



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

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Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director
(919) 733-3055

July 25, 2006

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: Directors, Work First and Child Welfare Program Administrators,
Program Managers, Supervisors and Social Workers**

SUBJECT: Multiple Response System Policy Training

The Division of Social Services is pleased with the progress with the Implementation of Multiple Response System (MRS) implementation in our state. Families and children are benefiting from your system reform efforts. Since November of 2005, the Division has offered 28 sessions of the MRS policy training to approximately 1,050 county staff. The Division has been very excited to have the participation of not only the 48 counties who are just beginning to implement MRS, but also many of the 52 who have implemented at earlier stages. The Division's Staff Development Team is working hard to incorporate this important information into not only the Pre-Service Training, but also the trainings targeted to the specific roles social workers fill (Assessment Social Worker, Case Manager, Foster Care, etc.). This inclusion of MRS policy in the training curriculum will be accomplished, in part, beginning with July's Pre-Service Training, but will not be fully incorporated until 2007. For this reason, the Division is pleased to offer the MRS Policy Training throughout the summer and fall of this year. The Division will be holding 6 more trainings which have been strategically located to be offered in the areas of the state that appear to have the most need based on many factors including implementation date, county size, etc. Please understand that, ideally, this training would be offered in all 100 counties, however, that is not feasible. Unfortunately, this means that some long distance driving will be necessary in order to attend this training event. This is, as before, a one day training that covers the MRS policy in detail and would be targeted at Child Welfare and Work First workers, supervisors, and administrators. The dates and locations for these trainings are as follows:

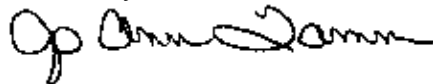
Wednesday, August 16, 2006
Thursday, September 7, 2006
Wednesday, September 6, 2006
Thursday, October 5, 2006
Wednesday, November 29, 2006
Thursday, December 7, 2006

Cumberland County Department of Social Services
Burke County Board of Education Room
Person County Department of Social Services
Iredell County Department of Social Services
Pitt County Agricultural Center Auditorium
Onslow County Department of Social Services

Also, as before, registration forms will need to be completed by those attending at the time of the training events. However, please contact Holly McNeill, MRS Policy Consultant at holly.mcneill@ncmail.net or 828-757-5672 to let her know how many staff from your county will be attending.

In addition to these trainings the Division remains committed to providing child welfare system reform support to all 100 counties through various means. These include monthly regional meetings and quarterly Pilot County meetings where counties can openly discuss progress, barriers, and future planning with their most valuable resource – other counties. Other Division support comes in the form of the MRS! Newsletter, consultation provided by the MRS Policy Consultant and Program Coordinator, your county's Children's Program Representative, your county's Work First Representative, and other Division Policy Consultants. With these final 6 policy trainings and with Staff Development's incorporation of MRS into all of its training curriculum, it is the Division's expectation that counties will be able to keep its staff up-to-date on Multiple Response as it becomes child welfare in North Carolina. Counties will be expected to maintain on-going internal MRS Policy Training for new employees hired after January 1, 2007.

Sincerely,



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

Cc: Sherry S. Bradsher
Local Business Liaisons
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Program Representatives
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Work First Program Representatives

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