



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

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

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

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

October 17, 2006

Dear County Director of Social Services:

ATTENTION: Child Welfare Program Administrators and Supervisors

SUBJECT: Child Medical Evaluation Program

This letter is a follow up to the Dear County Director Letter dated April 7, 2006, FSCWS-22-06 regarding the Child Medical Evaluation Program (CMEP). The CMEP funds that pay for evaluations for children without Medicaid are being depleted and there is concern the funds will not be available through the end of the year.

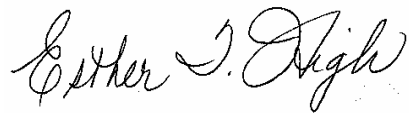
It is imperative that this program be used for the purpose it was designed, which is to assist county Departments of Social Services in making case decisions regarding allegations of abuse and neglect based on the evaluation and diagnosis, not for treatment for the child or family. If, during a CPS assessment, the DSS needs an evaluation and diagnosis in order to make the case decision, the CMEP is the appropriate resource. If the child is in need of treatment, the emergency room or other medical or mental health provider is the required resource, not the CMEP.

It is also imperative that the Consent/Authorization for Medical/Child/Mental Health Evaluation, DSS-5143 be completed with the parents' signatures, the Director or his designee's signature, the SIS number and Medicaid information prior to the evaluation being completed. The parents' signature must be dated prior to the evaluation being completed. If the CMEP receives a consent form that has not been signed by the parent or has been signed by the parent after the evaluation date, the CMEP will not pay for this evaluation. It will be the county Department of Social Services' responsibility to pay for this evaluation.

Dear County Director
October 17, 2006
Page 2

The Child Medical Evaluation Program is a vital tool that we use to make the best case decisions and provide the best and most appropriate services to families. It is essential that we use this resource properly so that it is available when needed. We appreciate your attention to this matter so we can preserve this valuable resource. If you have any questions, please contact your Children's Program Representative or Laura M. Elmore, Program Coordinator, at (919) 733-4319 or by email at laura.elmore@ncmail.net.

Sincerely,



Esther T. High, Acting Chief
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Section

ETH/lme

cc: Sherry Bradsher
Jo Ann Lamm
Sarah Barham
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Local Business Liaisons
Children's Program Representatives
Work First Program Representatives

FSCWS-58-06