



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

325 North Salisbury Street • MSC 2439 • 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 15, 2009

Dear County Director of Social Services

**ATTENTION: Child Welfare Program Administrators and Supervisors
Work First Program Administrators and Supervisors
Food and Nutrition Services Administrators and Supervisors
Adult Services Program Managers and Supervisors**

SUBJECT: Statewide Unique Identifier

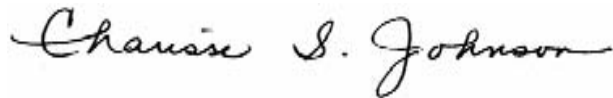
During the week of September 22, 2008, the Federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) Assessment Review was completed. The Children's Bureau has provided some preliminary findings from the review to the Division allowing the Division to begin developing and implementing a Program Improvement Plan. The final summary of the AFCARS review and Program Improvement Plan will be provided to County Departments of Social Services in the near future.

One item that will have to be addressed is the absence of statewide unique individual identifiers. Counties currently assign their own client Services Information System (SIS) individual ID numbers. This issue has many implications for AFCARS as well as the Child and Family Services Reviews as the same client may be reported multiple times as different clients if they travel to different counties. Specifically, the case scenario highlighted in the AFCARS review was a child that entered foster care in one county, was discharged and moved to another county. The child then entered care in that second county, and according to current policy, was assigned a new SIS ID. As a result, the child was statistically reported as two different persons. The problem is compounded when individuals are (incorrectly) assigned multiple IDs within the same county.

The Divisions of Social Services and Aging and Adult Services would greatly appreciate county participation in a workgroup to help develop a plan to address this issue. The target date for completing an implementation of the statewide unique identifier is October 2009. Workgroup meetings will be held at least monthly and can be facilitated by phone and or web conference.

If you have any questions about this letter, or would like to volunteer to be a part of the work group, please feel free to contact Rick Zechman (eric.zechman@ncmail.net) with Child Welfare Services (919) 334-1108 or Dawn Cambridge (dawn.cambridge@ncmail.net) with Performance Management at (919) 334-1236 or Suzanne Merrill (Suzanne.Merrill@ncmail.net) with the Adult Services Section at (919) 733-3818.

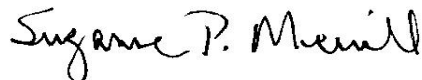
Sincerely,



Charisse S. Johnson, Chief
Child Welfare Services



Hank Bowers, Chief
Performance Management/
Reporting & Evaluation Mgmt



Suzanne P. Merrill, Chief
Division of Aging and Adult Services
Adult Services Section

cc: Sherry Bradsher
Sarah Barham
Dean Simpson
Adonica Hampton
Children's Program Representatives
Work First Program Representatives
Adult Programs Representatives
Local Business Liaisons
Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Dennis Streets

PM-REM-01-2009
AFS-03-2009
CWS-03-09