



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for  
Human Services

January 07, 2022

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,  
SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

**SUBJECT: PERMANENCY PLANNING: POLICY TO PRACTICE**

**REQUIRED ACTION:**  Information Only  Time Sensitive  Immediate

**PURPOSE: NOTIFICATION OF PERMANENCY PLANNING: POLICY TO PRACTICE**

The North Carolina Division of Social Services is excited to announce the Permanency Planning: Policy to Practice Office Hours workgroup. This workgroup is available to support Permanency Planning policy implementation.

The 2021 legislative session brought about several changes to child welfare, and specifically, Permanency Planning. Child welfare policy has been revised and rewritten to accurately reflect the law changes and Office Hours will provide counties with protocols and guidance to support compliance with the law and best practice within child welfare.

**Next Steps:**

To assist with the implementation of the recent policy changes, there will be an opportunity for county child welfare workers to attend a Permanency Planning: Policy to Practice Office Hours workgroup on GoToTraining. Each session will have a maximum of 50 participants to discuss policy topics openly and thoroughly while having time for questions. Topics may be modified to include additional policy discussion as needed.

In January 2022, there will be four separate opportunities for county child welfare staff to attend the Office Hours workgroup sessions; all four sessions will include the same policy topic. From February 2022 through June 2022, Office Hours will be held every fourth Thursday of the month and will include a morning and afternoon session. The policy topics will be the same in both the morning and afternoon sessions. If there is a demand for more Office Hours, counties will be notified of the additional webinar opportunity.

- **Policy Topics January-June 2022**
  - January: Sibling placement and visitation

**NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- February: Observation requirements before a recommendation of unsupervised visitation and visitation requirements when parents or caregivers have positive drug screens
- March: Requirements to identify and notify relatives and other persons with legal custody of a sibling for a juvenile in non-secure custody. In addition, policy regarding placement with non-relative kin, including a former appropriate foster parent, will be reviewed.
- April: Concurrent planning and permanency planning hearings
- May: Juvenile consultation meetings with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Care Review Teams with the Department of Juvenile Justice
- June: Requirements that must be presented to the court for 17-year-old juveniles and the termination process for the 18-21 agreement

The links to register for the Permanency Planning: Policy to Practice Office Hours workgroup are below.

January 25<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 10:30am: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/2943511794831424002>  
 January 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm to 2:30pm: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/588909842972448258>  
 January 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 10:30am: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/9081984057635181570>  
 January 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 2:30pm: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/664712373614655746>  
 February 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 10:30am: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/rt/1564260219693624578>  
 February 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm to 2:30pm: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/6650058950552970754>  
 March 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 10:30am: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/7511867159520120322>  
 March 24<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm to 2:30pm: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/5531081568918897666>  
 April 28<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 10:30am: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/5370351660635755010>  
 April 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm to 2:30pm: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/2946851011645391362>  
 May 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 10:30am: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/745718892791383298>  
 May 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm to 2:30pm: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/5944533125334977794>  
 June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00am to 10:30pm: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/4250104343071664898>  
 June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00pm to 2:30pm: <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/8116921811215841538>

Should you have questions about the policy updates or the Permanency Planning: Policy to Practice Office Hours workgroup, please contact Margaret Knight at [margaret.knight@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:margaret.knight@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

*Carla McNeill*

Carla McNeill  
Section Chief for Permanency Planning  
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare  
North Carolina Department of Health and Human  
Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations  
Lisa Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services  
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations  
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention  
Linda Waite, Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory

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