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**Council on Accreditation**

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[www.coanet.org](http://www.coanet.org)

April 11, 2008

Cheryl S. Stephani  
Assistant Secretary  
Children's Administration  
Washington State Department  
of Social & Health Services  
Office Building 2  
14<sup>th</sup> & Jefferson  
Olympia, WA 98502

Dear Cheryl:

Thank you for your letter dated March 28, 2008. Having reviewed it and the attached supporting materials, I do not believe that it is responsive to my March 6<sup>th</sup> request that you provide a written plan containing proposed completion dates for the full implementation of certain foundational standards and a proposed schedule of interim milestones leading up to their full implementation.

Accordingly, pursuant to our Policies & Procedures I am convening an Accreditation Commission to determine the Department's standing with respect to its pursuit of accreditation. The Commission will review the Department's accreditation history, activities and status, third-party complaints and all communications related to its pursuit of accreditation, including our recent written correspondence.

In that regard, please note that COA's Policies & Procedures provide that a determination regarding an organization's accreditation can be based on its partial or unsatisfactory implementation and performance with standards that raise concerns about stakeholder health or safety or the credibility of COA's accreditation process.

Finally, please know that I remain willing and interested in meeting with you and the appropriate Department staff either now or following the decision of the Accreditation Commission.

Cheryl S. Stephani  
Assistant Secretary  
Children's Administration  
Washington State Department  
of Social & Health Services

April 11, 2008  
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Again, thank you and I look forward to our continuing work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard", is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Richard Klarberg  
President & CEO

cc: Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor of the State of Washington  
Robin Arnold-Williams, Secretary, Washington State Department  
of Social & Health Services  
Timothy Hunter, Accreditation Program Manager, Children's Administration,  
Washington State Department of Social & Health Services  
Reid Scher, Accreditation Operations Manager, COA  
Jennifer Flowers, Director of Volunteer Services & Accreditation Commission, COA