



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations
for Human Services

Date: June 15, 2020

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS AND CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS

SUBJECT: SURVEY OF DISTRICT PERMANENCY COLLABORATIVES & PENDING COURT CASES

REQUIRED ACTION: ___ Information Only Time Sensitive ___ Immediate

PURPOSE: The purpose is to assess the functioning and current status of child welfare court through District Permanency Collaborative meetings and pending court cases related to COVID-19 restrictions.

In 2018 and early 2019, North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) and North Carolina Office of the Courts (NCAOC) implemented collaborative meetings between county child welfare agencies, local judicial districts and child welfare stakeholders as part of Goal 3 of North Carolina's Program Improvement Plan (PIP). The purpose of these **District Permanency Collaborative (DPC)** meetings are to review local child welfare data and to facilitate conversations regarding barriers to achieving timely permanence for children. District Permanency Collaborative meetings should be occurring quarterly or more frequently as your District sees fit.

District Permanency Collaborative meetings consist of the county child welfare agency director (or designee); judges (chief and/or juvenile); GAL district administrator; GAL attorney advocate; parent attorney representative; county child welfare agency attorney; and clerks of court (elected and/or juvenile).

Two years into the District Permanency Collaborative initiative, NCDSS and NCAOC are assessing this meeting process to review what additional supports are needed to continue effective meeting practices, permanency outcomes for youth in foster care, and create plans for sharing DPC outcomes across the state.

By June 22, 2020 please take a moment to fill out this brief survey for your county / judicial district:
<https://surveymax.dhhs.state.nc.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=I2L2n66M#>

NC DSS and our partners at NC AOC are excited about continued collaboration between the courts and the child welfare agencies--both at the state and local level--to improve the service and support that we provide to children and families in North Carolina.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact Lindsay Harrison at (919) 527-6345 or lindsay.harrison@dhhs.nc.gov.

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



Lisa T. Cauley
Deputy Director for Child Welfare
Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assist Secretary for County Operations for Human Services
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations
Carla McNeill, Section Chief of Permanency
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
Linda Waite, Interim Section Chief for Regulatory & Licensing

CWS-09-2020

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