



Palmetto Association
for Children & Families
Helping Children. Serving Families.

May 25, 2018

Director Susan Alford
SC Department of Social Services
PO Box 1520
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Director Alford:

In the interest of ongoing collaboration with the department, and with the frontline, community-based input provided by our member agencies, the Palmetto Association for Children and Families is offering a diverse array of service options, aimed at meeting the needs of children served by the foster care system.

These recommendations take into consideration several factors, including, the request earlier this spring by the legislature for a plan for transitioning group homes into other services and last fall's request from Judge Gergel for a long-term plan for system changes focused on improving outcomes for children and families throughout South Carolina. Additionally, best practices and effective interventions from neighboring states were taken into consideration when compiling these options.

PAFCAF seeks to expand the services that our providers can offer to children and families, in part through contracts and fixed-price bids with DSS. We are open to exploring additional revenue streams in partnership with DSS and other child-serving state agencies. While this is not an exhaustive list, PAFCAF sees this as a starting point and looks forward to partnering with DSS to further analyze options and develop various fixed-price bids and options for services that will best serve the unique needs of individual communities throughout our state.

With the creation of the Directors of Wellbeing, Permanency and Safety Management at DSS, we believe these options align with the agency's mission, while taking into consideration the requirements and recommendations of the Michelle H. Settlement Agreement, the Family First Prevention Services Act and the Child & Family Services Review.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and the opportunity to meet to discuss next steps.

Sincerely,

Erin G. Hall
Chief Executive Officer