



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

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Courier # 56-20-25

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

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

May 2, 2011

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DEAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF CHILD-PLACING AGENCIES FOR FOSTER CARE

SUBJECT: AN ASSESSMENT OF FOSTER PARENT TRAINING IN NORTH CAROLINA

In July 2010, the Division of Social Services asked the Family and Children's Resource Program (FCRP) within the Jordan Institute for Families at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work to assess our foster parent training requirements and explore ways they can be strengthened. FCRP reviewed the research literature on foster parent training, studied other states' approaches to foster parent training and examined North Carolina outcome and administrative data. They also consulted foster parents as well as staff members from county departments of social services and private child-placing agencies using surveys, focus groups, and telephone interviews, and interviewed the Division's MAPP/GPS trainers.

In February 2011, the Family and Children's Resource Program completed their work and provided a document entitled "An Assessment of Foster Parent Training in North Carolina" to the Division. As a result of this assessment the Division is beginning to have conversations about revising our pre-service training, exploring other tools to screen foster parents and shifting our emphasis to in-service training. This will be a long term project but we feel this document and ongoing discussions with our public and private partners will assist us in strengthening our training requirements for foster parents.

We encourage you to review this document (<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/licensing/misc.htm>). If you have any questions contact the Regulatory and Licensing Services Office at 828-669-3388.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Kelley".

Kevin Kelley, Interim Section Chief
Child Welfare Services

cc: Sherry S. Bradsher
Jack Rogers
Kathy Sommese
Local Business Liaisons Managers
Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Children's Services Program Representatives
Regulatory and Licensing Services Consultants

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