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Response of the Office of the Child Advocate to the Audit Report of the Department of Children and Families For the Period of 2014-15

The Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) takes very seriously its oversight role in ensuring the health, safety and well-being of the children of the Commonwealth. One of the ways we do this is to review critical incidents reported to the OCA.

As the State Auditor found, some of the challenges in critical incident reporting are to have an agreed upon definition of what constitutes a critical incident when it is a near fatality or serious bodily injury, and ensuring that the OCA receives notice of all reportable incidents.

Ensuring that critical incident reporting is accurate and comprehensive are primary goals of the OCA. The OCA is in regular communication with the Department of Children and Families, as well as other agencies, to work on the challenges of ensuring that the OCA receives what it needs.

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