



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

2408 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2408
Courier # 56-20-25

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

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

August 29, 2011

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM MANAGERS, FOSTER CARE, ADOPTION, AND LICENSURE SUPERVISORS AND WORKERS

SUBJECT: MEPA-IEP COMPLIANCE REVIEW (MULTIETHNIC PLACEMENT ACT OF 1994 AS AMENDED BY THE INTERETHNIC ADOPTION PROVISIONS OF 1996)

This letter is to make counties aware that the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Civil Rights (OCR) is currently conducting a review regarding compliance with Multiethnic Placement Act of 1994 as amended by the Interethnic Adoption Provisions of 1996 ([MEPA-IEP](#)). Please see the attached letter from the OCR to Secretary Cansler. OCR began the on-site review on August 15, 2011 and has completed interviews in three counties, Durham, Johnston, and Wake. The Division anticipates that OCR will visit and conduct interviews of staff in seven additional counties. The Division will notify those counties once they are identified by OCR.

During the entrance conference of the MEPA-IEP compliance review, a video presentation training was identified that is available on the National Resource Center for Adoption website. The video presentation can be found at: <http://www.nrcadoption.org/webcasts-2/mepa/>. The training provides information and guidance about MEPA-IEP including how it applies in a variety of case scenarios. Because compliance with MEPA-IEP serves the best interest of children in care and is a requirement, the Division is asking county departments of social services to ensure that all child welfare staff are versed in how to help meet this requirement by reviewing this training.

The Division would like to thank you in advance for your participation and cooperation in this process. Additional information will be shared as it is known, particularly with any counties identified for a visit from OCR. If you have questions, please contact the Child Welfare Policy Team at 919-733-4622.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Kelley".

Kevin Kelley, Interim Chief
Child Welfare Services Section

Attachment: [North Carolina MEPA signed notice](#)

cc: Sherry Bradsher
Jack Rogers
Carlotta Dixon, Title VI-Civil Rights Coordinator
Child Welfare Services Team Leaders

CWS-23-11