



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Social Services

ROY COOPER • Governor  
MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary  
MICHAEL BECKETTS • Assistant Secretary for Human Services

January 3, 2019

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**SUBJECT: TRIPLE P – POSITIVE PARENTING PROGRAM**

**REQUIRED ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY**

This letter serves to (1) provide an update to the statewide scale-up of Triple P – Positive Parenting Program system of interventions (Triple P); and (2) describe the Triple P infrastructure in North Carolina and (3) provide contact information for accessing Triple P implementation support.

**BACKGROUND**

The Triple P system of interventions offers evidence-based parenting and family support strategies designed to reach all families for community-wide impact. Triple P utilizes a population level approach for parents of children 0-16 years of age. It includes five (5) levels of increasing intensity and narrowed population reach allowing it to be responsive to the varying needs of families. Triple P is delivered across flexible delivery formats (e.g., individual, group, online), in several different settings (i.e., social service systems, healthcare settings, school systems, private practice). When the system of interventions (all 5 levels) is saturated in a community, large and favorable effects are demonstrated relative to population-level (1) child abuse and neglect, (2) out-of-home foster care placements, and (3) emergency department visits indicating child injury (Prinz, Sanders, Shapiro, Whitaker, & Lutzker, 2009).

Since 2017, the Department of Health and Human Services' Divisions of Social Services (DSS) and Public Health (DPH), The Duke Endowment (TDE), Triple P America, the Impact Center at Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at UNC Chapel Hill (FPG), and Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina (PCANC) have been working in partnership to reach statewide population level saturation of Triple P.

**TRIPLE P INFRASTRUCTURE IN NC**

To ensure community-wide reach of Triple P, North Carolina counties are organized into ten (10) service areas of Triple P coalitions. These 10 coalitions include an array of local family servicing agencies supported by a Local Implementing Agency (LIA). In most cases, the LIA is the county public health department. With funding from DSS, DPH, and TDE, each LIA is staffed with at least three (3) full time positions to lead coordination and support the service agencies in their service area with Triple P implementation planning, outreach to parents and practitioners, training coordination for new practitioners, practitioner support with fidelity adherence to the

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model, data collection and reporting, and communication/media Stay Positive Campaign. In turn, the service agencies are building capacity to directly support the practitioners to effectively deliver Triple P to parents and families.

DSS, DPH, and TDE are also investing in the Triple P Support System comprised of Triple P America, FPG, and PCANC to provide support at the state and coalition level in building community capacity for effective implementation of Triple P so as to optimize population-level child welfare and other parent/child well-being outcomes. The attached North Carolina map shows the 10 service areas and the contact information for the LIA Coordinators in each area.

The approach being taken by DSS and our state level partners, based on research and practice, teaches that the Triple P system is ***most effective in local communities when effectively supported by a coalition of committed leaders and practitioners***. In the child welfare space, that support depends on strong local child welfare agency leadership. Implementation science research documents that when dedicated, committed agency leaders are actively engaged in local implementation (at both coalition and agency levels), implementation dramatically improves as does the potential for long term success --- both in terms of speed in adopting and delivering Triple P, as well as ***how well*** Triple P is delivered within agencies. Without strong child welfare leadership, large gaps in the Triple P local service system and coalition can occur with regard to the children and families served by DSS agencies. Your involvement and partnership with the LIA, the local Triple P coalition, and other community partners is critical to ensuring that children at risk of or experiencing maltreatment will receive valuable opportunities to experience the most researched and effective parent support system available.

There are several county child welfare agencies interested in or actively delivering Triple P and accessing the support of the LIA in the service areas. County child welfare agencies are strongly encouraged to contact the LIA in their area to learn more about how to engage with the coalition and the supports available for delivering Triple P to families receiving child welfare services.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The next steps are to tend to the supports county child welfare agencies need to both deliver Triple P to families and to engage as a service agency at the coalition level. One such support is through Triple P Online (TPOL). TPOL is a self-directed online program that parents can work through in their own time. It's an 8-module interactive course most suitable for parents of children aged 2 – 12 and is equivalent to a Level 4 Triple P intervention. TPOL is available at no cost to all county child welfare agencies to use with parent/caretakers. The attached flyer and Practitioner Guidelines provides additional information about Triple P Online and how to access the resource.

In the coming days, you will receive a survey about the use of Triple P in your agency. Data from Triple P America shows that county child welfare workers are among the highest population to have received Triple P training in North Carolina. Many county child welfare agencies are delivering Triple P with families either directly or by referring to trained private providers whereas others have experienced barriers to delivery due to staff attrition and other child welfare priorities. Results of this survey will be used by DSS and our state partners for Triple P strategic planning to include a focus on resources needed to support the unique implementation needs of Triple P in county child welfare agencies.

North Carolina's Triple P work and a federal funding expansion opportunity for Triple P as a CPS In-Home service will be discussed at the Children's Services Committee on January 9, 2019.

In closing, the statewide scale-up of Triple P in North Carolina has received national and international recognition for its public/private partnership design and attention to supporting the use of Triple P at the community, service agency and practitioner levels. There is no other jurisdiction in the country that is leading the effort in the way that North Carolina is leading. The investments in effective Triple P implementation through community and agency capacity building are also creating a roadmap for effective implementation of Triple P and other evidence-based programs in child welfare. This is especially relevant as North Carolina prepares for Family First Prevention Services Act implementation.

Please feel free to contact me at [kristin.oconnor@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:kristin.oconnor@dhhs.nc.gov) or 919-527-6407 if you have any questions about Triple P or the information contained in this letter. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Kristin O'Connor, Section Chief  
Child Welfare Policy and Programs

Cc: Michael Becketts, Assistant Secretary for Human Services  
Lisa Cauley, Deputy Director, Child Welfare Services  
CWS Team Leaders  
Marshall Tyson, Branch Head, Children and Youth Branch, Division of Public Health  
LIA Coordinators

Attachments:

Triple P Local Implementing Agencies and Service Areas (map)  
Triple P Online Flyer  
Triple P Online Practitioner Guidelines

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