



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

March 31, 2021

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,
 SUPERVISORS, AND IN-HOME CHILD WELFARE STAFF**

SUBJECT: IN-HOME SERVICES FOCUS GROUPS PLAN

REQUIRED ACTION: Time Sensitive

The NC Division of Social Services (NCDSS) is committed to building a trauma-informed child welfare system that supports the safety and wellbeing of children, youth, and families, and prevents entry into foster care. Achieving this commitment requires that NCDSS works with system partners and stakeholders to identify gaps and needs and identify resources to fill them.

To accomplish this goal, NCDSS is partnering with Public Knowledge (PK) to facilitate seven Focus Groups for Local Department of Social Services In-Home Services child welfare staff. The contributions from these focus groups will support the strengthening of services and supports for In-Home services programming as outlined in the *NC DHHS, Division of Social Services, Child Welfare Child, and Family Services Plan 2020-2024*.

- Target 1: Strengthen the health and well-being programming in CPS In-Home Services
 - Ensure barriers to health programming are known and can be addressed;
 - Support the state in meeting the 2024 program improvement benchmark of 95% for physical, dental, and behavioral health needs being met;
 - Strengthen the training and technical assistance model to ensure it adequately addressed the knowledge and skills needed to carry out health programming in CPS In-Home Services.

Focus groups will be held virtually throughout the month of April. The times and dates for each region are as follows:

Thursday, April 15, 2021	9:00-11:00 am ET	Region One
Thursday, April 15, 2021	12:00-2:00 pm ET	Region Two
Friday, April 16, 2021	10:00-12:00 pm ET	Region Three
Wednesday, April 21, 2021	10:00-12:00 pm ET	Region Four
Monday, April 26, 2021	10:00-12:00 pm ET	Region Five
Wednesday, April 28, 2021	11:00-1:00 pm ET	Region Six
Thursday, April 29, 2021	12:00-2:00 pm ET	Region Seven

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

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www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6340 • FAX: 919-715-1068

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NCDSS is requesting each county Director identify one In-Home Services child welfare staff who will attend and send the contact information for the identified staff member to your county's Regional Child Welfare Consultant by April 8th. PK staff will send the focus group invitation and questions to the identified staff prior to the meeting date.

Any questions regarding this information should be directed to Heather McAllister, Child Health and Development Coordinator at Heather.McAllister@dhhs.nc.gov or your Regional Child Welfare Consultant.

Sincerely,



Lisa Cauley,
Senior Director for Child, Family and Adult Services
Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Susan G. Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations
Carla McNeill Section Chief for Permanency Planning
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
Linda Waite, Acting Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory Services

CWS-10-2021

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