

Dear Ms. Rothstein,

Thank you for the opportunity to suggest system improvements to the CFSR process. We recognize that the courts are an essential partner in the State's efforts to address the needs of abused and neglected children and we are fortunate to have a long history of close collaboration with our New Mexico Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD).

We agree with the comments submitted by CYFD, and offer the following additional comments:

Question 3: What role should the child welfare case management information system or systems that States/Tribes/local agencies use for case management or quality assurance purposes play in a Federal monitoring process?

We agree that the child welfare case management system should be included as a source of relevant information during the review process. Additionally, the Children's Bureau should consider including data maintained by the court's case management system, particularly in states with a uniform case management system.

Question 4: What roles should State/Tribal/local child welfare agencies play in establishing targets for improvement and monitoring performance towards those targets? What role should other stakeholders, such as courts, clients, and other child-serving agencies play?

While state agencies should be primarily responsible for establishing targets and performance goals, courts should be included in the development of those goals and targets that are influenced by court processes.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you should have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Justice Petra Jimenez Maes  
New Mexico Supreme Court