



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEVPUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

September 4, 2025

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

**ATTENTION: EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, PRIVATE AGENCY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, AND
PRIVATE AGENCY MANAGERS**

SUBJECT: PRIVATE LICENSING AGENCY PATH NC UPDATE

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Information Only ☐ Time Sensitive ☐ Action Required

We are pleased to inform you that Private Licensing Agencies will be moving forward with the PATH NC implementation for North Carolina's Child Welfare in 2026. PATH NC is the new statewide information system that marks a major step forward in modernizing the administration of child welfare services. PATH NC equips child welfare staff with real-time data and decision-making tools to better protect children and to improve outcomes for children and families across the state.

Private Licensing Agencies are targeted to go live in PATH NC in **Fall 2026**, alongside the final group of counties that will begin to use PATH NC for Ongoing Case Management. Until then, agencies will continue using existing processes. This timeline offers several advantages, including:

- All data will be accessible, and no dual entry of provider data will be needed.
- PATH NC will be enhanced through multiple releases prior to Private Licensing Agencies rollout.
- Private Licensing Agencies will have more time to change any resources to reference the new inquiry and application process.
- Consistent communications, processes, and rollout effort since counties will be in PATH NC prior to the Private Licensing Agencies rollout.

Over the coming months, some of your staff will have opportunities to participate in pre-user and user testing, which will help familiarize them with PATH NC's features and processes before the system goes live. Additionally, prior to the Private Licensing Agency go live in PATH NC, readiness materials, including an IT requirements document, user onboarding instructions, and details about the Digital-First Communications (DFC) Hub for receiving important updates, will be provided to ensure a smooth transition for your agency.

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We thank you for your ongoing partnership, and we remain committed to supporting your agency throughout this transition. Stay tuned for further updates as we progress towards the implementation of PATH NC!

Sincerely,

Kimaree Sanders

Kimaree Sanders, MSW, MPA
Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Lisa T. Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult Regional Support
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Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
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