

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES
CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH
SECRETARY

WAYNE E. BLACK
DIRECTOR

April 3, 2018

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS OF BUNCOMBE, CRAVEN, PAMLICO, CARTERET, CUMBERLAND, DURHAM, HOKE, SCOTLAND, ANSON, RICHMOND, MECKLENBURG, PITT, WAKE, WILSON, NASH, EDGEcombe, YADKIN, ASHE, WILKES, & ALLEGHANY COUNTY CHILD WELFARE AGENCIES

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

SUBJECT: CHILD WELFARE - COURT COLLABORATION FOLLOW-UP

The North Carolina Division of Social Services (NC DSS) would like to acknowledge and follow-up on the kick-off convening held on February 23, 2018, Improving Permanency Outcomes Through Collaboration. Along with our partners at the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NC AOC), we were encouraged to see strong representation and participation from county child welfare agencies and court personnel. We are thankful that this inaugural event was so successful and well-received. We recognize that it took a huge amount of effort to participate and engage with your county and court partners to review data, set priorities, and coordinate future meetings. NC DSS and NC AOC were heartened to review the evaluations and see your Action Plans taking shape and look forward to supporting your continued work to improve permanency for the children of North Carolina.

At the convening, attendees were provided a detailed overview of the expectations around ongoing collaboration in the form of regularly occurring, locally held meetings of child welfare and court personnel in each court district. The first meeting held locally is to be occur no later May 15, 2018, with future meetings happening quarterly thereafter.

NC DSS will post and update materials to support the success of local court district-level partnerships on the TA Gateway Knowledgebase (<https://nccwta.org/index.php?/Knowledgebase/List>). All the materials will be found under the name *District Permanency Collaborative*.

Two key components of the regularly occurring, local meetings are the Permanency Performance Profile and the District Permanency Collaborative Documentation Tool. The Profiles distributed at the February meeting will be posted and will also be used at the first meeting held locally. You will also find an updated version of the Permanency Profile Usage Guide on the TA Gateway Knowledgebase. This

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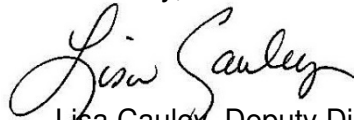
Guide provides guidance and technical assistance contacts for understanding the data points and populating your Profiles on a quarterly basis. The Division will update the Profile by May 1, 2018, with new data and will continue to do this on a quarterly basis.

The District Permanency Collaborate Documentation Tool is how your local Collaborative will report to NC DSS about your quarterly local meetings. A hard copy of the tool was provided at the February convening but a Microsoft Word version will be posted for future reference and use.

We encourage you to refer to the materials posted on the TA Gateway Knowledgebase and share with all the members of your District Permanency Collaborative. If you have any questions about your local meetings, please contact Arlette Lambert at (919) 527-6345 or arlette.lambert@dhhs.nc.gov.

NC DSS and our partners at NC AOC are excited about continued collaboration between the courts and the child welfare agencies--both at the state and local level--to improve the service and support that we provide to children and families in North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Cauley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Cauley, Deputy Director
Child Welfare Services

cc: McKinley Wooten, Deputy Director of NC Administrative Office of the Courts
Kiesha Crawford, Court Improvement Program Manager
Cindy Bizzell, NC State Guardian ad Litem Administrator
Wendy Sotolongo, Parent Representation Coordinator, NC Office of Indigent Defense Services