



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

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July 1, 2009

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: CHILD WELFARE'S RESPONSE TO DIVERSITY

The Division of Social Services is encouraging county directors of social services and child welfare staff members to pay particular attention to the current edition of Practice Notes. These publications are available on the internet at: (<http://www.practicenotes.org>). This month's publication is devoted to articles related to "Child Welfare's Response to Diversity." These articles include:

- Recognizing and Honoring Differences
- Strengthening Supervision: Tips for Helping Caseworkers Navigate Cultural Differences
- Race and Child Welfare
- Building Cultural Sensitivity: Debunking Myths about Kinship Care
- Enhancing Child Welfare Practice with American Indians
- Resources for Learning More about Working with Diversity

Addressing disproportionality and racial disparity are key elements of the State's Program Improvement Plan as related to the 2007 Child and Family Services Review. This issue of Practice Notes provides information that assists us in meeting our improvement objectives and in improving outcomes for families and children.

Sincerely,

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

Charisse S. Johnson, Chief
Child Welfare Services

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

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