



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
330 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20201

August 8, 2016

Cindy Gillespie
Director
Arkansas Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 1437, Slot S 201
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-1437

Dear Director Gillespie:

We are pleased to inform you that Arkansas has successfully completed its Improvement Plan under the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Assessment Review.

In June 2001, the Children's Bureau completed an onsite review of Arkansas' AFCARS data collection and reporting. The AFCARS Assessment Review (AAR) evaluated the ability of the state's automated information system to collect, extract, and transmit AFCARS data, and assessed the accuracy of the data collected in accordance with the definitions of the data elements specified in Federal regulations and policy. In addition to reviewing technical documentation, the review also included a review of foster care and adoption case records (paper files) to compare the information found in the paper files with the electronic data submitted for those cases to ensure accuracy, timely data entry, and completeness in the conversion of historical information.

While the AFCARS Assessment Review is considered complete, we encourage you to continue to build upon the processes you have implemented to ensure accurate, quality data. In addition, we note that some issues addressed through the AFCARS Improvement Plan such as data quality oversight, overlap with the state's Title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP) and requirements for on-going quality assurance processes. While for the purposes of the AFCARS Improvement Plan, we find these tasks to be complete, the state must also ensure that efforts are made to sustain the improvements over time.

I understand that Arkansas has developed a system to obtain feedback from staff related to the operation and ease of use of the Arkansas CHRIS system. We encourage the continued use of these mechanisms as one aspect of a larger continuous quality improvement system. The Children's Bureau's Region 6 office will continue to monitor Arkansas' progress with training and data quality oversight through the CFSP and Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR). We also want to remind Arkansas that the state's CFSP and APSR are to include information on changes to the system and caseworker training, as required by 45 CFR 1357.15(t) and 45 CFR 1357.16(a)(5).

Again, we congratulate you and the dedicated staff of your agency for the diligent and on-going efforts to successfully complete the AFCARS Improvement Plan. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact your Children’s Bureau Regional Program Specialist Patsy Buida at (214) 767-4958 or Patsy.Buida@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Rafael López
Commissioner
Administration on Children, Youth and Families

cc: Keesa Smith, Deputy Director; DHS; Little Rock, AR
Mischa Martin, Director; DCFS; Little Rock, AR
Joseph Bock, Deputy Associate Commissioner, Children’s Bureau; Washington, DC
Miranda Lynch Thomas, Director; CB, Division of CFSR; Washington, DC
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