



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Administration for Children and Families
Administration on Children, Youth and Families
330 C Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20447

September 22, 2006

I am proud to present the enclosed report, *Interjurisdictional Placement of Children in the Child Welfare System: Improving the Process*, which presents findings from a Web-based survey of the State child welfare directors in 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In response to the many concerns about the delays in and complexities of interjurisdictional placements, we designed the survey to move beyond focusing on barriers to identifying possible solutions to the barriers. The intent is to move the field forward and to guide the Children's Bureau's efforts in providing technical assistance to States to expedite interjurisdictional placements.

A workgroup of national-, State- and local-level participants provided guidance during survey development and helped formulate recommended solutions for improving the interjurisdictional placement process. States were asked to identify and assess strategies that State child welfare agencies have developed to facilitate interjurisdictional placements. This report provides an analysis of the strategies. We hope this will assist in guiding States as they consider implementing these promising practices.

We recognize that multiple efforts will be required to address current concerns about interjurisdictional placement. The Children's Bureau has already begun work with its technical assistance providers to integrate a number of these strategies and supports into the technical assistance available to States and tribes. I hope that multiple national and State partners will join in the interjurisdictional placement reform effort. This joint effort is needed to support the numerous initiatives required to help children achieve their permanency plans through interstate placements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "SO", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Susan Orr, Ph.D.
Associate Commissioner
Children's Bureau