

March 15, 2021

Greetings,

This letter is to provide an update about the ongoing Joint County/State work on our statewide Child Welfare System (CWS).

In the fall of 2020, we finished our County/State collaborative roadmap and provided a report to the legislature documenting this work. The partners in this roadmap included county directors, county staff, DHHS, Gartner Inc., and others. The roadmap included a Request for Information (RFI) and an analysis of our alternatives for achieving a statewide system. We considered options to enhance (make changes to the existing system), augment (bring in new technologies), or replace our current NCFAS/P4 system. The core team agreed to pursue a path that would both enhance and augment to achieve a system that is intuitive and helps to support the work of child welfare staff. That report, along with all roadmap deliverables, may be found on the [DSS Director's SharePoint site](#).

In February of 2021, we convened the newly established Child Welfare System Governance Committee (CWSGC). The CWSGC includes 7 county DSS members and 7 NC DHHS members. The purpose is to bring state and county leaders together in partnership to recommend how to move forward with the statewide CW System. In partnership with HHS Advisory (led by Frank Petrus), the CWSGC and additional state and county staff are jointly developing a blueprint that will prioritize what specific augmentations and enhancements are needed prior to statewide implementation. Several of your child welfare staff were nominated to assist with the "Life of the Case" walkthroughs (beginning with Intake and Assessment) which are a crucial part of the blueprint work. Thanks to you and those staff for being willing to partner with us in that process.

With this blueprint, we will have a clearer timeline relating to the implementation of our statewide CW System. We are targeting August 2021 for completion of the full blueprint. However, as the "Life of the Case" process moves forward, earlier recommendations for enhancements and augmentation will be brought forward for actioning. The decision points, timelines, and key dates that come out of this work will be shared with you along the way.

This work also includes an integrated workplan that captures all of child welfare transformation, the statewide practice model, and the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). It is critical that this system is driven by practice and programmatic needs. Achieving consensus on our path forward is a must. To that end, we welcome your feedback at any point in the process.

In order to increase transparency and better engage you in this work, we have [set up a page and a library on the DSS Director's Site](#) devoted to the work on this statewide system and information about the CWSGC (including the charter, committee membership, meeting materials, and more). We recommend that you also reach out to County members of the CWSGC to have further discussions regarding these efforts. There are also vacant non-voting member slots on the CWSGC for county program, technology, and data folks if you know of individuals you think would be good fits to be part of this effort.

We are excited to move forward with this work and want to share our progress regularly. Please feel free to email feedback, questions, or concerns to [Rob.Morrell@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Rob.Morrell@dhhs.nc.gov) and they will be shared with the CWSGC for consideration and discussion. If you need to be added to the DSS Director's site (the same site the Rylan's Law Dashboard is on), please send an email requesting access to [Kathleen.Cyran@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Cyran@dhhs.nc.gov). The first time you access the site, *you must accept using the link in the emailed invitation*.

Sincerely,

The Child Welfare System Governance Committee