thus far was 72.4% in quarter 4.

Items 17, 18, and 19: The PIP goals were attained in your Statewide quality assurance reviews ("PEAS") but have not been met for the largest metro site, Fulton/DeKalb.

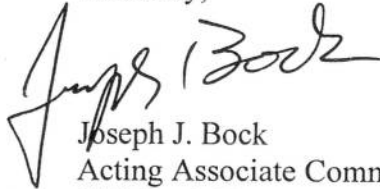
Item 20: The PIP goal of 23% has not been attained in your Statewide quality assurance reviews ("PEAS"), and the identified goal has not been met for the largest metro site, Fulton/DeKalb.

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I understand that there are issues in establishing baselines and measures for improvement related to Fulton/DeKalb. The State had initially wanted to use data from another type of review ("FORGE") but found that the quality of those review results were problematic. The State has also considered using data from the reviews being done for Kenny A. (class action lawsuit), however those reviews are collecting data in only 6-month increments rather than the rolling 12-months required in the PIP process. The Children's Bureau remains committed to working with Georgia to reach an agreement on how to complete the measures for Fulton/DeKalb that is fair to the State and meets the Children's Bureau requirements for PIP measurement outlined in our technical bulletins.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Bock". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Joseph J. Bock
Acting Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau

cc: Ruth Walker, Children's Bureau, Region IV
Tracy Fava, Children's Bureau, Region IV
Isabel Blanco, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services
Susan Denney, Georgia Division of Family and Children Services