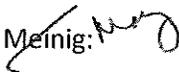




STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
CHILDREN'S ADMINISTRATION  
PO Box 45040 • Olympia WA • 98504-5040

January 13, 2014

Mary Meinig, Director  
Office of the Family and Children's Ombuds  
6840 Fort Dent Way, Suite 125  
Tukwila, WA 98188

Dear Ms. Meinig: 

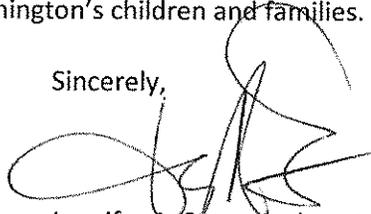
Thank you for the Office of the Family and Children's Ombud's (OFCO) 2013 Annual Report. Your detailed report addresses the current data related to inquiries or complaints made to your office as well as the cases where you or your staff has intervened to support our efforts to keep children safe. We appreciate OFCO's partnership as we continue to make improvements on many fronts to Washington's child welfare system. Our shared commitment to the safety and welfare of children only strengthens our work with families.

As a result of our partnership on the Severe Abuse Report, a work group continues to follow up on the recommendations made by the committee to improve the state and private adoption process through stronger applicant preparation, making the right child and family match and providing quality training and support to adoptive families. We also continue our work on improving our response to our most vulnerable population - children from birth to three-years-old. With help from our community experts and child advocates we are exploring other strategies that include increasing our education efforts regarding safe sleep environments for children during CPS interventions.

As we implement the Child Protective Services, Family Assessment Response model across the state this year and next, we value your feedback on how families respond to this approach to addressing reports of alleged maltreatment of children. We anticipate that greater community participation and service array will meet our shared goal of strengthening families to help keep children safe.

We look forward to our ongoing partnership with you and our communities as we continue this important work to improve services to Washington's children and families.

Sincerely,



Jennifer A. Strus, Assistant Secretary  
Children's Administration

C: Kevin W. Quigley, Secretary, DSHS  
Randy Hart, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Children's Administration