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Governor Scott Walker  
Secretary Eloise Anderson

Secretary's Office

January 16, 2015

Linda Davis  
Chairperson  
Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council  
635 North 26<sup>th</sup> Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1803

Dear Ms. Davis,

Thank you for your submissions of the budget recommendations of the Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council and the annual report of the Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council which were transmitted on December 15 and 19, respectively. I value the input of the Partnership Council and appreciate the Council's thoughtful comments in both reports.

It is evident from the budget report that the Partnership Council engaged in a thorough and careful review of the Department's September 15 budget submission. I appreciate the Partnership Council support for the budget proposals put forward in the Department's September 15 budget submission, with the understanding that the Partnership Council is advocating a modification in the proposal related to Case Aides. As requested in your letter, I have shared the Partnership Council budget recommendations with the State Budget Office and the Governor's Office for consideration in the development of the Governor's budget.

I have reviewed your annual report and commend the Partnership Council for the active and productive role it has played this past year, as described in the annual report. I concur with the recommendations in the annual report, and note that many of them are already underway.

Specifically:

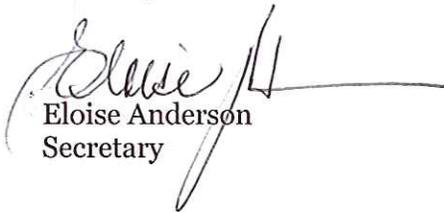
- With respect to Partnership Council involvement in hiring a new Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) Director, the Partnership Council co-hosted with the Department two community listening sessions in the fall 2014 to solicit input from community members on the critical qualities we should seek in the next Director;
- With respect to critical incident reviews, recommendations from all critical incident reviews have been implemented;
- With respect to expanding services to sex trafficking victims, a specialized sex trafficking pilot program was launched and is being operated by Lad Lake;
- With respect to expanding services to older youth, out-of-home care has been extended to age 21 for youth who are still in high school under an Individualized Education Program effective August 2014, expanding supports for these vulnerable youth;

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- Regarding initial assessments and staffing issues, the Department continues to monitor the timeliness of BMCW initial assessments and staffing and retention rates;
- With the support of the Partnership Council, legislation was passed in spring 2014 that designates the District Attorney and Presiding Children's Court judge as members of the Partnership Council; and
- Regarding the new Care4Kids and Out-of-Home Care extension programs, the Department is monitoring the outcomes of the Care4Kids medical program and the extension of out-of-home care to age 21 and looks forward to discussions of these initiatives at future Partnership Council meetings.

Thank you again to you and all members of the Partnership Council for your work this past year, for the time and effort you dedicate to the Partnership Council, and for your interest, passion, and commitment to strengthening the children, families, and community of Milwaukee.

Sincerely,



Eloise Anderson  
Secretary