

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

325 North Salisbury Street • MSC 2408 • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2408
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

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

May 27, 2004

Dear County Director of Social Services

**Attention: Children's Services Social Workers
Children's Services Supervisors
Work First QSAPs**

Subject: Use of QSAPs in Child Protective Services

We are pleased to announce that the Division of Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse Services (DMH/DD/SAS) has designated "families who are under Child Protective Services investigative assessment or who have been substantiated for abuse, neglect or dependency or are in need of child protective services" as a substance abuse target population for substance abuse treatment services. While the general target population includes families under investigative assessment or family assessment (MRS counties only), our child welfare attorneys have instructed that the use of CPS/WF QSAPs may only be used for CPS Case Planning and Case Management situations at this time. CPS/WF QSAPs can now be a resource in those families where there is substantiation or a finding of in need of services for MRS counties and substance abuse has been a factor in the substantiation/finding and if CPS Case Planning and Case Management is being provided. While the use of the QSAPs will be available to all 100 county Departments of Social Services soon, the LME's are in the process of hiring enough QSAPs to serve every County Department of Social Services. Please check with your LME to determine how quickly a QSAP will be hired if one is not already available.

Assessment by the CPS/WF QSAP is paid for with substance abuse block grant funds if the consumer does not have Medicaid. Method of payment for substance abuse treatment includes, in this order, Medicaid, the consumer's insurance or substance abuse block grant funds.

If a child protective services assessment results in a substantiation or a finding that the family is in need of services and substance abuse was identified as one of the reasons the child was maltreated, the family should be referred by the CPS social worker to the CPS/WF QSAP for substance abuse assessment unless they are already in treatment. Consequences to families for refusing to participate in the QSAP assessment will vary depending on each family's individual situation. Any refusal to participate should be considered as a part of the total CPS assessment process.

Before referrals to the CPS/WF QSAP begin, the Local Management Entity (LME) and the County Department of Social Services must jointly develop a Memorandum of Agreement delineating the roles and responsibilities of each agency in serving these families. Both

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Divisions have developed a model Memorandum of Agreement and policy for implementation of the program and these are attached to this letter.

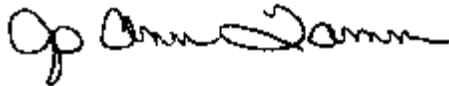
Training will be provided to those counties/programs who were not a part of the original pilot. The original 19 county Departments of Social Services in the pilot were: Buncombe, Davidson, Davie, Durham, Forsyth, Greene, Haywood, Iredell, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Pasquotank, Pitt, Richmond, Stokes, Surry, Wayne, Wilson and Yadkin. Information on dates and training sites will be sent to you by the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services.

Planning between the LME and the County DSS should begin as soon as possible so that any collaborative issues and procedures can be ironed out prior to implementation.

We believe that the use of the CPS/WF QSAPs in CPS Case Planning and Case Management will greatly facilitate the work you do with your families. Please contact your LME Director, if you have not already done so, to begin the collaborative process.

If you have any further questions, please contact Hope Hunt, Policy Consultant in the Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section, at (919) 733-4622.

Sincerely,



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

JAL/ehh
Attachment

Cc: Pheon Beal
Sherry Bradsher
Sarah Barham
Flo Stein
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Children's Programs Representatives
Work First Representatives

FSCWS-15-04