

# TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF **HUMAN SERVICES**

## DRUG TESTING IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

### 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT

JANUARY 2, 2013



*Helping Shape Tennessee Lives*



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

CITIZENS PLAZA BUILDING  
400 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1403

TELEPHONE: 615-313-4700 FAX: 615-741-4165  
TTY: 1-800-270-1349  
[www.tn.gov/humanserv/](http://www.tn.gov/humanserv/)

**BILL HASLAM**  
GOVERNOR

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

January 2, 2013

Chairman Rusty Crowe  
Senate Health and Welfare Committee  
Suite 8, Legislative Plaza  
Nashville, Tennessee

Chairman Glen Casada  
House Health and Human Resources Committee  
Suite 25, Legislative Plaza  
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Chairman Crowe and Chairman Casada:

This letter is serving as the Tennessee Department of Human Services' Drug Testing Implementation Plan FY 2013 Second 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 of Human Services has conducted additional national research of others states in order to gain a deeper insight on how other programs are structured. The Department's Implementation Development Team has obtained and analyzed the policy details of Florida and Oklahoma. The Department has also taken into consideration various screening tools such as the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI), which is being utilized in Utah, as well as the questionnaire utilized by Arizona. While the Department has not yet made a decision on the type of screening tool that will be utilized in Tennessee, we plan to consult with the Attorney General's office once a tool has been identified.

The Department has also started the process of exploring potential partners that may be able to assist with test administration. The Department is continuing to conduct research surrounding potential pilot counties (in both urban and rural areas) and planning additional communication with TANF recipients.

The Department's Implementation Development Team will continue to meet on a regular basis while establishing a plan for achieving the deliverables that have been set forth in Public Chapter 1079.

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