



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

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

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Director
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Pheon E. Beal,
(919) 733-3055

October 2, 2003

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: Child Welfare Supervisors and Staff

SUBJECT: Structured Intake

Strengths-Based Structured Intake policy, which is a component of Multiple Response System (MRS) reform was developed by a work group consisting of county and state staff. Intake training was provided statewide prior to policy implementation 6-1-03. As a result of questions raised during this training, an administrative letter containing a Question and Answer document was issued 7-15-03. After receiving feedback from county staff, a decision was made to reconvene the Strengths-Based Structured Intake work group to further evaluate policy guidance provided in the Question and Answer Document. The work group has met and we are in the process of receiving guidance from our child welfare attorneys and finalizing responses to send back to the work group.

Please suspend the screening guidance provided on the Question and Answer Document and screen reports involving the allegations listed below as you would have prior to the guidance provided in the Question and Answer document until you receive further notice.

What about situations where the reporter says the kids are having sex at school? (p. 4, #2)

You receive a report that a sex offender is living in the home with the children. Should this report be screened in? (p. 4, #4)

Does an abandonment report require an immediate response when the child is with grandparents and those grandparents are willing to provide care? (p. 6, #1)

The Structured Intake work group will clarify information provided in the Question and Answer document relating to the following questions.

In situations where a child has been abandoned by the parents, and grandparents have been providing care and are saying they are willing and able to continue caring for the child, how do we ensure a legal, permanent placement? (p. 8, #2)

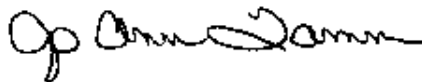
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You receive a report of sex abuse with Dad as alleged perpetrator that states Dad is abusive when Mom is not there. It is 2:00 a.m. and Mom, Dad and child are all home and are sleeping. Does this situation require an immediate response? (p. 4, #3)

The Intake work group is in the process of evaluating Intake policy and will make comprehensive recommendations for changes to the Children's Services Committee.

If you have any questions regarding Structured Intake policy, please contact your Children's Program Representative or Candice Britt at (919) 733-4622.

Sincerely,



JoAnn Lamm, Program Administrator
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section

JAL/crb

cc: Pheon Beal
Sherry Bradsher
Children's Program Representatives
Work First Representatives
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Local Business Liaisons

FSCWS-21-03