



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

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

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July 17, 2006

Dear County Director of Social Services

Subject: The Experiences Report Website and the Federal Outcome Measures Report

In collaboration with UNC-Chapel Hill, the Division will release the newest version of the web-based Experiences Report on July 17, 2007. The web address to access the report remains the same: <http://ssw.unc.edu/cw/index.html>. The latest release will include all of the information on the old Experiences Report, along with new data regarding judicial districts, and information that displays the experiences of children broken down by age, gender, race, and ethnicity. The website will also have the Federal Outcome Measures report detailing data from April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 for each county. The Division of Social Services will no longer be mailing a hard copy of that report to counties, and counties should now look to the website rather than to the PQA 182 report listed on XPTR for information regarding the Federal Outcome Measures. In future releases, multiple quarters of data regarding the Federal Outcome Measures will be available for counties to view and compare.

As you view the Federal Outcome Measures, you may notice significant shifts in a number of the measures. After a careful review of our programming, we have made some revisions and we now believe the statistics are as accurate as possible. The major changes are as follows:

- **Recurrence of Maltreatment** – In developing this measure, programmers at UNC-Chapel Hill have made an attempt to filter out duplicate data, so the percentage reflects the true level of repeat maltreatment as accurately as possible.
- **Placement Stability** – As a result of a programming error, we realized that we had been reporting children that had *three* or fewer placements as opposed to children with *two* or fewer placements. As a result, most counties will see a decrease in the percentage of children who have a high degree of placement stability.

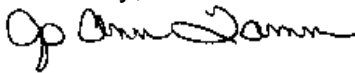
As a result of some technical assistance that the Division received from the National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data Technology, we have also made some minor

changes in the programming that may have slightly altered the statistics reported. The programming logic used to develop the measures is listed on the website. Please feel free to contact us regarding any programming questions you may have.

Many of you may also know that the next round of Child and Family Services Reviews evaluates states' performance based on a new set of indicators. The Division is currently working towards producing these measures for North Carolina and for individual counties. As soon as those measures are finalized, they will also be posted on the Experiences Report website. We will continue to produce the current set of Federal Outcome Measures along with the new measures, however, so counties are best able to track their performance using a consistent set of measures over time.

The Division hopes that the latest version of the Experiences Report and the Federal Outcome Measures Report will be helpful to you. We hope you will share this information with staff members and the wider community in an effort to demonstrate your progress on ensuring the safety, permanence and well-being of the children in your county and in the state. We also encourage you to share the latest information regarding judicial districts with your judges and other court personnel. If you have questions about the information contained in these reports, the interpretation of that information, or the specific programming logic used to develop this report, please contact Jane Seo at jane.seo@ncmail.net or 919-733-4530.

Sincerely,



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



Hank Bowers, Chief
Performance Management,
Reporting and Evaluation

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JAL/HB/klj

CC: Sherry Bradsher
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