



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

January 2, 2025

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: NATIONAL TRAINING DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Action Required

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services (NCDHHS DSS) recognizes the importance of agencies providing the most up to date pre-service training to prospective resource families (family foster, therapeutic, and kinship). NCDHHS was chosen by Spaulding for Children in March of 2024 to partner with them to pilot the National Training Development Curriculum (NTDC). The NTDC curriculum provides prospective resource families with relevant and relatable information based on research and input from experts, resource families, and former youth who had been affected by foster care. All resource families who participate in the NTDC training will have access to information on trauma informed parenting, the effects of trauma, substance use, as well as how to work with the child's parents, agencies, and more. This curriculum is relatable to the needs of resource families today.

NCDHHS partnered with 6 NC private and Department of Social Services (DSS) agencies: Buncombe DSS, Catawba DSS, Wake DSS, Easter Seals UCP, and Methodist Home for Children to pilot the NTDC in May 2024. The pilot program hosted six pre-service training classes, which included prospective family foster and therapeutic foster families and one class specific to kinship families. The prospective family foster and therapeutic foster families completed the thirty required pre-service training hours, and kinship families completed fifteen pre-service training hours. For kinship families, the pre-service training hours were reduced to fifteen hours. North Carolina General Statute defines kinship as individuals who are related to the child by birth, marriage, or adoption. Unfortunately, fictive kin do **NOT** qualify for reduced training hours. Until further notice, fictive kin must complete thirty hours of pre-service training to obtain a foster home license.

Forty participants successfully completed the pilot training. A focus group for the prospective resource families who completed NTDC was held in December 2024 to receive feedback about the training. Participants reported that the curriculum gave them a better understanding of what to expect once they have a child or children placed in their home, and how their own behavior can affect the child or children placed in their homes. Participants enjoyed the use of podcasts, videos, and hearing from experienced resource families. Focus group participants shared that it is important to have two consistent trainers, and trainers who are knowledgeable in the curriculum.

Effective **January 2, 2025**, agencies are able to be trained in the NTDC curriculum and begin utilizing NTDC for new prospective resource families. NCDHHS has partnered with Spaulding to offer three Train the Trainer (TTT) Training opportunities specifically for North Carolina. Each TTT will be over the course of 4 days starting at 9:00am until 12:00 pm. The classes will be held virtually.

TRAINING DATES:

- JANUARY 13, 14, 16, & 17 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm each day.
- FEBRUARY 10, 11, 13, & 14 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm each day
- MARCH 17, 18, 20, & 21 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm each day

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

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603

MAILING ADDRESS: 2401 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2401

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-855-6335 • FAX: 919-334-1018

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If you are interested in attending the TTT course, please email Madison Sprague at MSprague@spaulding.org to register. In your email, you must include your agency name and the month/dates for which you wish to register. Madison Sprague will send an email confirming your registration or your placement on the wait list. NCDHHS is encouraging all agencies to have at least one of their staff registered for the training. This will ensure that all staff will be trained in the NTDC curriculum while allowing NCDHHS to assess the interest of NTDC throughout North Carolina. The three TTT sessions will be limited to two staff members per agency. Any staff placed on the wait list may register for the general NTDC TTT training at <https://ntdcportal.org/>.

Two agency staff members must be certified by completing the TTT course to be able to teach NTDC to prospective foster families. All NTDC trainers must follow the curriculum that has been approved by North Carolina. The attached documents outline the NTDC curriculum for family foster, therapeutic, and kinship providers.

Private agencies must inform their assigned Licensing Consultant if they will be using the NTDC curriculum. Staff trained in NTDC currently cannot provide NTDC TTT for staff. NCDHHS has identified trainers, who are approved by NCDHHS as NC NTDC Master Trainers. NCDHHS Master Trainers will provide future ongoing NTDC TTT for NC and agencies can utilize the NTDC TTT offered at <https://ntdcportal.org/>. If you have any questions, please contact Foster Home Licensing Manager, Jenny Millsaps at jenny.millsaps@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Kimaree Sanders

Kimaree Sanders, MSW, MPA
Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Lisa T. Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult Regional Support
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Donna Fayko, Interim Deputy Director for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services

Attachments: NTDC Family Foster Curriculum
NTDC Therapeutic Curriculum
NTDC Kinship Curriculum

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