

TOM YOUNG, JR.
SENATE, DISTRICT NO. 24
AIKEN COUNTY

COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES
CORRECTIONS AND PENOLOGY
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November 17, 2014

Amber Gillum, Interim Director
South Carolina Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 1520
Columbia, SC 29202-1520

Dear Mr. Gillum:

On September 16, 2014, the Department of Social Services presented a Child Protective Services Plan Update ("CPS Plan Update") to the Department of Social Services Oversight Subcommittee. Our Committee was pleased to hear that the Department is taking proactive steps to address some of the issues that the subcommittee has been investigating. Contained within the CPS Plan Update were a number of date specific action items. The Committee members want an update on many of those items. Hence, as Chair, I am writing to follow-up with the Department concerning its progress toward implementing those reforms. Please provide the current status of the following:

1. New Technology. The Department stated that child welfare investigators throughout the state will be issued smart phones by September 2014. Have those phones been issued? Please advise of the status of the Department's evaluation of expanding the use of smart phones for other staff whose primary responsibility includes field work.
2. Policy Updates and Clarification. The Department set July 2015 as the completion date for the project. I understand that date is still somewhat remote in time. I assume that some steps have been taken to complete the work in the timeframe the Department set forth. Please provide an update concerning the Department's preparations and progress toward meeting its projected deadline.

3. Regionalized Intake Process. The department set January 1, 2015 as the implementation date for the regionalized intake process. Please provide an update concerning the Department's progress toward meeting its projected deadline and a brief description of the regionalized process that will be implemented.
4. Multiagency Coordination. Has the Department executed with DAODAS a the formal agreement to dedicate a case manager to work in the DSS office? Please provide a copy of the formal agreement.
5. Multiagency Coordination. Has a Department of Mental Health staff member been assigned in the Richland County Department of Social Services office? If not, please advise the reason that this task has yet to be completed and when it will be done.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response to this letter. The Committee is continuing its work and plans to meet again on November 24 and again in December on a date to be determined. Information responding to this letter will be helpful. Please email or call me if there any questions or if something needs clarification.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom", with a stylized flourish at the end.

State Senator
District # 24

cc: Senator Katrina Shealy
Senator Joel Lourie
Senator William O'Dell