



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor
KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary
SUSAN G. OSBORNE • Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being

February 29, 2024

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: KINSHIP LISTENING SESSIONS FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

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

PURPOSE: TO GATHER INFORMATION FROM STAFF AND THOSE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE TO IMPROVE PERMANENCY OUTCOMES AND EXITS

NC Division of Social Services (NCDSS) is continuing to host a series of virtual events for regional kinship caregiver listening sessions. The goal is to hear directly from kinship caregivers and social work staff who work with kin so we can gather information to:

1. Learn the supports kinship providers need necessary to help maintain or strengthen connections and placements to improve placement stability.
2. Provide information on the *Unlicensed Kinship Reimbursement Program* and seek feedback from those who are currently receiving funds.

These sessions will provide an opportunity to share feedback on this new program. The Region 5 event was held in December, and the remainder of the sessions will be held as follows:

Date	Time	Regions	Registration Link	Registration Closing Date
3/19/24	5:30-7:30pm	1 and 2	https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4McCGxCleG6eQCy	3/14/24
3/21/24	5:30-7:30pm	3 and 4	https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_afX6vHGxtyPuk5g	3/17/24
3/28/24	12-2pm	6 and 7	https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_571dW3TQcNBiztA	3/25/24

We are requesting agencies to invite families to attend these events that are:

- Providing kinship care, previously or currently,
- Willing to fully participate in the session, including sharing honest verbal feedback to the NCDSS during a focus group.

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LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2401 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2401
www.ncdhs.gov • TEL: 910-610-9018 • FAX: 919-457-1493

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Please see attached flyer to assist in circulating information to workers and kinship caregivers. For any additional questions, please contact Jessica Frisina at Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

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

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director of Human Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Katie Swanson, Deputy Director for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations

ATTACHMENTS: Kinship Listening Sessions Flyer and Regional Map

CWS-16-24

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