

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF **HUMAN SERVICES**

DRUG TESTING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

1ST QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER 1, 2013



Helping Shape Tennessee Lives



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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BILL HASLAM
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RAQUEL HATTER, MSW, Ed.D.
COMMISSIONER

October 1, 2013

Chairman Rusty Crowe
Senate Health and Welfare Committee
Suite 8, Legislative Plaza
Nashville, Tennessee

Chairman Bob Ramsey
House Health Committee
Suite 212, War Memorial Bldg.
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Chairman Crowe and Chairman Ramsey:

This letter is serving as the Tennessee Department of Human Services' Drug Testing Implementation Plan FY 2014 First Quarter Progress Report.

Public Chapter 1079 requires the Department of Human Services to develop a plan to implement a program of suspicion-based drug testing for each applicant who is otherwise eligible for temporary assistance for needy families (TANF).

Since the last update report was issued, the Department has continued to draft policy and rules related to suspicion-based drug testing for TANF applicants. As required by the public chapter, the Department intends to submit a copy of the final plan and proposed rules with the next update in January. The Department is doing due diligence on how best to execute the testing component of this legislation. A decision has yet to be made on whether to collaborate with a state agency, current partner (who has the capacity to do drug testing), or establish a new partnership for this particular component.

Should you have questions, please contact my office at 615-313-4702.

In Service to Others,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raquel Hatter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raquel" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Hatter".

Raquel Hatter, MSW, Ed.D.
Commissioner

RH/bm