March 4, 2015

Dear Director Lightbourne,

As you know, the Child Welfare Council, established by statue in 2006, is an advisory body comprised of a broad range of partners convened to address key challenges affecting child welfare in California. One of the key challenges the Council has undertaken is the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The Council’s Prevention and Early Intervention-Statewide Citizen’s Review Panelhasfocused on a review of policies and systems that are needed to facilitate child abuse prevention. In 2014 we focused on two major activities:

1. The development and dissemination of a toolkit to better inform partners of issues and opportunities related to federal child welfare financing reform; and
2. Expanded thinking on the benefit of a uniform statewide Prevention Framework. The promotion of the previously developed Differential Response Framework helped to shape the discussion.

As chair I respectfully submit the attached 2014 Report and Recommendation on behalf of the Prevention and Early Intervention Statewide Citizen Review Panel, pursuant to our responsibilities as specified by CAPTA.

You will find that the recommendations support our belief that children do best in safe, stable, and permanent families and that federal funding system for child welfare must adequately support this goal. We further believe that there are core elements of prevention practice that should be made uniform across California counties in order to improve the lives of children at-risk.

It would greatly assist us in establishing the annual cycle of Citizen Review Panel responsibilities to have your response to our recommendations by April 15th. This will allow us to prepare for further discussion at the June meeting.

Thank you for your leadership, inspiration, and for the work you do every day to improve the lives of California’s children and families!

Sincerely,



Kathryn Icenhower

*California Child Welfare Council*

*Chair, Prevention and Early Intervention-Statewide Citizen Review Panel*