



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

February 26, 2026

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: EVIDENCE BASED SERVICES PLAN FOR FAMILIES REFERRED FOR EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION SERVICES

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Action Required

To help support Child Welfare workers, supervisors, program managers and administrators' efforts in safely preventing entry into foster care, NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services has revised policy for Evidence-Based Prevention Services to include the addition of the **DSS-5025: The North Carolina Evidence Based Services Plan**.

The Evidence Based Services Plan has been developed to streamline access to Evidence Based Prevention Services upon Child Protective Services case transfer from Assessments to In-home Services. Currently, HOMEBUILDERS® is the only statewide evidence-based practice. This temporary agreement is developed in collaboration with a family when services are needed immediately to safely prevent foster care entry and before the DSS-5239: In-Home Family Case Plan can be completed.

Office hours have been scheduled for county child welfare staff to review the new policy related to the DSS-5025 and field questions related to the use of this new form. The registration links for the Office Hours are:

- March 4, 2026, at 10am-11am: [Registration Link](#)
- March 10, 2026, at 4pm-5pm: [Registration Link](#)
- March 17, 2026, at 2pm-3pm: [Registration Link](#)
- March 26, 2026, at 4pm-5pm: [Registration Link](#)

The Evidence-Based Prevention Services Policy can be found on the Child Welfare Manuals site <https://policies.ncdhhs.gov/wp-content/uploads/Evidence-Based-Prevention-Services-Policy-02202026.pdf> under [Evidence-Based Prevention Services](#). The Regional Child Welfare Prevention Services Specialist team will be reaching out to counties with updates to the North Carolina Evidence-Based Prevention Service Array as they occur. All counties should be actively engaged with the Regional Child Welfare Prevention Services Specialist serving their region:

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LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh NC 27607

MAILING ADDRESS: 2408 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-2410

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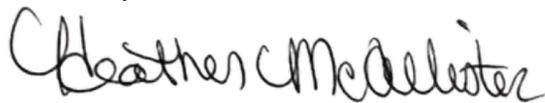
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- Region 1 - Kristy Smith: kristen.smith@dhhs.nc.gov
- Region 2 - Richard Buchanan: richard.buchanan@dhhs.nc.gov
- Region 3 - (Interim) Tonya Askew: tonya.askew@dhhs.nc.gov
- Region 4 - (Interim) Kristy Smith: kristen.smith@dhhs.nc.gov
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- Region 6 - Jiselle Hirsch: jiselle.hirsch@dhhs.nc.gov
- Region 7 - Shelby Sherba: shelby.sherba@dhhs.nc.gov

Additional information about the Family First Prevention Services Act in North Carolina can be found on the state's website: [NCDHHS Family First Site](#).

If there are any questions regarding the policy, please contact Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services, Heather.McAllister@dhhs.nc.gov

Sincerely,



Heather McAllister, MSW, LCSW, LCAS, CBIS
Section Chief for Child and Family Services
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
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Meredith Houchins, Interim Section Chief for County Operations

CWS-12-2026

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