

December 14, 2016

Via Electronic Mail

The Honorable Thomas F. Hogan
U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Courthouse
333 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 4012
Washington, DC 20001
thomas.f.hogan@dcd.uscourts.gov

Re: *LaShawn A. v. Bowser*, Civil Action No. 89-1754 (TFH)
Supplemental Report on Performance on Select Exit Standards during
July – October 2016

Dear Judge Hogan:

On November 21, 2016, the Monitor provided the Court with the *LaShawn A. v. Bowser Progress Report for the Period January 1 – June 30, 2016* which is scheduled to be discussed during the December 15, 2016 status hearing. Similar to past efforts to provide real-time data to the Court, discussed below are more recent performance data for select Exit Standards from the *LaShawn A. v. Bowser Implementation and Exit Plan (IEP)* for July through October 2016.¹ The parties have had an opportunity to review these data prior to submission of this letter.

Included in this supplemental report are data on four select Exit Standards that are Outcomes to be Achieved. Improvements over the January through June 2016 period are noted for three of the standards and for the fourth standard, performance has declined. Complete performance for July through December 2016 for all Exit Standards will be included in the next full monitoring report, due to be provided to the Court in May 2017.

Below is performance for the Exit Standards referenced above:

1. Timely Completion of Investigations (IEP citation I.A.1.b.)

Exit Standard: 90% of investigations will be completed and a final report of findings shall be entered in FACES.NET within 35 days.

¹ For one Exit Standard, data are available through November 2016.

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Data for January – June 2016: Monthly range of 41 to 63 percent of investigations were closed within 35 days.

Data for July – October 2016: Monthly range of 50 to 80 percent of investigations were closed within 35 days. Performance improved during these months, with the highest performance of 80 percent in October 2016.²

2. Social Worker Visitation for Children Experiencing a New Placement or Placement Change (IEP citation I.A.6.a.-c.)³

Exit Standard: 90% of children newly placed in foster care or experiencing a placement change will have four visits in the first four weeks of a new placement or placement change as described.

Data for January – June 2016: Monthly range of 81 to 88 percent of children experiencing a new placement or placement change had the required number of social worker visits.

Data for July – September 2016: Monthly range of 88 to 92 percent, meeting the Exit Standard requirement in September 2016.⁴

3. Placement of Children in Most Family-Like Setting (IEP citation I.B.8.b.)

Exit Standard: No child shall remain in an emergency, short-term or shelter facility or foster home for more than 30 days.

Data for January – June 2016: Two children were placed in an emergency, short term foster home or shelter for more than 30 days.

Data for July – October 2016: No child stayed in an emergency, short term foster home or shelter for more than 30 days.

² Monthly performance for timely completion of investigations are as follows: July, 50%; August, 63%; September, 68%; October, 80%.

³ Performance data for sub-part d. of this Exit Standard were not available and is not included in this supplemental report.

⁴ Monthly performance for social worker visits to children experiencing a new placement or placement change are as follows: July, 88%; August, 89%; September, 92%.

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4. Placement of Children in Most Family-Like Setting (IEP citation II.B.8.)

Exit Standard: No child shall stay overnight in the CFSA Intake Center or office building.

Data for January – June 2016: One child stayed overnight at CFSA.

Data for July – November 2016: From July through November 2016, 10 children and youth stayed overnight at CFSA.

The parties will be meeting the morning of the December 15th court hearing to discuss the District's most recent performance and barriers to achieving those Exit Standards that remain below targets. We hope that this discussion will be useful to all involved and will help inform the development of the 2017 *LaShawn* Strategy Plan which is anticipated to be filed with the Court in the first quarter of 2017.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Judith Meltzer
Deputy Director
Court-appointed Monitor, *LaShawn A. v. Bowser*

cc: Marcia Lowry, A Better Childhood, Inc.
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