



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

MAR 16 2007

William R. Fiss
Interim Division Administrator
Wisconsin Division of Children and Family Services
One West Wilson Street
P.O. Box 8916
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Dear Mr. Fiss:

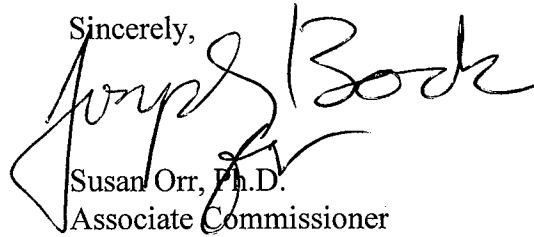
I am writing to update you on the status of the Wisconsin Child and Family Services Review Program Enhancement Plan (PEP), based on the eighth and final Quarterly PEP Report, submitted in January 2007. The report shows that all action steps required in the PEP have been completed, and all improvement goals in the PEP have been accomplished, other than the minimum improvement target established for Permanency Outcome One, Item 5, re-entry to out-of-home care. We congratulate you and your staff in the Wisconsin Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on the timely achievement of the planned action steps as well as the agreed upon amounts of improvement in the items and outcomes, with the one exception noted above. We also wish to acknowledge the major successes the State has achieved over the past two years, like the development and implementation of the Continuous Quality Improvement Program and Children's Court Initiative. The Children's Bureau (CB), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), also recognizes the extra, voluntary steps that the State added to the PEP to further strengthen and improve the child welfare system in Wisconsin. These additional improvements to practice, policy and management will advance Wisconsin even further in the enrichment of services for children and families.

CB is hereby rescinding penalties in all areas of the PEP except Permanency Outcome One. Penalties cannot be rescinded for Permanency Outcome One until the State meets the PEP goal of 20.15 percent for re-entry to out-of-home care. Wisconsin has one year of non-overlapping data following the PEP period to achieve this goal. The non-overlapping year began on November 1, 2006, and will conclude on October 31, 2007. Once the PEP goal for re-entry has been met, Wisconsin will have successfully completed all provisions and we will be able to close out the PEP and rescind all penalties.

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We appreciate the competent, thorough, and ambitious work of your DCFS staff in the implementation of the PEP and their dedication to continuous improvement of services for Wisconsin's children and families. We are hopeful Wisconsin will successfully meet the goal for re-entry in the near future and thereby complete the PEP. If you have any questions, please contact Krista Thomas at krista.thomas@acf.hhs.gov or (312) 353-1122.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Orr". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Susan Orr, Ph.D.
Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau

cc:

Mark Campbell; Director; Bureau of Programs and Policies; Madison, WI
John Tuohy; Director; Office of Policy, Evaluation, and Planning; Madison, WI
Carolyn Wilson-Hurey; Regional Program Manager; Children's Bureau; Chicago, IL
Krista Thomas; Children and Families Program Specialist; Children' Bureau; Chicago, IL