



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
1250 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Tribal Leader:

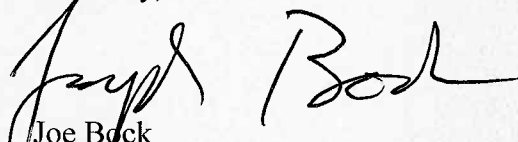
As you may recall, we let you know this past April about the opportunities to comment on how the Children's Bureau (CB) monitors a child welfare agency's compliance with title IV-B and IV-E plan requirements. CB currently reviews a State's compliance primarily through the Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSRs).

As noted in the Federal Register notice attached, there is a Tribal consultation opportunity upcoming on September 13, 2011 at the Mystic Lake Casino and Hotel in Prior Lake, Minnesota. This consultation will be at 5:30 pm, following the completion of the first day of the Fostering Connections Tribal Gathering which is being held at the same location. Please see attached details or contact your ACF Regional Office representative if you need additional information about the consultation.

We are holding this consultation because following two rounds of CFSRs in every State and the passage of several amendments to Federal child welfare laws since the CFSRs began; we believe it is time to reassess how we review title IV-B and IV-E programs through the CFSR. We believe that the CFSR has been a factor contributing to increased State/Tribal and local government attention to child welfare practice improvement and a renewed focus on child and family outcomes and the systems supporting positive outcomes. Stakeholders have also noted areas where the CFSRs could contribute to even more positive changes. To that end, we are interested in learning from stakeholders how they would envision a Federal review process that meets the statutory requirements and holds child welfare agencies accountable for achieving positive outcomes for children and families and continuously improving the quality of their systems for doing so.

I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to let us know your thoughts on how the Children's Bureau can strengthen its ability to meet our shared goals that children are safe, achieving permanency and have their well-being needs met.

Sincerely,



Joe Bock
Acting Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau

Attachments