



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Social Services

325 North Salisbury Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Buell, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director
(919) 733-3055

July 26, 2001

Dear County Director of Social Services

SUBJECT: Children Available for Adoption Survey

While I recognize that some of this information was recently gathered, we are asking you to respond to the attached questions as there are still discrepancies between information received previously and our automated system. Please take time to complete this information as soon as possible and **submit no later than August 3, 2001**. There is a planned meeting on August 7 for which we will be using this data. We have been directed to have a correct count of children available for adoption and are dependent on the local agencies to provide the information. Information generated by this survey will be shared with the Department (DHHS), children's advocates, and the Legislature, in all probability. Additionally, there is a likelihood that the information will be disseminated to the media and will be printed in the newspapers. For that reason, it behooves all of us to be certain this information is correct. Your CPR will be contacting you within the week to assist you with any questions you may have.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in expediently pulling all of this information together. If you have any questions, please contact Jane H. Smith, Team Leader for Local Operations at (919)733-2770 at your Children's Program Representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles C. Harris".

Charles C. Harris, Chief
Children's Services Section

JHS/men

Cc: Pheon Beal
Nancy Coston



**Children Available for Adoption
Survey**

Please forward this information by August 3, 2001, to Jane H. Smith, Team Leader, Local Operations, 325 N. Salisbury Street, Mail Service Center 2406, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2406. The fax number is (919) 733-6924. Thank you for your immediate attention to this request. It will be necessary to look at the DSS 5094 for all children in your custody/placement responsibility to be certain the permanent plans and living arrangements are correctly coded. Also, please complete Field 46 with an "X" where appropriate. (. We do not want to count children who are not yet legally free for adoption even if they have a plan for adoption. The issue with this survey is to count the number of children legally free who are actually waiting for a permanent family.)

1. Number of children who are legally free for adoption for whom the plan is adoption. (If adoption is the plan on the DSS 5094, but that is not representative of the actual plan, do not include in this count and change the plan to the correct permanent plan goal on the DSS 5094)

2. Of those children who are legally free for adoption, how many do not have an identified adoptive family?

3. Of the children who are legally free for adoption who do not have an identified adoptive family (the number in question 2), how many are registered on the North Carolina Adoption Exchange?

4. Of the children identified in question 3, what are the reasons for children not being on the Exchange?

Example:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| a. Should be listed, paperwork not yet completed | Number_____ |
| b. Child expresses strong desire to not be adopted | Number_____ |
| c. Immediate treatment goal needs to be accomplished (and
Is happening) before moving child toward adoption. | Number_____ |
| d. Child does not want to be marketed, but is interested
In adoption | Number_____ |
| e. Other (please be specific and list separately) | |

Number
Number
Number

Note: the sum of #3 and #4 should equal number of children listed in #2.

As an example, one county in reviewing this data had 28 children free for adoption. Twenty-one (21) of the children were in their prospective adoptive home, yet Field 46 was not completed. Therefore, it appeared that 28 children needed homes when, in fact, that was true of only 7.