



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

325 North Salisbury Street • MSC 2408 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2408
Courier # 56-20-25

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director
(919) 733-3055

January 8, 2010

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ALAMANCE, CABARRUS, CARTERET, CUMBERLAND, DAVIDSON, GASTON, GUILFORD, IREDELL,
NEW HANOVER, ORANGE, PITT, ROCKINGHAM AND UNION**

ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: CHILD CARE FACILITY ASSESSMENT PILOT

The Divisions of Social Services (DSS) and Child Development (DCD) have recently engaged in discussions surrounding the assessment of childcare facilities. In an effort to streamline these assessments and eliminate duplicative efforts, the two Divisions have discussed their respective roles and responsibilities.

Currently, allegations of abuse or neglect in childcare facilities involve DSS and DCD staff working collaboratively. To alleviate this duplication of work a proposal has been made to allow DCD to assume more responsibility for conducting assessments in child care facilities. Ultimately, the long term plan is that DSS would defer all assessments regarding child care facilities to DCD.

Your participation with a pilot to determine the feasibility of removing DSS from the assessment process is requested. The pilot will involve 13 counties and a four-month commitment beginning February 2010. Upon completion of the pilot, there will be an evaluation period before final recommendations would be made to the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

The design of the pilot has not yet been finalized. Therefore, your input into the design of the pilot is important. To accomplish this, both Divisions are requesting that each county identify a point of contact. Please communicate the name of your county's point of contact to Terri Reichert, Child Welfare Policy Consultant with the Division of Social Services at (919) 334-1106, or by email at terri.reichert@dhhs.nc.gov. We plan to host a meeting within the next couple of weeks to provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Charisse S. Johnson, Chief
Child Welfare Services - Division of Social Services

June Locklear, Chief
Regulatory Services Section - Division of Child Development

cc: Sherry S. Bradsher
Sarah Barham
Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Children's Services Program Representatives
Local Business Liaisons
Regulatory and Licensing Services Consultants
Jack Rogers
Deb Cassidy

CWS-01-10