



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for
Human Services

March 3, 2022

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: ASSESSING FOR SAFETY AND RISK: KEY ELEMENTS WEBINAR SERIES

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

The assessment of safety and risk are critical components of basic child welfare service provision. When used correctly, North Carolina's Structured Decision-Making Tools provide a framework for understanding safety and risk and making decisions that provide protection for children. NC DSS has partnered with Evident Change to host a series of webinars, "Assessing for Safety and Risk: Key Elements." These *Back-to-Basics* webinars will cover content on the Structured Decision Making® (SDM) safety and risk assessments.

As you are aware, NC is conducting a process to update the Structured Decision-Making tools. While that process is underway it is important that we revisit the importance of these tools in the everyday work of providing child protective services. There will be three webinars that have been developed for workers, supervisors, and program managers and administrators to attend, get detailed guidance and ask questions. These webinars will be offered live online and recorded for those who cannot participate live to view at a later date. **The expectation is that all child welfare staff whose work requires the use or review of the NC Safety Assessment (DSS-5231) and NC Family Risk Assessment (DSS-5230) in the duties of their job participate in the live training or view the recording.** The webinar topics are listed below:

- **Webinar #1: Safety Assessment**
 - Overview and purpose of safety assessment
 - Review of safety assessment policy and procedures
 - Practice using safety assessment with a case example
 - SDM tools as a prompt for practice
 - Deep dive into some key definitions in safety assessment
 - Reminders: Best practices in safety planning
- **Webinar #2: Risk Assessment**
 - Overview and purpose of risk assessment
 - Review of risk assessment policy and procedures
 - Practice using risk assessment with a case example
 - SDM tools as a prompt for practice
 - Deep dive into some key definitions in risk assessment

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

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

MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6340 • FAX: 919-334-1123

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- **Webinar #3: Safety and Risk in Practice**

- Bringing the SDM assessments “alive” in your interviews with children, youth and families
- Integrating assessments into decision making
- Connecting the SDM assessment to a three-column map while gathering rigorous and balanced information

Next Steps

A link to register for the webinars is below. All webinars will be recorded for those who are unable to attend.

Webinar #1 **Thursday, March 17, 2022 from 1pm-3pm:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8258322306325786637>

Register by March 15, 2022

Webinar #2 **Wednesday, March 30, 2022 1:30pm-3:30pm:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1019886516467175181>

Register by March 28, 2022

Webinar #3 **Thursday, April 14, 2022 from 2pm-3:30pm:**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8148409626455106576>

Register by April 11, 2022

All attendees will be required to complete a Knowledge Check Survey to earn credit for attendance. The survey must be completed regardless of whether there was participation in the live or recorded version of the webinars.

Regional Child Welfare Consultants will follow up with local child welfare agencies to ensure all required child welfare staff have participated in or viewed the webinars, review records to ensure county practice is consistent with the content of the webinars and provide continued guidance and technical support. Please reach out to Kathy Stone, Kathy.Stone@dhhs.nc.gov or Amanda Hubbard Amanda.Hubbard@dhhs.nc.gov with any questions regarding the webinars.

Sincerely,

Kathy P Stone

Kathy Stone

Section Chief for Safety and Prevention
North Carolina Division of Social Services

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Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Lisa Cauley Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for Operations
Carla McNeil, Section Chief for Permanency
Kimaree Sanders, Interim Section Chief for Licensing & Regulatory

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