STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
P.O. Box 45040, Olympia, Washington 98504-5040

July 14 , 2010

Lois Ward, Program Specialist
Administration for Children and Families
Seattle Regional Office MS - 73
2201 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121

Dear Ms. Ward Lois

I am pleased to submit the State Assessment for the Washington Child and Family Services Review. This Assessment provides the foundation for the collaborative on-site review in September and the subsequent development of a program improvement plan.

This assessment reflects the input of a diverse audience of consumers, advocates, direct service providers, state staff, judicial partners, youth, tribal leaders and representatives, foundation and philanthropic partners from around Washington state and other champions for children and families served by the public child welfare system.

Developing a statewide assessment was not an easy task and took time and commitment of many people. I want to acknowledge the Statewide Assessment Team for all of their work. And I want to offer a special thanks to Judge Kitty-Ann van Doorninck who provided excellent guidance as a project mentor. Janet Skreen and Rick Copeland with the Court Improvement Project, Nancy Roberts Brown from Catalyst for Kids and Ron Murphy with Casey Family Programs also provided valuable support.

I am grateful for the involvement of the Tribes and the Indian Policy Advisory Committee and the important perspective they provided about the experience and needs of tribal communities.

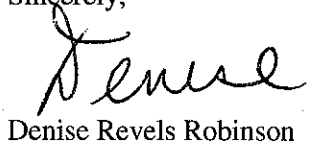
Youth who have been in foster care provided a unique view of the impact of child welfare services. I especially want to recognize their willingness to share their personal experiences. Jim Theofolis and the Mockingbird Society helped us engage youth in the assessment process and I appreciate his support.

I would also like to thank the State Operational Team and leadership of the Children's Administration for all of their efforts to assure a comprehensive assessment of our current strengths and areas needing improvement.

I appreciate the technical assistance and support you and your Region 10 colleagues provided during the assessment process.

I look forward to the on-site review the week of September 13-17, 2010. I anticipate that these collaborative processes will provide the foundation for continued improvement in the outcomes achieved for children and families in Washington.

Sincerely,



Denise Revels Robinson
Assistant Secretary
Children's Administration