



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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GOVERNOR

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SECRETARY

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
HUMAN SERVICES

October 30, 2017

Dear County Directors of Social Services

From: Michael A Becketts, MSW, MS, MEd

Re: Regional Child Welfare Convenings

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Becketts", written over the "From" and "Re" lines.

Social Services is the primary organization responsible for the safety, health, and well-being of children in our communities. Directors of Social Services work in the context of the broader community to fulfill your statutory duty to protect children from harm. The Family-Child Protection and Accountability Act (SL 2017-41) provides a foundation for system-level change to child welfare services.

Together, the North Carolina Association of Counties, with input from North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services, and the NC DHHS Division of Social Services, have planned three regional convenings; one in each geographic region of the state:

Western Region:	Buncombe County – December 6, 2017
Eastern Region:	Edgecombe County – January 17, 2018
Central Region:	Guilford County – January 22, 2018

Each convening will provide a level set understanding of the state's current system of child welfare and county responsibilities, actionable county-level data and select best practices, and an awareness of the 2017 Family/Child Protection and Accountability Act (Rylan's Law).

The goal is for counties to have a committee of people attend as the agenda will allow for county specific discussions. It would be helpful if each county supports attendance of the DSS Director and/or a senior child welfare administrator, a DSS attorney that represents child welfare, county administration (County Manager/Deputy or Assistant County Manager you work with) and a Commissioner – preferably one who sits on the DSS Board.

Meeting attendees will have the opportunity to provide comments for the Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group, which is the group established pursuant to Session Law 2017-41 to make recommendations to NC DHHS.

Speakers will include representatives of NC DHHS, UNC School of Government, and the NCACC, with panel discussions to include elected representatives of the judiciary and Boards of Commissioners, social services attorneys, and county and state child welfare administration.

Registration and additional information may be accessed by following this link:

<http://ncaccevents.org/events/thrive/>

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