STATE OF WASHINGTON
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**
*Olympia, Washington 98504-5000*

December 19, 2008

The Honorable James Hargrove
Washington State Senator
PO Box 40424
Olympia, WA 98504-0424

Dear Senator Hargrove:

The Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee (WSRDAC) has completed the second phase of the legislative requirements under SHB 1472 (2007) to develop a set of recommendations to reduce disproportionality in the WA State's child welfare system. Those recommendations are contained in the enclosed Remediation Plan.

WSRDAC, under the leadership of its co-chairs, employed a rigorous process and devoted a great deal of time to developing the Plan for Remediation. The Committee provided me with the following initial set of priorities, with the understanding that these priorities will be refined as implementation plans are developed.

- Development and implementation of a system to track and monitor the child welfare system's progress in reducing racial disproportionality and disparity.

- Studies of existing practices and initiatives set forth in the Remediation Plan: Structured Decision Making (SDM), Family Team Decision Making (FTDM), Kinship Care, and compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA).

- Consideration of a Washington State Indian Child Welfare Act.

- Cultural competency training, a racial impact analysis review of policies, and an agency disproportionality assessment using the National Association of Public Child Welfare Administrators (NAPCWA) Disproportionality Diagnostic Tool.

- Exploration of in-home, community based services and implementation of enhanced training for mandatory reporters.

Please let me know if you have any questions. We look forward to continuing this work on behalf of the children and families of the state of Washington.

Sincerely,

Robin Arnold-Williams

Robin Arnold-Williams
Secretary

Enclosures

cc: Debbie Regala
Val Stevens
Dale Brandland
Mike Carrell
Chris Marr
Rosemary McAuliffe
Cheryl Stephani
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