



Vannessa L. Dorantes  
Commissioner

**DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES**  
*Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities*



Ned Lamont  
Governor

For Immediate Release  
February 3, 2020

Contact: Gary Kleeblatt  
Cell 860-622-9824

**First Time Under Federal Oversight,  
Court Monitor Pre-Certifies Social Worker Caseloads  
Monitor's Report Cites "Significant Progress Has Been Made" With Remaining Measures**

**HARTFORD** – For the first time since Federal Court oversight began in 1991, the Department has achieved pre-certification of social worker caseloads, according to a [Juan F. Exit Plan Status Report](#) issued today by the Office of the Court Monitor.

The report says "this is a notable achievement for the state" and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and credits "support from Governor Lamont, OPM (Office of Policy and Management) and the state legislature." The report also says, "It already appears from recent monitoring that meeting this benchmark (caseload standards) is now having a positive impact on the family and child related outcome measures that remain" to be met.

With this pre-certification, the remaining measures of investigations, case plans, needs met, and in-home visitation will continue to be the focus of the Department towards the goal of full compliance. The report notes that "pre-certification" -- the process for approval required under the [Juan F. Exit Plan](#) -- is currently underway for investigations and also that the "Department has shown progress" with the segments of the "needs met" goal.

DCF Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes said meeting the caseload goal is a necessary pre-requisite for the Department to conduct quality work.

"First, in the context of the [Juan F. Exit Plan](#), I am pleased that the Court Monitor can "pre-certify" that the Department has achieved maintaining caseload standards. This measure is truly fundamental to **all** our work. Appropriate staffing equates to better safety decisions, risk assessments and timely intervention for children and families. As we ask our social workers to involve children, families and communities more fully as partners in our work, we must ensure that staff have the necessary time and support to do so. Thus, reasonable caseloads are critically important. Tremendous appreciation and thanks to Governor Lamont, the Office of Policy and Management, and the Connecticut Legislature for their steady and substantial support this past year."

Please click here to read the [Commissioners Statement for Juan F Exit Plan Status Report](#)

--end--