



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

325 North Salisbury Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2406
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal, Director
(919) 733-3055

March 5, 2004

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: Child Welfare Program Managers and Supervisors

SUBJECT: **Legislative Committee Survey on Malicious CPS Reports**

The House Interim Committee on Child Protective Services, Foster Care and Adoptions has been diligently studying Child Welfare issues in recent months. In the course of this research, the House Committee has interviewed many involved parties, including county DSS Directors and staff, Division staff, child welfare advocates, local law enforcement agencies, private providers and many others. During their contact with county DSS agencies, House Committee members were made aware of a real concern many counties expressed with what is being called malicious CPS reports. As a result of this concern, this week the House Committee requested that the Division compile data for every county DSS agency around this issue. Specifically, the Committee wants input from every county DSS regarding unsubstantiated reports for SFY 03 (July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003). Based on each county DSS's review of their unsubstantiated reports during this period, the Division has been requested to compile data in response to two survey questions, which are attached.

Please know that we at the Division appreciate all that you have done in providing data for multiple surveys during the past few months. We will continue to work to provide you with as much assistance and support as possible. The collection of data is a part of this process.

Attached to this letter are our survey questions. Please put forth your best effort and respond by completing this survey by March 12, 2004. Because of the House Committee's desire to get this report prior to their next meeting later this month, it is crucial that you answer the survey questions and get the results to Keith Davis no later than close of business on Friday, March 12, 2004. It would be very helpful if your response could be sent by email to keith.davis@ncmail.net. Your Children's Program Representative (CPR) or another Division staff member will be conducting follow-up with you about this survey. If you have any questions, please call your CPR or Mr. Davis at (919) 733-7831.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Ann Lamm".

Jo Ann Lamm, Administrator
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section

JAL/men

Attachment

cc: Pheon Beal
Sherry Bradsher
FSCWS Team Leaders
CPRs

FSCWS-06-2004

Child Welfare Survey on Malicious Reports

In support of the work being undertaken by the House Interim Committee on Child Protective Services, Foster Care, and Adoptions, please complete the questions below as thoroughly as possible. Please email your responses to Keith.Davis@ncmail.net no later than close of business on Friday, March 12, 2004. If you have questions, please contact your Children's Program Representative, or Mr. Davis at (919) 733-7831.

1. Of the total number of unsubstantiated investigative assessments conducted by your agency between July 1, 2002 and June 30, 2003 (SFY 2003), what were some of the reasons those reports were unsubstantiated?

(Examples may be: family referred for services during assessment period and any risk factors have been mitigated by services; or, the facts, as determined during the assessment process, did not rise to the statutory level of abuse or neglect; or, during the course of the Investigative Assessment, it became clear this was a "malicious" report (see definition of "malicious" report below)).

2. Malicious reports can be defined as: ***A report that is intentionally and knowingly made with inaccurate facts.***

(a.) Of the number of reports your agency received during SFY 2003, how many of those reports could be determined at Intake to be "malicious" reports?

(b.) How many were determined during the Investigative Assessment process to be malicious reports?

(c.) How many of those reports determined to be "malicious", either at intake or during the Investigative Assessment, resulted in a family receiving services voluntarily?