

MRS Conference Call Notes
January 2012

Counties Participating 1/19: Ashe, Craven, Currituck, Durham, Henderson, Jackson, Lenoir, Macon, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Moore, Northampton, Pender, Stokes, Watauga, Yadkin.

Counties Participating 1/24: Alamance, Alexander, Beaufort, Buncombe, Camden, Cherokee, Gates, Halifax, Harnett, Hoke, Jackson, Lee, Lenoir, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Nash, New Hanover, Orange, Pamlico, Person, Rockingham, Surry, Union, Wilkes, Wilson.

Counties Participating 1/25: Beaufort, Buncombe, Cleveland, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Gaston, Iredell, Lee, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Randolph, Scotland, Swain, Yadkin.

Agenda

- Letters from the Division
- Updates from the ICPC team
- Presentation and Discussion from the Simplification Work Group
 - Draft of the In Home Family Services Agreement (a form combining the Service Agreement with the CFT doc tool).
 - Draft of the Out of Home Family Services Agreement (a form combining the Service Agreement, the Service Agreement review and CFT doc tool).

News from Raleigh

Letters:

- CWS AL 3-12 – Adoption Assistance Benefits Rules Changes – discussed new changes and the new Adoption Assistance Checklist (DSS 5012) and Adoption Assistance Agreement (DSS 5013).
- CWS AL 2-12 – DSS 5104 Reporting to Central Registry – Updated Instructions Regarding Maltreatment Reported - Provides instructions on how to enter when not all children in the family have a maltreatment type reported on them specifically.
- Foster Home Licensing E-System now available - Notice that came out over the List Serve.
- Additional Foster Care Licensing Training offered - Notification about foster home licensing training. Huge number of people signed up for the training in Charlotte, and due to overflow are offering an additional training in Gastonia. Believe that the one in Gastonia is full but this letter provides the dates and locations of other trainings. (Also – this is why you should sign up for trainings even when you know they are full!! If people had not signed up for this we wouldn't have realized the demand was enough for an entirely new class to be offered!)
- CWS 33-11 – DCD regarding the training calendar. The Jan-June 2012 training calendar is complete.
- Letter from Division of Medical Assistance - Letter regarding getting kids enrolled in CCNC.
- CWS AL 7-11 – Assignment of SIS Numbers following the decree of adoption – You should no longer assign a new SIS number following an adoption.
- CWS 31-11 – Access to RIL – Counties are now responsible for doing entry on the RIL.
- CWS AL 01-12 – Education Stability and Credit Checks for Older Youth In Foster Care – deals with credit reports as it pertains to ID theft of foster kids.

Updates for ICPC – Powerpoint

Debra McHenry and Charlene Timmons presented on updates to ICPC. Three regulations have been updated – these regulations were included in the file share pod during the call, as well as on the MRS email that went out announcing the call.

Slide #1 - Changes in Society create need for adaptation

- To better facilitate children finding safety and permanency across State lines in an increasingly mobile society:
- One new Regulation- Regulation 2 adopted to replace the one repealed in 1999.
- Two revised Regulations- Regulation 3 and 7.

Slide #2 - Regulation 2

- Applies to:
- Placements for Public Adoption, Foster Care, Parents and Relatives (as defined by Reg.3)
- Cases under Court jurisdiction for abuse, neglect or dependency
- Cases not yet placed in the home
- Cases of foster parents becoming adoptive parents

Slide #3 - Regulation No. 2 Application

- Form ICPC 100 A
- Copy of current court order
- Signed Case Manager Statement
- Current case history for the Child
- Any information regarding past placements with the resource
- Service Plan/Permanency Plan
- Title IV E Eligibility verification
- Financial/Medical Plan
- Copy of the child's Social Security Card and birth certificate.

