County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020
(213) 351-5602

PATRICIA S. PLOEHN, LCSW
Director

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October 6, 2010

To: Each Supervisor

From: Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW
Director

TITLE IV-E CHILD WELFARE WAIVER SHORT-TERM EXTENSION

This is to provide the board with an update on the Title IV-E Child Welfare Demonstration Capped Allocation Project. The attached letter from the California Department of Social Services informs the two participating California counties (Los Angeles and Alameda) of a ten-month extension through April 30, 2013.

The State requested the extension following a Congressional briefing on June 11, 2010, regarding the successes and outcomes achieved under the waiver. As mentioned in my June 9, 2010, memo to your Board, I traveled to Washington, DC, to participate in this briefing.

Also attached is the letter from the Department of Health and Human Services to the State. The letter remarks that this short-term extension will afford the State the opportunity to complete evaluation and financial reports and provide Federal administrators the opportunity to review the results of the demonstration project.

I will keep you and your staff informed on our waiver outcomes and evaluations so that the Board can make an informed decision on whether it is in the County interest to participate in any further extension period. Please contact me if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Armand Montiel, of my staff, at (213) 351-5530. Thank you.

PSP:am

Attachments

c: Chief Executive Officer
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Children and Families Well-Being
County Counsel
Executive Officer
Chief Probation Officer

CDSS
JOHN A. WAGNER
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • *www.cdss.ca.gov*

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
GOVERNOR

August 26, 2010

Ms. Yolanda Baldovinos, MSW, Director
Alameda County Social Services Agency
2000 San Pablo Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612

Ms. Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW, Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Children and Family Services
425 Shatto Place
Los Angeles, CA 90020

Dear Ms. Baldovinos and Ms. Ploehn:

I am pleased to inform you that our July 13, 2010, request for an initial ten-month extension for the Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Capped Allocation Project (CAP) has been approved by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). This extension is approved through April 30, 2013. All other aspects of the federal terms and conditions, including current cost-neutrality requirements and procedures and requirements to submit semi-annual progress reports, remain in effect for this period. A copy of the ACF approval letter is enclosed.

The California Department of Social Services would like to express our appreciation for the efforts undertaken by both counties and Casey Family Programs in planning and preparing for the Congressional Briefing and discussion with Assistant Secretary Nazario and Commissioner Samuels on June 11, 2010. These forums allowed us to collectively highlight successes and outcomes achieved by the counties under the waiver and initiate discussions regarding this important extension request.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the two CAP counties, the County Welfare Directors Association, Chief Probation Officers of California, Casey Family Programs, the Child Welfare Co-Investment Partnership, and the rest of our child welfare stakeholder and advocacy community to continue to advocate for comprehensive federal finance reform and the development of our five-year extension proposal.

Again, thank you and your team for the work "on the ground" everyday and for all the preparatory work that went into these very successful meetings. Should you have any questions, you may contact me at (916) 657-2598 or Greg Rose, Deputy Director, Children and Family Services, at (916) 657-2614.

Sincerely,

PC, for

JOHN A. WAGNER
Director

Enclosure

c: Miryam Choca, Casey Family Programs
Karen Pank, CPOC
Frank Mecca, CWDA
Joni Pictl, CWCOIP

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Office of the Assistant Secretary, Suite 600
370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

AUG 0 6 2010

Mr. John Wagner
Director
California Department of Social Services
744 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Wagner:

Thank you for your letter highlighting the achievements to date of the California Child Welfare Waiver Demonstration Project, authorized by Section 1130 of the Social Security Act, and requesting a short-term extension of the demonstration. In response to your request and in accordance with existing policy regarding extensions of waiver demonstration projects, we are pleased to grant the requested short-term extension.

Procedures for extending waiver demonstration projects are outlined in Information Memorandum ACYF-CB-IM-02-06. In accordance with those procedures, we are approving a short-term extension of your current demonstration project until April 30, 2013, the date that is four months after the due date of your final evaluation report on December 31, 2012. This short-term extension will afford you the opportunity to complete your evaluation report and financial reports, and will provide us with the opportunity to review the results of your demonstration. At the conclusion of this period, a final decision will be made as to whether to extend the project for an additional five years. All other aspects of the current Terms and Conditions, including current cost-neutrality requirements and procedures, and the requirement to submit semi-annual progress reports, remain in effect during the period of this short-term extension.

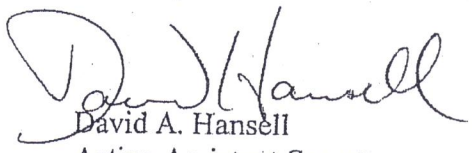
At the time you submit the final evaluation report, we request that you also submit a letter highlighting the sections of the report that address the evaluation criteria addressed in ACYF-CB-IM-02-06. The letter should include information on whether the project was implemented as intended and met cost neutrality requirements, as well as the extent to which it achieved positive outcomes for children and families. Please also ensure that your evaluation report addresses all three evaluation components (process study, outcome study, and cost analysis) required by Section 3 of your waiver Terms and Conditions. Should you wish to propose changes to any aspects of the design of the demonstration based on your evaluation findings, please also specify the requested changes.

Your letter also referenced a recent court decision that requires the State to increase rates for group home care retroactive to December 14, 2009. As a result of the decision, California is requesting an increase in the amount of Federal funds provided under the

waiver demonstration's capped allocation to compensate the State for the unforeseen increase in foster care costs. I understand that members of your staff have discussed the issue with staff at the Children's Bureau (CB) and that the State plans to submit additional information relating to the request. Once this information is received, we will be pleased to work with you in negotiating a resolution to this matter.

We commend California and the participating counties of Los Angeles and Alameda for their efforts to improve outcomes for children and families. Should you have any questions regarding the waiver demonstration, please feel free to contact Joseph Bock, Acting Associate Commissioner of CB, at (202) 205-8618.

Sincerely,



David A. Hansell
Acting Assistant Secretary
for Children and Families

cc: Joseph J. Bock, Acting Associate Commissioner, Children's Bureau

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June 9, 2010

To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: Patricia S. Ploehn, LCSW
Director

ABSENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT

This is to advise your Board that I will be away from the Department June 10-11, 2010. I will be in Washington, DC, participating in a Congressional briefing and meeting with Administration for Children and Families regarding the Title IV-E Waiver and comprehensive finance reform, along with a delegation of child welfare leaders from waiver states and California Department of Social Services.

During my absence, Dr. Jackie Contreras, Chief Deputy Director, will be in charge of the Department. Dr. Contreras can be reached at his office at (213) 351-5607, or by cell phone at [redacted].

If needed, I can be reached by BlackBerry email at [redacted].lacounty.gov or cell phone at [redacted].

PSP:mdd

c: Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer of the Board

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"