



GOVERNOR
KENNY C. GUINN
STATE OF NEVADA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Feb. 23, 2005

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**GOV. GUINN ANNOUNCES NEVADA'S PLAN TO IMPROVE
CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM APPROVED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

CARSON CITY – Gov. Kenny Guinn announced today that the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) has approved Nevada's Child and Family Services Review-Program Improvement Plan, effective March 1.

The Program Improvement Plan process required Nevada to establish specific goals tied to improving the safety, permanency and well being of children. Three child welfare agencies, the Division of Child and Family Services, Washoe County Department of Social Services and the Clark County Department of Family Services, collaborated with hundreds of external stakeholders to develop the plan. The primary focus under the first year of the plan is on training social workers to better assist families and establishing consistent policy in Nevada to guide their work. More than 80 pages in length, the Program Improvement Plan contains action steps for improving many services for children, including meeting their mental and behavioral health needs.

A key component of the Program Improvement plan is to train social workers to view each family individually and match services to their needs.

"Included in my budget is a reduction of the number of children assigned to each social worker," Gov. Guinn said. "Social workers can't do their jobs well if they are assigned high caseloads that prevent them from visiting children and families in their homes."

Jone Bosworth, Administrator for the Division of Child and Family Services, said the Child and Family Services Review is the most sweeping child welfare reform undertaken in the United States. The Administration of Children and Families Regional Office, in collaboration with the State and other partners, will evaluate the State's progress towards achieving the goals of the Program Improvement Plan. Nevada is required to submit quarterly status reports to ACF beginning June 30. "We are committed to improving outcomes for Nevada's children and families and we appreciate the Governor's support to reduce caseloads so that social workers will have the time to assist families on an individual basis," Bosworth said.

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