



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor
DEVDUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary
LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

January 6, 2026

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS/ MANAGERS, AND SUPERVISORS

SUBJECT: FY 25-26, QUARTER 3 REGIONAL CQI MEETINGS

REQUIRED ACTION: **Information Only** **Time Sensitive** **Immediate**

PURPOSE: SCHEDULE FOR QUARTERLY CQI MEETINGS

The FY '26, Quarter 3 CQI meetings will feature data and discussion regarding the assessment of safety and risk throughout the life of a child welfare case. Our focus will be on how we can make improvements that will allow children to remain safely in their home; or when necessary to remove them, to remain with family or kin placements. Please consider who among your community partners might be helpful to invite to this discussion. You might consider parents, youth, kin providers with lived experience, providers and legal partners.

The dates for the FY '25-26 Q3 Regional CQI meetings are as follows:

Region	Date	Location
1	2/04	Swain Co. Regional Training Center
2	3/04	Catawba Co. DSS
3	1/28	Alamance Co. DSS
4	3/10	Aberdeen Parks and Recreation
5	3/18	Wilson Co. DSS
6	3/16	Onslow Co. DSS
7	2/17	Dare Co. DSS

Purpose: Review and analyze data that informs placements in congregate care and explore root causes and possible solutions to barriers.

Process: Details for each region will be sent out at least 1 week in advance of the meeting for your review. To gain maximum perspectives, and insight, we encourage you to share the topic of the meeting with all levels of staff and consider the following questions:

- What are your strengths in the topic areas?
- What concerns or worries do you have about the topic areas?
- What do you know about what has worked in these areas in the past, or strategies your agency might be using that seem to be working?

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Attendance: Staff from all levels of Child Welfare are invited to attend and provide their perspectives on the information provided. Supervisors, who are directly connected to the practice, and understand what is happening at case level, while also being able to identify trends across workers, are especially encouraged to attend. While a topic may seem to be most relevant to CPS or Permanency, please consider the value of perspectives from all areas of the agency. **You are also encouraged to invite/bring community partners who might provide perspective on this quarter's topics.**

Logistics: Counties should plan to attend the meeting **in their region** and bring appropriate staff depending on the agenda. All meetings will be from **10 AM – 3 PM** and will include one hour for lunch. Attendees are encouraged to plan so that they can return to the meeting in a timely fashion. This will allow us to maximize our time. Various state staff will be in attendance and available to answer questions or discuss issues during breaks.

If you have questions and/or suggestions for how we might improve these meetings, please contact Holly McNeill at holly.mcneill@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,



Donna F. Fayko, M.Ed.
Deputy Director, Child Welfare Operations
Division of Social Services
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc:

Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director, Human Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Meredith Houchins, Interim Section Chief for County Operations
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director

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