



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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

June 15, 2023

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: CONCLUSION OF THE CHILD/FAMILY EVALUATION

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive-*Effective July 1, 2023* Immediate

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE DIRECTION FOR HANDLING EMOTIONAL ABUSE CASES

NC DSS and the Child Medical Evaluation Program (CMEP) are concluding the Child/Family Evaluation (CFE) at the end of the 2023 fiscal year as first announced in the DCDL CWS-06-22 sent out on January 24, 2022.

Supports to child welfare workers in assessing their most complex cases of child maltreatment continue to be available through the CMEP which offers a medical evaluation and forensic interviews of children statewide. When assessment of Emotional Abuse is needed, the medical provider and the forensic interviewer work together to provide one consolidated report from both disciplines that is supported by a video of the interview. Extended interviews are provided by the same interviewer, when needed, eliminating the need for children to tell their story to multiple interviewers. This approach is in alignment with North Carolina's transformation into a trauma-informed child welfare system.

NC DSS and the CMEP are working with Children's Advocacy Centers of North Carolina (CACNC) to build capacity for extended forensic interviews at the CACs to address complex cases of child maltreatment, including emotional abuse. Recently, additional training was provided to CAC medical providers on identification, diagnosis and treatment planning for children with suspicion of emotional abuse. This coordination will allow the local child welfare agency to obtain the needed information to support families, safety plan, **and** minimize the number of providers interviewing children suspected of being maltreated.

In alignment with Family First Prevention Services Act and the need for assessing parental protective factors, the Clinical Assessment of Protective Parenting (CAPP) program is currently being provided. CAPP will be funded through NC DSS and provided at no cost to the county or family through the CMEP. Currently there are 15 rostered CAPP providers statewide, which surpasses the number of rostered CFE providers. An additional 11 clinicians have registered for the next round of training.

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Should you have any questions regarding the Clinical Assessment of Protective Parenting, please contact Kathy Stone at Kathy.Stone@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Kathy P. Stone

Kathy Stone

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

Cc: Susan Osborne, Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being
Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director for Child, Family and Adult Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for County Operations
Carla McNeil, Section Chief for Prevention and Safety
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory

CWS-39-2023