



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

2406 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2406
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Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

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

September 30, 2009

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: CHILD WELFARE SUPERVISORS AND SOCIAL WORKERS

SUBJECT: WEBINAR – WORKING WITH INDIAN FAMILIES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS

According to the U.S. Census, North Carolina has the largest Native American population east of the Mississippi River. Some of North Carolina's approximately 99,000 Native American citizens live in every county in our state. For this reason, North Carolina's Indian tribes and tribal organizations are important partners for child welfare staff striving to improve outcomes for families. Improving the timely identification of Native American children, recruitment of Native American foster families, and partnership with the state's tribes are also key components of our Program Improvement Plan as related to the federal Child and Family Services Review. As part of our ongoing work to enhance these efforts, the Division of Social Services is offering a special online learning opportunity on October 21, 2009.

"Working with Native American Families and Tribes", a 90-minute webinar (online seminar) produced by the Jordan Institute for Families at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Social Work will be held on October 21, 2009 from 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon. This training event will offer real-world examples and practical suggestions for child welfare staff. Featured presenters will include Gregory Richardson, Executive Director of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs; Nadja Jones, Senior Community Development Specialist for the National Indian Child Welfare Association; and Karma Warren, Licensing Consultant for the Division of Social Services.

Individuals can apply to register for the webinar by e-mailing Vilma Gimenez (vgimenez@email.unc.edu) with the Jordan Institute for Families. The deadline for registration is October 14. Please encourage your staff to participate.

Sincerely,

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

Charisse S. Johnson, Chief
Child Welfare Services

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

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