May 4, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Leon M. Biegalski, Executive Director

FROM: Sharon Doredant, Inspector General

SUBJECT: Six-Month Update on the Office of Program Policy Analysis & Government Accountability (OPPAGA) Report No. 17-11, Florida is Generally Following Statutory Child Support Guidelines; Deviations are Limited

As required by section 20.55(6)(h), Florida Statutes, attached is the Department's six-month status update for corrective actions taken in response to OPPAGA Report No. 17-11, Florida is Generally Following Statutory Child Support Guidelines; Deviations are Limited.

The Child Support Program provided an update on actions taken to collaborate with various entities to help ensure CAMS data is correct. Based on our review of the status update and the supporting documentation provided, we consider the finding complete.

We did not verify the efficiency and effectiveness of corrective actions taken. We will follow up on those items during our next audit of the relevant program area.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 617-8152, or Marie Walker at 717-7598.

SD/cf

Attachment

cc: Andrea Moreland, Deputy Executive Director
    Tajiana Ancora-Brown, Chief of Staff
    Ann Coffin, CSP Program Director
    Thomas (Tom) Mato, CSP Deputy Program Director
    Angela Welch, Deputy Inspector General
    Marie Walker, Director of Auditing
    Kathy DuBose, Coordinator, JLAC
**Finding No.** 1

**Date** 11/13/2017

OPPAGA determined data limitations made it difficult to confirm the accuracy of guideline calculations for Title IV-D judicial cases. Deviations from the guidelines are limited and can vary by case characteristics. The calculations were computed by court personnel and entered into results-only screens by CSP staff rather than being calculated in CAMS. DOR results-only data suggests that information that is part of the guideline appears to have been transferred incorrectly from the hearing documents into the CAMS system.

As a result, of incorrect data being entered, OPPAGA was unable to use the data to corroborate the deviation rate, application of the guideline schedule, or most basic guideline calculations for Title IV-D judicial cases.

**Recommendation**

To resolve these issues, DOR may wish to consider collaborating with the state court system to identify variation in worksheets used and varying interpretation of the data elements on the worksheets.

**Original Response**

The Department makes available a child support guidelines program to contract legal service providers of the Child Support Program, any private attorney who requests it, the Department of Children and Families Child Welfare for use in dependency actions and to the Office of State Courts Administrators. The Child Support Program works with its local child support team members with providing a crosswalk of other child support worksheets used around the state with the data fields used to record guideline information within the child support system (CAMS).

**Status Updates**

OIG 4/20/2018: We received documentation from the program related to collaboration activities. Based on our review of the documentation provided, the OIG considers this finding complete.