

# State of New Mexico

## CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

SUSANA MARTINEZ  
GOVERNOR

JOHN SANCHEZ  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



MONIQUE JACOBSON  
CABINET SECRETARY

August 29, 2018

Stephanie Schardin-Clarke, Chair  
Shelley Bucher, Program Director

Dear Ms. Schardin-Clarke and Ms. Bucher,

Thank you for the Substitute Care Advisory Council (SCAC) 2017 Annual Report. The Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) truly appreciates the Advisory Committee and the Substitute Care Review Board members' extraordinary dedication to the children and families of New Mexico.

According to the FY 17 Report, the SCAC reviewed 483 cases involving 876 children. None of the recommendations in the report pertain to CYFD policies, procedures, or practices. Rather, the report states the intention to pare down the quantity of cases reviewed in upcoming fiscal years and broaden the scope and depth of each case reviewed.

### FY 17 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Children, Youth and Families Department to:
  - Update policies and procedures regarding substitute care case reviews to reflect the amendments in the Act.
    - *CYFD will continue adherence to all Parts of NMAC 8.26, including Part 7 (Citizen Substitute Care Review). Amendments to the Act effective July 1, 2016 pertain to the activities of the NM Regulation and Licensing Department and the Substitute Care Advisory Council.*
- Council to oversee an in-depth review of specific cases.
  - *CYFD supports the SCAC reviewing fewer cases more in-depth. It is hoped that this will bring about meaningful and insightful recommendations for the Department's policies, procedures, and practices pertaining to its foster care program at the conclusion of FY 18.*

Thank you for allowing CYFD the opportunity to respond to the 2017 SCAC Annual Report's formal recommendation(s). If you have any questions regarding these responses or our other activities, please call me at (505) 827-8400. Thank you for your time and effort serving the children, youth, and families of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Monique Jacobson".

Monique Jacobson  
Cabinet Secretary