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Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew, Ph.D.
Commissioner



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January 25, 2022

Senator Ned Claxton, Chair
Representative Michele Meyer, Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: Hiring of Caseworkers Pursuant to PL 2021, Chapter 398

Senator Claxton, Representative Meyer, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

On July 1, 2021, as part of PL 2021, Chapter 398, OCFS was allocated 15 additional caseworker positions, 10 of which were effective January 1, 2022 (with the remaining 5 to be effective July 1, 2022). Part CCCC of Ch. 398 required a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services no later than February 1, 2022 on the progress toward hiring these new positions.

Over the past few weeks OCFS has been working diligently to fill these new positions now that they are in effect. We are pleased to report that as of yesterday (January 24, 2022) all the positions are now filled. Nine of the new staff have begun their work, and the final hire will join OCFS on February 9.

This additional capacity is critical to ensuring OCFS can complete the work previously handled by the Alternative Response Program (ARP). We appreciate your support in the allocation of these positions. We look forward to posting and hiring for the remaining five positions in July once the funding is available.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Todd A. Landry".

Dr. Todd A. Landry
Director, Office of Child and Family Services