

February 11, 2009

Ms. Lola Brabham-Harder  
Health and Human Services  
Executive Chamber  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Ms. Brabham-Harder:


We thank you for your time on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to meet with us on behalf of the New York State Citizen Review Panels. We welcomed the opportunity to discuss the panel's 2008 report and recommendations and the state's budget.


We ask that you give the panel recommendations serious thought as you consider the budget. We are aware of the financial challenges facing New York State and offer recommendations that include cost saving which can also lead to reforms benefiting children and their families. As we discussed at that time, our interest is in preserving investments in prevention strategies that have evidence of effectiveness and achieving better outcomes for children and their families. We urge your support for restoration of funding to COPS and home visiting programs in particular.

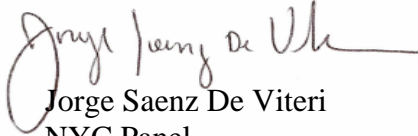
If you have any questions regarding the report or our recommendations or any issue having to do with child welfare now or in the future, our panel members are available to meet or talk with you at any time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Mary McCarthy  
Chair, Eastern Panel

  
Ellen Kennedy  
Chair, Western Panel

  
Jorge Saenz De Viteri  
NYC Panel

February 11, 2009

Mr. Daniel B. Sheppard  
Chief Budget Examiner  
Executive Department  
Division of the Budget  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

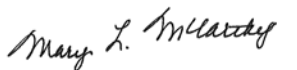
We thank you for your time on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to meet with us on behalf of the New York State Citizen Review Panels. We welcomed the opportunity to discuss the panel's 2008 report and recommendations and the state's budget.

We ask that you give the panel recommendations serious thought as you consider the budget. We are aware of the financial challenges facing New York State and offer recommendations that include cost saving which can also lead to reforms benefiting children and their families. As we discussed at that time, our interest is in preserving investments in prevention strategies that have evidence of effectiveness and achieving better outcomes for children and their families. We urge your support for restoration of funding to COPS and home visiting programs in particular.

If you have any questions regarding those recommendations or any issue having to do with child welfare now or in the future, our panel members are available to meet or talk with you at any time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

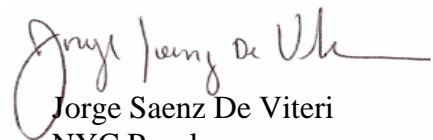
Sincerely,



Mary McCarthy  
Chair, Eastern Panel



Ellen Kennedy  
Chair, Western Panel



Jorge Saenz De Viteri  
NYC Panel

February 11, 2009

Commissioner Gladys Carrion  
Office of Children and Family Services  
South Building  
52 Washington St.  
Rensselaer, New York 12144-2735

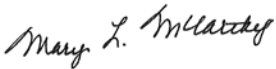
Dear Commissioner Carrion:

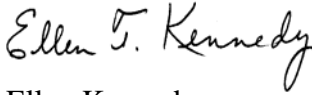
We thank you for your time on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to meet with us on behalf of the New York State Citizen Review Panels. We welcomed the opportunity to discuss the panel's 2008 report and recommendations and the state's budget and greatly appreciate your interest in advancing child welfare reform.

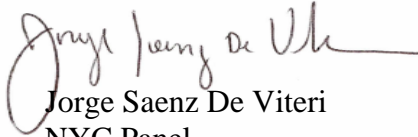
The panels' 2008 report and recommendations address cost saving ideas which will lead to reforms benefiting children and their families. Our interest is in preserving investments in prevention strategies that work and moving towards reforms that will achieve better outcomes for children and their families.

We look forward to working in partnership with you and OCFS staff towards these goals. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Mary McCarthy  
Chair, Eastern Panel

  
Ellen Kennedy  
Chair, Western Panel

  
Jorge Saenz De Viteri  
NYC Panel

cc: Bill Gettman  
Laura Velez

February 11, 2009

Senator David J. Valesky  
Vice President Pro Tempore  
Room 416  
State Capitol  
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Senator Valesky:

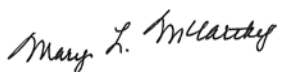
We thank you for the opportunity on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to meet with Ariana Caland your Legislative Director on behalf of the New York State Citizen Review Panels. We welcomed the opportunity to discuss the panel's 2008 report and recommendations and the state's budget with her. As part of that discussion, we agreed to contact your Syracuse office and arrange visits to showcase child welfare pilot programs that show promise of achieving improved outcomes for children. Carrie Jefferson Smith, Eastern Panel Vice Chair and Director, School of Social Work, Syracuse University will contact your staff to make those arrangements.

We ask that you give the panel recommendations serious thought as you consider the budget. We are aware of the financial challenges facing New York State and offer recommendations that include cost saving which can also lead to reforms benefiting children and their families. As we discussed at that time, our interest is in preserving investments in prevention strategies that have evidence of effectiveness and achieving better outcomes for children and their families. We urge your support for restoration of funding to COPS and home visiting programs in particular.


If you have any questions regarding those recommendations or any issue having to do with child welfare now or in the future, our panel members are available to meet or talk with you at any time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

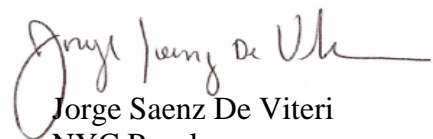
Sincerely,



Mary McCarthy  
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