



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

325 North Salisbury Street • 2410 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2410
Courier # 2410

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Buell, Secretary

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

December 10, 2001

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Need for Coordination between DSS and Family Resource Centers

In an effort to coordinate all family-centered support services that are offered in local communities, the General Assembly enacted special provisions in the FY 2002 budget that mandate coordination of all family support programs funded by the Department of Health and Human Services. In addition, the General Assembly and the Federal Child and Family Service Review has emphasized the need for close working relationships between county Departments of Social Services and the aforementioned family support programs. As a result, the following programmatic requirement for family support programs is being implemented:

- Effective no later than July 1, 2002, all family support/family resource center programs must develop and implement a collaborative partnership with the public child welfare agency to implement one or more of the following as a strong, core service component: (a) prevent and remedy child maltreatment; (b) reunify foster children with their families; and/or (c) recruit and support foster and adoptive families. This partnership needs to be described in a jointly developed plan that is signed by FRC/FS Program and DSS administrators. All programs must closely track and report outcome information at the child, family and community level related to this component.

If there is a family support program in your county that is funded by the Division of Social Services, that program will be contacting you in the near future to work on developing a formalized partnership with your agency. We believe this will be a positive step in creating a more comprehensive child welfare system in the state. We are requesting your diligent cooperation in making this effort a success.

Dear Director FS, FRC
December 10, 2001
Page 2

For more information regarding the family support programs in your area, please refer to our web-site: http://childrensservices.dhhs.state.nc.us/resourcedevelopment/PDF/List_of_Programs.pdf for a list of service providers and the DSS program consultant that works with each program.

Thank you for your attention to these important new programmatic requirements. If you have any questions, please call Sonya Toman at (919) 733-2279.

Sincerely,



Charles C. Harris, Chief
Children's Services Section

CCH/st

CS-46-2001