



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

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June 15, 2013

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND DIRECTORS OF CHILD PLACING AGENCIES

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

SUBJECT: TRANSITION FROM MAPP-GPS TO PS-MAPP

North Carolina recognizes that along with other factors, how well the child welfare system recruits, selects, trains and supports its foster, adoptive and kinship families (resource families) affects our safety, permanency and well-being outcomes relative to children re-entering foster care, the stability of foster care placements, recurrence of child maltreatment, reunification of children with their families, and the length of time children spend in foster care. Since resource families spend more time than anyone with children in foster care, foster parents and kinship caregivers affect virtually all aspects of children's lives, including their physical health and safety, behavior, mental and emotional well-being, education and their connection to family, culture, and community.

As a step toward improving the ability of NC's child welfare agencies to assess and train resource parents, the Division of Social Services, in conjunction with the Jordan Institute for Families, UNC School of Social Work, convened the NC Resource Parent Assessment and Training Workgroup in late 2011. This workgroup was comprised of the Division's child welfare training partners, representatives of public and private child-placing agencies and partners from public and private universities. One of several recommendations made by this workgroup was to enhance the content of the current pre-service training offered to resource parents (prospective foster/kinship/adoptive parents) in North Carolina.

Currently MAPP-GPS (Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting—Group Preparation and Selection) is one of a few resource parent pre-service orientation trainings supported by the NC Division of Social Services. This support is marked through a train-the-trainer process that certifies county DSS and licensed child placing agency staff to deliver the training to their resource families (foster and adoptive parents).

An updated version of MAPP-GPS called PS-MAPP (Partnering for Safety and Permanence: Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting) is being adopted and supported by the Division of Social Services. This version includes updated case examples and more emphasis on shared parenting and the importance of the partnership between resource families and child placing agencies. In addition, the content of PS-MAPP contains many of the topics identified by the NC Resource Parent Assessment and Training Workgroup as lacking in the current MAPP-GPS training. PS-MAPP is also being updated to include trauma-informed practice concepts and applications critical for resource parents. Finally, PS-

Child Welfare Services

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MAPP meets the 30 hour pre-service training requirement for foster/adoptive parents and is consistent with the Administrative Rules language requiring training on the twelve skills necessary for successful fostering/adopting and the mutual assessment process.

NCDSS Staff Development has constructed a plan for proceeding with the training of new PS-MAPP Leaders and updating certified MAPP-GPS Leaders currently practicing in a NC County DSS or NC child placing agency. The plan is to train and update over 200 MAPP-GPS Leaders to PS-MAPP Leaders by the end of 2013. MAPP-GPS will no longer be offered as of June 2013. The transition to PS-MAPP begins in July 2013 with PS-MAPP Leader Update Certification training events (each event is three days) for currently certified MAPP-GPS Leaders. The registration information including dates and locations for the PS-MAPP Leader Update Certification sessions and the PS-MAPP Leader Certification training events (for new PS-MAPP Leaders not previously certified as MAPP-GPS Leaders) can be accessed at www.ncswlearn.org.

We are very excited to be able to offer PS-MAPP Leader Certification and hope that your agency takes advantage of this opportunity to be equipped to provide this training to your resource parents. The return on this investment in training will be better trained resource parents who will be more successful in caring for our children in out of home placements.

Please find attached the document, Recommendations for Building a Resource Parent Learning System. The recommendations included in this document will become the benchmarks for continually assessing and improving North Carolina's resource parent training system. If you have questions, please call Staff Development at 919-334-1178 or 919-334-1176.

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, Section Chief

cc: Wayne Black
Jack Rogers
Child Welfare Team Leaders