



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

325 North Salisbury Street • MSC 2408 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2408
Courier # 56-20-25

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

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

May 16, 2011

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERVISORS
ALAMANCE, CUMBERLAND, ORANGE, DAVIDSON, NEW HANOVER, GASTON,
CARTERET, CABARRUS, UNION, PITT, ROCKINGHAM, GUILFORD, IREDELL COUNTIES**

SUBJECT: CHILD CARE FACILITY ASSESSMENT PILOT

The Divisions of Social Services (DSS) and Child Development (DCD) have concluded the Child Care Facility Assessment Pilot in which your counties participated. The pilot which began in February, 2010 and concluded in June, 2010, sought to determine the feasibility of DCD assuming complete responsibility for the assessment of child abuse and neglect allegations in child care facilities. The purpose of this letter is to provide an outcome summary of the pilot.

The pilot revealed a number of points; county departments of Social Services social workers and DCD child abuse/neglect consultants are already collaborating and it is this collaboration that is the single most important factor in the protection of children. The feedback from pilot participants is that the pilot further enhanced each agencies understanding of their roles and responsibilities and deepened their commitment to collaborating.

Pilot participants identified other benefits to the proposed streamlining of the assessment process for child care facilities. Benefits include a reduction in provider confusion over the separate roles of DSS and DCD; an increase in the accuracy of the information obtained; allowance for a more timely resolution to cases and most importantly, elimination of duplicative efforts between the two agencies.

Although some challenges were identified, both Divisions are moving forward with a plan to allow DCD to take over these assessments. Ultimately, there are numerous statutes that will need to be amended to allow for this to happen. Tentatively, the Divisions are introducing ideas for legislative change to the Department. We will keep you informed as to the progress of this pilot.

We also would like to thank you for your participation in this pilot and for making a difference in the lives of children affected by child abuse and neglect in child care facilities. Should you have questions regarding this pilot feel free to contact Terri Reichert, Child Welfare Policy Consultant with DSS at (919) 334-1106, or by email at terri.reichert@dhhs.nc.gov or Andrea O. Lewis with DCD at (919) 662-4499 or by email at andrea.o.lewis@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kevin Kelley in blue ink.

Kevin Kelley, Interim Section Chief
Child Welfare Services

Handwritten signature of Tamara Barnes in black ink.

Tamara Barnes, Chief
Regulatory Services Section – Division of Child Development

cc: Sherry Bradsher
Jack Rogers
Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Alexi Gruber, DCD Attorney
Anna Carter, DCD Deputy Director
Deb Cassidy, DCD Director

CWS-12-11