



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

April 15, 2010

Mr. Howard H. Hendrick
Cabinet Secretary for Human Services
P.O. Box 25352
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73125

Dear Mr. Hendrick:

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

In August 2006, the Children's Bureau completed an onsite review of the State's AFCARS data. 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 related to training for Tribal child welfare staff and OKDHS staff, as well as data quality oversight by supervisors, overlap with the State's Title IV-B Child and Family Services Plan (CFSP). 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. The Region VI office will continue to monitor progress with Oklahoma regarding training and data quality oversight through the CFSP and Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR). We also want to remind Oklahoma that the State's CFSP and APSR shall include information on changes to the system and caseworker training information required by 45 CFR 1357.15(t) and 45 CFR 1357.16(a)(5).

Oklahoma has developed an E-KIDS system that includes AFCARS data entry from the Tribal child welfare agencies in Oklahoma. We would encourage the State, as required by 45 CFR 1357.15(l)(3)(v), to include Tribes in collaboration and coordination activities which would include mutually beneficial consultation surrounding training, development and data entry into EKIDS that impacts the accuracy of the AFCARS elements. The Region VI office will continue to monitor the progress made in Tribal collaboration and coordination activities specific to E-

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KIDS through the Title IV-B CFSP and in the Oklahoma Child and Family Services Review Program Improvement Plan.

Again, we congratulate Oklahoma and the dedicated staff 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 Regional Program Specialist.

Sincerely,

/s/

Joseph J. Bock
Acting Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau

cc: Marq Youngblood, Acting Director, Children and Family Services Division
June Lloyd, Regional Program Manager, Children's Bureau Region VI