February 6, 2018

Justice Jess Dickinson
Commissioner
Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services
P.O. Box 346
Jackson, MS 39205

Dear Commissioner Dickinson:

The Children’s Bureau (CB), Regional Office (RO) would like to thank you for the first quarterly report regarding the states’ progress towards coming into compliance with the Program Improvement Plan (PIP) regarding sections 106(b)(2)(B)(ii) and (iii) of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), as amended by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA) submitted on December 5, 2017. We appreciate the effort your staff has demonstrated working through this process. We have reviewed the amended PIP submitted by the agency that incorporates the goals, strategies, and timeframes for completion of each key activity. It appears that Mississippi is working to address the policy changes and legislation necessary to comply with requirements. The Children’s Bureau have reviewed and approved the following changes the state requested to the PIP:

**Strategy 1 - Engage/Educate/Bring awareness to the Public, Community Partners, and Stakeholders, including Mandatory Reporters:**
- a. Target date changed from September 15, 2017 to February 28, 2018
- b. Target date changed from November 30, 2017 to ongoing
- c. Target date changed from October 30, 2017 to ongoing

**Strategy 2 - Develop Related MDCPS Policy:**
- b. Target date changed from October 30, 2017 to February 28, 2018

**Strategy 3 - Develop and Implement Plans on How to Monitor Plans of Safe Care, Collect Data, and Report Data:**
- a. Target date changed from May 29, 2018 to April 1, 2018
- b. Target date changed from October 15, 2017 to April 1, 2018
- c. Determine how information will be communicated between Field and State Office (Smart sheet, MACWIS, etc.) - This action step was changed to not applicable
- d. Target date changed from October 15, 2017 to April 1, 2018
- e. Conduct the first session of monitoring by CARA Monitoring Panel - This action step was changed to not applicable

**Strategy 4 - Develop and Implement Training of CPS staff and Pertinent Contracted Providers:**
- a. Target date changed from September 30, 2017 to April 1, 2018
- b. Target date changed from November 30, 2017 to April 1, 2018
c. Target date changed from March 30, 2018 to April 1, 2018

We have also received the following update: “All Human Trafficking training was delivered by December 31, 2017. Dates and locations for the Human Trafficking training will be provided in the Annual CAPTA update on June 30, 2018.” Lastly, we have been informed about your recent administrative changes within MDCPS. As a result of these changes, previous staffs identified in the CAPTA/CARA PIP are no longer with agency or serve in same capacity.

As the state is aware, failure to come into compliance by June 30, 2018 will result in our withholding Mississippi’s funding under the CAPTA State Grant until such time as the State comes into compliance. The next quarterly report is due on March 5, 2018. Meanwhile, we encourage you to continue to monitor the state’s performance during the PIP implementation period.

Thank you for your commitment to improving Mississippi’s child welfare system. We appreciate the high level of interest and support from the leadership. Please do not hesitate to contact Shalonda Cawthon, Child Welfare Regional Program Manager in Region 4, at (404) 562-2826 or by email at shalonda.cawthon@acf.hhs.gov. You may also contact Antonette Rollins, Child and Families Program Specialist, at (404) 562-2833 or by email at antonette.rollins@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Shalonda Cawthon
Regional Program Manager
Children’s Bureau, Region 4

cc: Taylor Cheeseman, Chief of Staff; MDCPS; Jackson, MS
    Bonlitha Windham, Therapeutic Services Director; MDCPS; Jackson, MS
    Jaworski Davenport, Deputy Director Field Operations - Data; MDCPS; Jackson, MS
    Antonette Rollins, CB Children and Families Program Specialist, Region 4; Atlanta, GA