

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

ROY COOPER • Governor
MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary
WAYNE E. BLACK • Director
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

May 9, 2018

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DEAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF LICENSED CHILD PLACING AGENCIES

ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE SERVICES STAFF

SUBJECT: MAY 2018 IS NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH – FOR INFORMATION ONLY

May is National Foster Care Month, a time to acknowledge child welfare professionals for the endless work you do to improve the lives of children and youth in foster care. Foster Care Month also provides an opportunity for acknowledging and celebrating the thousands of dedicated foster families, kinship caregivers, and other caring individuals who make a meaningful difference in the lives of these children.

The NC Division of Social Services would like to thank you for your commitment to serving children and youth in foster care, and helping them find permanent homes and connections. We encourage you to take this opportunity to raise awareness of the many children in foster care across the state, and explore creative ways to get your community involved. Below is a list of resources available to assist you in your diligent recruitment and retention efforts:

- ***FosteringNC.org*** is a learning site for North Carolina's foster and adoptive families and kinship caregivers.
- ***Fostering Perspectives*** (www.fosteringperspectives.org) is a free newsletter produced by the NC Division of Social Services, in partnership with the UNC School of Social Work, for foster, adoptive, kinship, and therapeutic families, as well as child welfare professionals.
- ***Diligent Recruitment and Retention Quarterly Calls*** are held each October, January, April, and July.
- ***NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care Network*** (www.adoptnckids.org) is North Carolina's statewide recruitment entity that is dedicated to the diligent recruitment and retention of prospective foster families across the state, and is available for ongoing support in providing safe and secure homes for children and youth in foster care.

In addition, NC DSS would like to bring to your attention to additional resources to assist in serving children and youth in foster care:

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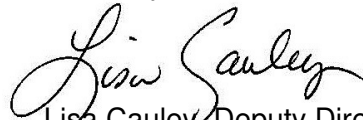
LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2406 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2406
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6340 • FAX: 919-773-6714

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- **Talking with Young People in Foster Care About Adoption**, a webinar hosted by UNC School of Social Work in partnership with the NC Division of Social Services. This webinar teaches concrete strategies for what to say, and what to try when young people say “no” to adoption. The webinar is available for viewing here: <https://www.ncswlearn.org>.
- **Creating “Normalcy” for Young People in Foster Care**, a webinar hosted by UNC School of Social Work in partnership with the NC Division of Social Services. This webinar considers why “normal” experiences are so important for foster children, and explores implementation of the reasonable and prudent parent standard. The webinar is available for viewing here: <https://www.ncswlearn.org>.
- **National Foster Care Month Website** provides resources and information to assist in ensuring a positive future for our children and youth in foster care. Resources include, but are not limited to, outreach materials, inspirational stories from families, and a community engagement page. <https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth>.

Again, thank you for your dedication to serving children and families in North Carolina. For additional information, please contact Erin Baluyot at (919) 527-6369 or erin.baluyot@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Lisa Cauley, Deputy Director
Child Welfare Services

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