



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

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

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

March 24, 2006

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES:

ATTN: CHILD WELFARE AND WORK FIRST PROGRAM MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS

Re: CHANGES TO CORNERSTONE III TRAINING

In our ongoing effort to provide training in family centered practice for anyone who will be working within the Multiple Response System, we have made some changes to the training *Cornerstone III: Partners In Change*. As you know, *Cornerstone III* is a foundational training on the principles, knowledge, and skills related to family-centered practice, the "cornerstone" of MRS reform.

In the past, *Cornerstone IIIA* has been required for anyone who will be doing family assessments, while *Cornerstone IIIB* was made available for all other child welfare and Work First staff. As we continue to update and refine our training system, we are working this year to fold all of the content of our *Cornerstone III* training into existing pre-service and job specific trainings (the 100 and 200 series courses.) We hope to have all of these updates and training redesigns done within the year.

In keeping with this goal, we have taken an interim step, and blended the former *Cornerstone IIIA* and *Cornerstone IIIB* trainings into one single *Cornerstone III training*, effective April 15, 2006. This change means that no matter what your role, *Cornerstone III* is the place to receive your foundational family centered practice training. The new blended *Cornerstone III* training will meet the requirement of training for family assessment workers, and it will also meet the needs of the entire range of your child welfare and Work First staff.

In addition, if you or your staff have previously taken *Cornerstone III B* and now find yourself in a position to be conducting family assessments, we have developed a comprehensive self-study guide that will help you gain the skills and knowledge you need for conducting family assessments, without having to repeat the *Cornerstone III* course. This self-study guide is designed to be completed under the guidance of the social worker's supervisor or an agency child welfare trainer, who would be available to answer questions, review assignments, and discuss lessons learned through the self-study process. This self study guide is attached to this letter and can also be found on the MRS website at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/mrs/index.htm>. The Division strongly urges you to

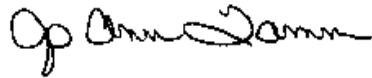
utilize the self-study guide in order to ensure that your staff is adequately trained in the family assessment approach.

You can find the complete training schedule on our Division website at www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/training. Once there click on child welfare, and the MRS trainings begin on page 78. You can also view our training catalogue and register for trainings on line at our specialized training website at www.ncswtrain.org.

We are proud to continue to build and refine our learning system to meet the changing needs of county partners, and welcome your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to address any questions, comments or suggestions about MRS training to Teresa Turner, Manger for Staff Development, at (919) 733-7672, or e-mail: teresa.turner@ncmail.net; or Holly McNeill, MRS Policy Consultant, at (828) 757-5672, or e-mail: holly.mcneill@ncmail.net. Should you have questions about specific courses or registration, please contact the appropriate registrar according to the training course for which you are registering.

We hope this change will enhance the professional development of your staff as we move towards family-centered practice and systematic child welfare reform in North Carolina.

Sincerely,



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

Attachment

cc: Pheon Beal
Sherry S. Bradsher
Local Business Liaisons
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Managers
Children's Programs Representatives
Work First Program Representatives

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