



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

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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director
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March 31, 2009

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE STATEWIDE PIP FOR THE 2007 CFSR

During the week of March 9th, 2009, several representatives from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) met with NC Division staff to review our one year progress toward the two year Program Improvement Plan. The initial PIP document can be found on the Division website at: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/stats/cw.htm>. Feedback from this technical assistance meeting will necessitate several modifications to the PIP. Many of these changes will have minor implications for county departments of social services for practice.

One area that will impact counties is the process the state uses for county CFSRs. The feedback from ACF, as a part of North Carolina's Program Improvement Plan, provides the Division with further clarification around strengthening our Child and Family Services Review instrument, protocol, and case selection, to more accurately assess the outcomes of Safety, Permanence, and Well-Being. These changes will be incorporated into the review schedule beginning on May 11, 2009. These changes are designed to better mirror the Federal Instrument, Process and Protocol and to capture clarification around rating items on the instrument.

These refinements will move North Carolina's review process even further along the improvement continuum. Enhancements include: a redesign of the North Carolina CFSR instrument to more closely mirror the federal instrument, increasing the Period Under Review (PUR) from six-months to twelve-months, and decreasing the number of days from 60 to 8 days that a child must be in care in order for the cases to be eligible for review. One other modification will be made to utilize a case sampling stratification to insure that particular outcomes are addressed through the CFSR process including foster care re-entry, use of APPLA, and outcomes for older youth in care.

Prior to May 11, 2009, the Division will release a revised CFSR protocol and will work with closely with counties prior to their review to insure an understanding of the revised process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charisse S. Johnson".

Charisse S. Johnson, Chief
Child Welfare Services

cc: Sherry S. Bradsher
Sarah Barham
Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Children's Services Program Representatives
Regulatory and Licensing Services Consultants
Jack Rogers

CWS-20-09