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November 2, 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 18-month 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.

Unless otherwise directed by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, this concludes our followup work on the Department's efforts to implement the recommendations from the March 2015 report.

Sincerely,

Dale Chapman, Director
Performance Audit Division

DC:ka
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 18-Month 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 According to Arizona statute, each county attorney, in cooperation with the Department and other entities, is responsible to develop, adopt, and implement protocols to guide investigations involving criminal conduct. The Department has continued to work 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. The Department reported that it intends to submit standardized protocols to all county attorneys for consideration 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 is in the process of providing the advanced joint investigations class to all OCWI investigators and department investigative caseworkers. However, as of September 2016, not all appropriate department staff had attended the class.</p> <p>Implemented at 12 months</p>