



CDSS

WILL LIGHTBOURNE
DIRECTOR

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

January 26, 2012

Alice Bussiere
Youth Law Center
200 Pine Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, California 94104

SUBJECT: REALIGNMENT OF THE HEALTH CARE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN
FOSTER CARE

Dear Ms. Bussiere:

Alice

Thank you for taking the time to communicate to us your concerns regarding the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC). Your letter has been forwarded to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for a reply. The CDSS would like to address your concerns by providing you with the most current information as it relates to the future of HCPCFC.

The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) informally agreed to have CDSS retain fiscal and programmatic responsibility for HCPCFC and remove the program from the list of programs realigned to the counties effective fiscal year 2011/12. The CDSS has continued oversight of HCPCFC, for the current fiscal year; meanwhile, legislation will be required to create a permanent mechanism for CDSS to administer the funds.

Based on the agreement between CWDA and CDSS, it is anticipated that HCPCFC will continue as usual. We agree that HCPCFC is critical in protecting the health and safety of children in foster care. As a result we will continue to identify and respond to the health care needs of foster children by providing health oversight and coordination to enhance the physical, mental, dental, and developmental well being of our foster care population, in keeping with all federal statutory requirements.

We appreciate your expressions of concern, and we will continue to work swiftly to ensure the program remains in its current operation. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact me at (916) 651-7464, or via email at karen.gunderson@dss.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Karen B. Gunderson

KAREN B. GUNDERSON, Chief
Child and Youth Permanency Branch
Children and Family Services Division