



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

February 8, 2019

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS AND CHILD WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS**

**SUBJECT: MANDATORY CIVIL RIGHTS AND MULTI-ETHNIC PLACEMENT ACT (MEPA) TRAINING**

**REQUIRED ACTION: TIME SENSITIVE**

North Carolina Division of Social Services in partnership with US HHS Office of Civil Rights (OCR) will be hosting a Civil Rights / Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA) training. This training will be offered in person and through a live webinar. The training will be held on **Tuesday, February 26, 2019 from 9:00am – 4:00pm**. The in-person training will be held at **Guildford Technical Community College, Greensboro Campus; 3505 East Wendover Ave., Greensboro, NC 27405**.

US HHS OCR requires mandatory participation by all 100 counties with at least one representative (Director, Child Welfare Program Administrator or Program Manager) from each county participating either in person or on the live webinar. This is the rescheduled training in place of the Civil Rights / MEPA workshop that was planned for the Social Services Institute in October 2018. As you may recall, the Social Services Institute was canceled due to Hurricane Florence.

This training will focus on federal civil rights laws for child welfare including MEPA law and how it is applied to child welfare services. NC Division of Social Services will also provide an overview of the updated template for localized Diligent Recruitment and Retention (DRR) Plans which includes MEPA requirements.

**To pre-register for the in-person training, please contact Cynethia Escalante at (919) 527-6367 or [Cynethia.Escalante@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Cynethia.Escalante@dhhs.nc.gov) by February 22, 2019.**

**Registration for the webinar will be forthcoming.**

Should you have questions regarding the training, please contact your County's NC Kids Consultant or Mary Mackins at (919) 527-6287 or [Mary.Mackins@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Mary.Mackins@dhhs.nc.gov).

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LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603

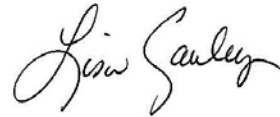
MAILING ADDRESS: 2401 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2401

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6335 • FAX: 919-334-1018

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

For questions regarding Civil Rights or MEPA laws, please contact Carlotta Dixon, NC DSS Civil Rights Officer, at (919) 733-3055 or [Carlotta.Dixon@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Carlotta.Dixon@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa T. Cauley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa T. Cauley  
Deputy Director for Child Welfare  
Division of Social Services

Cc: Michael Becketts, Assistant Secretary for Human Services  
Richard Stegenga, Deputy Director for Business Operations  
Kristin O'Connor, Section Chief, Policy and Programs  
Teresa Strom, Section Chief, County Operations  
Carlotta Dixon, Section Chief, Civil Rights Coordinator  
Erin Baluyot, Interim Adoption Services Manager  
CWS Team Leaders

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