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March 21, 2016

The Honorable John Allen, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

The Honorable Judy Burges, Vice Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Dear Representative Allen and Senator Burges:

Our Office has recently completed an initial followup of the Arizona Department of Child Safety (Department)—Child Abuse or Neglect Reports, Substantiation Rate, and Office of Child Welfare Investigations regarding the implementation status of the 4 audit recommendations (including sub-parts of the recommendations) presented in the performance audit report released in March 2015 (Auditor General Report No. 15-101). As the attached grid indicates:

- 2 have been implemented, and
- 2 are in the process of being implemented.

Our Office will conduct an 18-month followup with the Department on the status of those recommendations that have not yet been fully implemented.

Sincerely,

Dale Chapman, Director
Performance Audit Division

DC:kf
Attachment

cc: Gregory McKay, Director
Arizona Department of Child Safety

Arizona Department of Child Safety—Child Abuse or Neglect Reports, Substantiation Rate, and Office of Child Welfare Investigations Auditor General Report No. 15-101 Initial Follow-Up Report

Recommendation	Status/Additional Explanation
<p>Chapter 2: Arizona’s investigative approach for criminal child abuse and neglect allegations largely unique among states surveyed</p>	
<p>1. The Department should continue its efforts to co-locate OCWI staff, department caseworkers, and other investigative staff as the OCWI expands.</p>	<p>Implemented at 12 months</p>
<p>2. The Department should work with the Maricopa and Pima County Attorneys to update the multidisciplinary protocols to include information on the OCWI’s role in child abuse and neglect investigations, including a description of information to be shared between local law enforcement and the OCWI. Further, as the OCWI expands, the Department should take steps to ensure that other counties where the OCWI conducts investigations have up-to-date multidisciplinary protocols.</p>	<p>Implementation in process The Department is working with the Maricopa and Pima County Attorneys to update their respective multidisciplinary protocols to include information on the OCWI’s role in child abuse and neglect investigations. As part of its efforts, the Department sent a description of OCWI’s role to the County Attorneys’ Offices for inclusion in the protocols. In addition, the Department reported that it will meet with the Pima County Attorney’s Office in March 2016 to discuss updating the protocols. The Department has also begun working with other counties to include information on the OCWI’s role in their multidisciplinary protocols. For example, Gila County’s multidisciplinary protocols were updated in 2015. The Department reported it plans to coordinate with all counties in the State to update the appropriate protocols as the OCWI expands.</p>
<p>3. The Department should enhance its training related to criminal conduct investigations by:</p> <p>a. Ensuring all OCWI investigators and department caseworkers attend the advanced joint investigations class; and</p> <p>b. Adding instruction on the specific roles of OCWI investigators and department caseworkers during a criminal conduct investigation into its investigative training curriculum, including instruction specific to the policies, procedures, and protocols governing these investigations.</p>	<p>Implementation in process The Department has developed the advanced joint investigations class and is in the process of providing the training to all OCWI investigators and department investigative caseworkers. However, as of March 2015, not all appropriate department staff have attended the advanced joint investigations class.</p> <p>Implemented at 12 months</p>