Slide #4 - Signed Case Manager Statement of Interest

- Confirming potential placement resource interested in taking child & agrees to cooperate
- Current contact information
- Number and type of bedrooms and no. of people residing in the home.
- Resource acknowledges background check and CPS history done on all residents of home
- Signed and dated

Slide #5 - Reconsideration of a Denial

- May request a reconsideration of a denial of a placement within 90 days of decision with or without a new home study
- Without new home study- review of evidence presented by sending ICPC or any new information
- New Home study- re-examine reasons for denial due to change in circumstances
- Most be done in writing
- Receiving State has 60 days to make decision

Slide #6 - Requests to Return a Child

- Must be returned within 5 working days unless
- Another placement has been found and the Receiving State agrees
- and/or agreement reached with the Receiving State about an alternate date

Slide #7 - Regulation 3 Definitions and Placement Categories, Applicability and Exemptions

- Amended to provide more definitions, including placement categories, applicability and exemptions under the Compact. This regulation should be referred to when there are questions about who the Compact applies to, as well as any questions about the meaning of terms used in the other regulations.

Slide #8 - Regulation 7 Expedited Placement Decisions

- Amended for eligibility, and application requirements. The regulation also provides for the possibility of a provisional placement decision, while awaiting the final approval. Violations of the regulation are addressed.
- Provides for Courts to work together across State lines for accountability to Court Orders

Slide #9 - Regulation 7 Requirements

- Under jurisdiction due to action of DSS
- Child no longer in the home of parent from whom child removed
- Placement being considered is a parent, stepparent, grandparent, adult uncle or aunt, adult brother or sister or the child's guardian
- One of the following must be true
- It is an unexpected dependency due to sudden or recent incarceration, incapacitation, or death of a parent or guardian
- One of the children (if a sibling group) sought to be placed is four years of age or younger
- Court finds sibling group has substantial relationship with placement resource (familial or mentoring relationship)
- Currently in an emergency placement (30 days)

Slide #10 - Provisional Decision

- May request a provisional decision to place when criteria met
- Completed within 7 calendar days of receipt of packet by receiving Compact
- Entails a walk through of home for safety and appropriateness, criminal background check and CPS history check and written decision

Slide #11 - Expedited Placement Decision Requests

- Requests are made by execution of an Order of Compliance which includes findings for an Expedited Decision
- If Provisional Decision is desired, the request must be in the Court Order
- Completion of the Forms 100A and 101

Slide #12 - Order of Compliance

- Prior to obtaining must take steps outlined in Case Manager Statement of Interest and this information must be part of the Order
- Order must be consistent with the ICPC Order of Compliance
- Must require completion of ICPC form 101 for expedited request

Slide #13 - Case Manager Statement of Interest Reg. No 7

- Includes all the same requirements as Reg. No. 2
- Must have birth date and social security numbers for all adults residing in the home
- Whether a request is being made for concurrence to relinquish jurisdiction if placement is sought with a parent from whom the child was not removed

Slide #14 - Failure to Adhere to Timeframes

- If unable to meet the timeframes and requirements the Sending State shall notify the sending state of not being able to meet, the reasons and a plan for completing including a timeframe

- Should the sending court find the Receiving State out of compliance, they sending State court may inform an appropriate court in the receiving state, provide the court with copies of relevant documentation and court orders to request assistance.

Slide #15 - Upcoming Training

- February 28th at Johnston County DSS
- March 27th at Gaston County Administrative Building
- April 24th at Charlotte RTC
- May 30th at Greensboro RTC
- June 26th at Asheville RTC
- Information can be found at www.NCswlearn.org

For additional questions, you may contact: debra.mchenry@dhhs.nc.gov and charlene.timmons@dhhs.nc.gov

Simplification Work Group

Rebecca Smith-Shepard – presented on the In Home Family Services Agreement (a form combining the Service Agreement with the CFT doc tool) and the Out of Home Family Services Agreement (a form combining the Service Agreement, the Service Agreement review and CFT doc tool)

Note: Detailed notes were not taken on the discussion – the Committee is made of up state and county representatives and the members took notes on the specifics of the comments. The committee plans to meet at the end of the month to discuss the incorporation of items mentioned in the calls.

- If folks have additional ideas, can email:
rebecca.shepard-smith@mecklenburgcountync.gov
- Purpose of combining the forms was to streamline the forms for the workers, especially when they are facilitating their own meetings. The form is intended to be completed by the social worker or by the social worker in combination with the facilitator. Each county will have to determine on their own precisely how that will work based on how they use facilitators.
- Believe the current plan is to pilot the form before going statewide. However, since the changes are format changes, not content changes, there is no reason that counties could not use the new forms for a couple of cases and then give feedback.