

# TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF **HUMAN SERVICES**

## DRUG TESTING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN: 4<sup>TH</sup> QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT

JULY 1, 2013



*Helping Shape Tennessee Lives*



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

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**BILL HASLAM**  
GOVERNOR

**RAQUEL HATTER, MSW, Ed.D.**  
COMMISSIONER

July 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 2013 Fourth 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 conducted continuous evaluations of additional screening tools. It is important that the Department selects a screening tool that is a valid instrument, easy to administer, and can be seamlessly incorporated into our intake procedures. The Department is relying on representatives from the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services as the subject matter experts to aid us in this endeavor.

The Department has also started reviewing the timeframes needed for the drug testing rule making process. As rules are developed, the Department wants to ensure that the timeframe required for rulemaking aligns with the timeframe outlined in the legislation. In addition to rule development, other areas that the Department will be reviewing this upcoming quarter include internal business process and procedures, system modifications, and program implementation costs.

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