



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

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Division Director

August 15, 2015

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS, AND CHILD WELFARE WORKERS

SUBJECT: FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING FOSTER CARE CASEWORKER VISITS

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) requires states to report data regarding the frequency of caseworker visits with foster children. The failure to meet established benchmarks will result in serious financial consequences.

BACKGROUND: The President signed P.L. 112-34 into law on September 30, 2011. With the passage of P.L. 112-34, States must continue to collect and report information to the Children's Bureau on monthly caseworker visits. However, beginning with the submission of data for FFY 2012, States must report their information using a new data reporting methodology, consistent with the changes in the law made by P.L. 112-34. ACF will assess compliance based on the revised performance requirements outlined in statute (section 424(f) of the Act).

The New Monthly Caseworker Visit Requirements

Section 424(f) of the Act requires that each State must meet the following performance requirements for monthly caseworker visits beginning in FFY 2015:

For FFY 2015 and each FFY thereafter. The total number of visits made by caseworkers on a monthly basis to children in foster care during a fiscal year must not be less than 95 percent of the total number of such visits that would occur if each child were visited once every month while in care.

For FFY 2012 and each FFY thereafter. At least 50 percent of the total number of monthly visits made by caseworkers to children in foster care during a fiscal year must occur in the child's residence.

States failing to meet any one of the above applicable requirements in a FFY will be subject to a reduction in the rate of Federal Financial Participation (FFP) for title IV-B, subpart 1 expenditures in the subsequent FFY.

The MRS database is the method North Carolina uses to capture this information. There are 2 State-Sanctioned queries available in the Client Services Data Warehouse (CSDW) to help you determine if your visits with children in foster care are being recorded in the MRS database. These queries, designed in response to requests from the Children's Services Committee, should facilitate your ability to monitor

Child Welfare Services

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your county's progress toward ensuring all children in foster care are visited on a monthly basis and that those visits are being recorded in the Multiple Response System (MRS).

The query that allowed you to select any time period (as opposed to just a single month), *Children in Foster care and Corresponding FC Visits for Select Period – Detail Report UPDATED Feb 2011*, has been rebuilt. It now displays all children who have records open in CPPS during the specified time frame, regardless of whether or not the child has visits keyed into MRS. The revised query is titled ***Children in Foster care and Corresponding FC Visits for Select Period – Detail Report REVISED July 2015*** and has been placed in the State Sanctioned folder.

If you have any general questions about this letter, please contact Janet Thursby, Children's Services Program Representative at 252-446-2166 or at Janet.Thursby@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kevin Kelley, MSW
Section Chief, Child Welfare Services