

# Department of Health and Human Services



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**  
*Children's Bureau*  
*Region 4*

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April 26, 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 second 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 second quarter PIP Progress Report submitted by the agency that incorporates the goals, strategies, and timeframes for completion of each key activity. It appears that Mississippi is working on developing and implementing training of CPS staff and pertinent contracted providers necessary to comply with requirements. The Children's Bureau have reviewed and approved the following changes the state requested to the PIP:

**Strategy 3 - Develop and Implement Plans on How to Monitor Plans of Safe Care, Collect Data, and Report Data:**

- 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 applicable. The target date was also changed to May 1, 2018
- e. Conduct the first session of monitoring by CARA Monitoring Panel - This action step was changed to applicable. Target completion date is May 29, 2018

**Strategy 4 - Develop and Implement Training of CPS staff and Pertinent Contracted Providers:**

- a. Target date changed from April 1, 2018 to May 15, 2018
- b. Target date changed from April 1, 2018 to May 15, 2018
- c. Target date changed from April 1, 2018 to May 15, 2018

**Strategy 5 - Obtain Governor’s Assurance:**

- a. Target date changed from April 1, 2018 to May 15, 2018
- b. Target date changed from November 30, 2017 to June 15, 2018

As the state is aware, failure to come into compliance by June 30, 2018 may 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 June 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. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Antonette Rollins, Child and Families Program Specialist, at (404) 562-2833 or by email at [antonette.rollins@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:antonette.rollins@acf.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

SHALONDA  
CAWTHON

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  
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