



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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

November 16, 2023

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) will begin hosting a series of in-person and virtual events for kinship care provider input sessions. The goal is to hear directly from kinship care providers so that we can gather information to continue to improve permanency outcomes and support for kinship placements. Kin will also be provided information on resources such as the new kinship initiative that provides 1/2 board rate to unlicensed kinship care providers. These sessions will provide an opportunity to share feedback on this new program. The first of the sessions will be held as follows:

	Time	Region	Location
12/5/23	5:30-8 PM	5	Pitt Community College 1986 Pitt Tech Drive Winterville, NC 28590 <i>Fulford Building – Room 153</i> Campus Map

Please use the following link to register for the Kinship Listening Session:

https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3s1fNt5vLoffmhE

There are plans for other kinship listening sessions in 2024. We will share more about those arrangements as soon as possible.

As you are registering unlicensed kinship families for the newly launched reimbursement program, be sure and invite them to this listening session. This invitation extends to the licensed kinship providers as well. This is an opportunity to gather information from those with lived experience to create strong and statewide Kin First culture.

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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.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6287 • FAX: 919-334-1123

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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 honest verbal feedback to the NCDSS during a focus group.

While we want to provide minimal disruption to the participants' work schedule, these listening sessions may occur during other important times for a family. NCDSS will be supporting these events with food and beverages provided to all participants.

Families are welcome to arrive as early as 5:15 for networking and refreshments.

Prior to each event, a flyer with registration information will be provided. For any additional questions, please contact Mary Mackins, Adoptions Manager at mary.mackins@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

Attachment:

Kinship Listening Session Flyer

CWS-79-23

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