



DEBRA K. DAVENPORT, CPA
AUDITOR GENERAL

STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE
AUDITOR GENERAL

MELANIE M. CHESNEY
DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL

March 7, 2017

The Honorable Bob Worsley, Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

The Honorable Anthony Kern, Vice Chair
Joint Legislative Audit Committee

Dear Senator Worsley and Representative Kern:

Our Office has recently completed an initial followup of the *Arizona Department of Child Safety (Department)—Differential Response and Case Screening* regarding the implementation status of the 15 audit recommendations (including sub-parts of the recommendations) presented in the special report released in March 2016 (Auditor General Report No. 16-102). According to the Department, it has postponed the implementation of a differential response system and will not implement any of the recommendations at this time. Specifically, the Department reported that it would not be ready to implement a differential response system until it has first updated its safety assessment and intervention model and replaced its existing case management system. According to the Department, these efforts may take several years to complete, at which point the Department would revisit the need for a differential response system. In the meantime, the Department reported that reductions in its investigation workload allow caseworkers to spend more time assessing and engaging families, thereby achieving a primary benefit of differential response, and that its work to update its safety assessment and intervention model includes exploring new approaches for engaging families.

Once the Department resumes its work on implementing a differential response system, our Office will conduct a follow up on the Department's efforts to implement the recommendations from the March 2016 report.

Sincerely,

Dale Chapman, Director
Performance Audit Division

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cc: Gregory McKay, Director
Arizona Department of Child Safety