



PETER SCHLECK
DIRECTOR

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

OFFICE OF PROGRAM EVALUATION AND
GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

December 15, 2023

Acting Director Bobbi Johnson
Office of Child and Family Services
2 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Acting Director Johnson,

I am following up on behalf of the Government Oversight Committee to formally request additional data and other information from your office. I would be most grateful for your kind assistance in receiving responses to these requests as soon as possible, including on a rolling basis. Most of the following enumerated items were the subject of requests at the Committee's December 13, 2023, meeting, with the last two being from a prior meeting:

1. Broken out by month for calendar years 2022 and 2023 (through the end of November 2023), the number of children remaining each of those months in Maine hospital emergency rooms, and the individual lengths of time remaining, after their stays were no longer medically necessary, within the meaning of Section 3 of P.L. 2021, Chapter 191 ("the number of children with behavioral needs who remain in hospital emergency rooms after they no longer need a medical hospital level of care pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-B, section 15003, subsection 9, paragraph D. The data must include the length of stay of a child in hospital beyond 48 hours after the child no longer needs a hospital level of care and the reasons for the extended stay, including, but not limited to, the lack of an appropriate hospital or residential bed or lack of community services").
2. Official policy or standards governing how and under what circumstances statutorily confidential child protective services information may be shared with educational or medical personnel.
3. A high-level summary or Executive Brief describing MaineCare's "Section 23" relating to the payment code for child abuse assessment, and whether it is scheduled to be re-evaluated.
4. The number of resources families hosting or available to host child placements as of November 30, 2023, and as of November 30, 2022.
5. A list of personnel by title or position (names or other personally identifying information withheld) of all OCFS personnel currently working remotely or authorized to work remotely, at what rates or intervals, whether and how this differs by district, and any official policy or standards governing OCFS remote work and workers, including supervisors.

6. During calendar year 2023, and broken out monthly and by division through November 30, 2023, the number of children “hoteling” each month, and in each instance the lengths of that “hoteling” by individual child and the number of OCFS case workers or other personnel, broken out by title or position (names or personally identifying information withheld) required to support that effort.

Thank you, kindly.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Schleck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Peter Schleck

cc: Molly Bogart