



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

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Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.  
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Wayne E. Black  
Division Director

OCTOBER 15, 2014

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: FOSTER CARE PROGRAM MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS, AND WORKERS

SUBJECT: FOSTERING HEALTH NC

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the Child Welfare League of America recognize children in foster care as children with special health care needs. Fostering Health NC, an initiative led by the state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), recently published a set of tools designed to improve health outcomes and reduce the cost of care for the foster population. Developed through a collaborative process and informed by a 40-member interdisciplinary team, Fostering Health NC's tools focus on leveraging available technology to improve care coordination, aligning care with AAP-recommended standards, and addressing barriers to information sharing.

Examples of the documents contained in the library include:

**Best Practices for Social Services:** Summarizes the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Standards of Care for children and adolescents in foster care and offers recommendations and guidance on screening for social-emotional and mental health concerns.

**Health Summary Forms:** These forms offer alternatives to DSS Forms 5243 and 5244 for supporting the AAP-recommended Initial Visit, 30-day Comprehensive Visit, and recurring Well Visits for children entering foster care. The forms may be downloaded and adapted to suit local needs and preferences. These forms are also available in fillable pdf format.

**Sharing Health Information for Treatment:** Guidance from the UNC School of Government explaining how North Carolina health care providers may share protected health information with other health care providers about a child in the custody of a local Department of Social Services without written permission. Importantly, this guidance should reduce the need for back-and-forth coordination between DSS offices and providers to obtain releases of information.

**Sharing Social Services Information:** Highlights existing policies that address sharing social services information between county Departments of Social Services and health care providers.

To access the online library, please visit [www.ncped.org/foster-care-medical-home](http://www.ncped.org/foster-care-medical-home)

If you have any questions regarding the Fostering Health NC initiative or to request technical assistance, please contact Teresa Strom, DSS Child Welfare Program Policy Consultant at 919-527-6344 / [teresa.strom@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:teresa.strom@dhhs.nc.gov) or Adam Svolto, Fostering Health NC Program Director, at 919-673-2768 /

Child Welfare Services

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) • [www.ncdhhs.gov/dss](http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss)

Tel. 919-527-6340 • Fax 919-715-6714

Location: McBryde East Building • 820 South Boylan Ave. • Raleigh, NC 27699-2439

Mailing Address: 2406 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-2406

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[adam@ncpeds.org](mailto:adam@ncpeds.org). Fostering Health NC is greatly interested in your feedback regarding the usability of these resources and any recommended edits. It is the Division's hope that collaboration between health care providers and local child welfare agencies will result in improved outcomes for the children in our care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kevin Kelley, Section Chief  
Child Welfare Services

cc: Wayne Black  
Jack Rogers  
Child Welfare Services Team Leaders