



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

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations
for Human Services

November 9, 2020

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DEAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF LICENSED CHILD PLACING AGENCIES

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS,
SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only

We are excited to announce that November is National Adoption Month. In honor of this, the North Carolina Division of Social Services is hosting a series of events to highlight the importance and significance of permanency in the lives of children.

Last state fiscal year 1,540 children in North Carolina were adopted, which was an increase from the 1,412 from the previous year. This increase can be attributed to county departments of social services, private adoption agencies and court partners who provided services to children and families to finalize adoptions despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. As of September 13, 2020, there are more than 1,230 children free for adoption.

To support efforts for these children to achieve permanency, November events will focus on sharing the perspective of our families, youth, and frontline workers. They will share their experiences and insight on their personal journey in the adoption process.

These events are open and available to everyone with an interest in permanency for children in care as space permits.

Adoption Month Itinerary

November 10, 2020- **Keeping Children and Youth Connected through Kinship and Adoption**, Joseph Allen, Kinship provider and adoptive parent will share his experience working in the field while providing kinship placement and later adoption. Jessica Zollinger and Lee Ann Perillaman, adoption social workers will be sharing their experiences with youth on their adoption paths. Sarah, a youth recently adopted, will be sharing her journey to permanency. Registration link for this event:

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603

MAILING ADDRESS: 2409 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2409

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6390 • FAX: 919-733-3052

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<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3219092280482250510>

November 17, 2020- **Never Limit Your Life**, with Derek Clark, a nationally renowned speaker who will share his experience in foster care. His journey is exhilarating. Preview his bio here

<https://www.iwillnevergiveup.com/> Registration link for this event:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4603782040131337230>

December 1, 2020- **Supporting and Encouraging a Culture of Permanency**. Reggie Dabbs, a nationally renowned speaker, will be joining us to help conclude the events for the 2020 national adoption month.

Preview his bio by following this link: <http://reggiedabbsonline.com/>. Registration link for this event:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8228083527071831822>

The North Carolina Foster Care and Adoption Network is focused on working in partnership with county departments of social services and private agencies to assist in overcoming barriers to permanency. We hope this series of events featuring the voice of families and youth will inspire us to continue to increase the number of children and youth who achieve permanent homes.

Should you have questions, please contact Mary Mackins at (919) 527-6287, Mary.Mackins@dhhs.nc.gov; or Shirley Williams at (919) 527-6404, Shirley.Williams@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

Carla McNeill, MSW
Section Chief of Permanency

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations for Human Services
Lisa T. Cauley, Senior Director for Aging and Adult Services and Child Welfare
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
Linda Waite, Acting Section Chief for Regulatory & Licensing

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