



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

August 15, 2008

TO: COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: Adoption Supervisors

SUBJECT: Additional Resources for Post Adoption Services

The 1997 Adoption and Safe Families Act mandates that a portion of the Safe and Stable Families Act funds be used for adoption promotion and support, including post-adoption services. We are pleased to announce that the Division has entered into partnership with five agencies to offer additional post-adoption services to the many families who have adopted children from the foster care system. Programs, activities, and support services offered by these partners are resources for the enhancement and support of post adoption services offered by *county DSS* agencies. **They are not to be used as substitutes for services that each agency is expected to provide to adoptive families.** Contracts are effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

County DSS agencies are *strongly* encouraged to contact these agencies to learn of their service provisions and to refer families who could benefit from post-adoption services. These agencies are available to meet with you and your staff to discuss their programs. They readily seek opportunities to engage your agency and adoptive families in receiving appropriate adoption competent services. Please note that several counties have two agencies that are providing post adoption support services thereby giving families a choice of service providers.

The contracted agencies and contacts are:

Another Choice for Black Children, Ruth Amerson (704)394.1124, serves Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Bladen, Brunswick, Catawba, Chatham, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Greene, Halifax, Harnett, Hoke, Iredell, Johnston, Lee, Mecklenburg, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Pender, Richmond, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Wake, Watauga, Warren, Wayne, Wilkes, Wilson, &Yadkin, Counties.

Appalachian Family Innovations, Carrie Lauterbach (828)350.9830, serves Buncombe, Cabarrus, Cherokee, Clay, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, & Union Counties

Children's Home Society, Sandra Yarborough (336)274.6176 ext. 306, serves Alamance, Anson, Beaufort, Bertie, Cabarrus, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Gates, Granville, Guilford, Hertford, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Montgomery, Northampton, Onslow, Orange, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Person, Pitt, Randolph, Rockingham, Rowan, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Union, Tyrrell, & Vance counties.

Martin County Community Action, (1) Cathy Lee Jones (252)717.5938, serves Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Gates, Hertford, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, and Pitt and **(2) Kimberly Stanley (252)717.1209**, serves Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Dare, Hyde, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, Tyrrell and Washington counties.

Mountain Youth Resources, Linda Fitzsimmons (828)586.8958, serves Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, & Yancey counties.

Similar to many of you, adoptive families contact these providers for an array of services to help them meet the needs of their children with special needs. After engaging and assessing the child's needs, often this results in requests for vendor payments to ascertain specific services or items. It is the responsibility of the county agencies to thoroughly explain the components of the adoption assistance agreement, to which the children are entitled, to adoptive parents, including the provision of vendor payments. Accessing vendor payments should not be unnecessary obstacles for adoptive parents. Agencies should ensure adoptive parents are aware of documentation needed to access vendor payments and once received, processed timely so parents do not wait extended periods of time to receive an approved service or item. This primarily supports the needs of the child and it also enables the contract agency to coordinate supportive services.

Post-Adoption support services play a critical role in maintaining strong adoptive families. Adoption is a long life process and does not conclude with the final decree of adoption. The Division believes that this additional support is necessary to provide services throughout the state. Should you have any problems accessing these services for families or if you need additional information about post adoption services in your area, please contact **Tamika Williams, Permanency Planning/Post Adoption Services Coordinator, at 919-334-1090 or by email at Tamika.Williams@ncmail.net.**

Sincerely,



Charisse S. Johnson, Chief
Family Support & Child Welfare Services

cc: Sherry Bradsher
JoAnn Lamm
Children's Program Representatives
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Local Business Liaisons
Licensed Child Placing Agencies
Community Based Programs