



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

July 23, 2018

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

Dear Commissioner Dickinson:

This correspondence is regarding the state's completion of a Program Improvement Plan in order to come into compliance with 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). These sections of the law require states receiving the CAPTA State Grant to provide an assurance in the form of a certification by the Governor of the state that the state has in effect and is enforcing a state law, or has in effect and is operating a statewide program, relating to child abuse and neglect that includes CARA requirements.

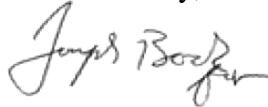
In order to remain eligible for funding under CAPTA the Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services had to develop and submit for CB approval a Program Improvement Plan (PIP). The PIP was submitted to the Regional Office (RO) on August 31, 2017 and outlined the specific steps Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services would take to come into full compliance by no later than June 30, 2018.

On September 5, 2017 the state received notice from the Children's Bureau that the PIP, as submitted, was approved. The final PIP update was received on June 15, 2018. Based on the information and documentation received and reviewed during the PIP implementation period, Mississippi is in compliance which closes out this PIP.

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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 or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Shalonda Cawthon, Regional Program Manager, at (404) 562-2242 or by e-mail 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Milner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jerry Milner
Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau

cc: Taylor Cheeseman, Chief of Staff; MDCPS; Jackson, MS
Jaworski Davenport, Deputy Director Field Operations - Data; MDCPS; Jackson, MS
Gail Collins, Director, Division of Program Implementation, CB; Washington, DC
Shalonda Cawthon, Child Welfare Regional Program Manager, CB; Region 4; Atlanta, GA
Antonette Rollins, CB Children and Families Program Specialist, Region 4; Atlanta, GA