



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**JOSH STEIN** • Governor  
**DEV DUTTA SANGVAI** • Secretary  
**LISA TUCKER CAULEY** • Division Director, Human Services

March 5, 2026

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS**

**SUBJECT: KINNECT FAMILY SEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT TRAINING**

**PURPOSE/BACKGROUND: TRAINING REGISTRATIONS**

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

We are excited to continue our partnership with [Kinnect](#), to deliver the second round of Family Search and Engagement in-person trainings and coaching sessions for 2026: SEEK (Search, Engage, Explore, Kinnect). This work supports our commitment to equip the workforce with tools and strategies that promote a KinFirst culture, strengthen kinship connections, and create lasting results for children and families. [Click here](#) to see feedback from attendees at the 2025 trainings.

*Participation in SEEK trainings so far has primarily included permanency planning staff. We want to remind agencies of how this training benefits Intake, Assessment, and In-Home staff: utilizing SEEK strategies early on allow staff to identify connections and protective supports at the earliest point, improving safety planning and long-term outcomes.*

**IN-PERSON TRAINING DATES AND REGISTRATION LINKS**

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis and is open to all child welfare caseworkers, supervisors, managers, directors, and administrators. Training is from 9am-4pm with a one-hour lunch break. Full details can be found in flyers for each region. If you are unable to attend the training in your region, you are welcome to register for another region.

REGION	DATE	LOCATION	FLYER	REGISTRATION LINK
1	4/8/26	Swain County Business Education & Training Center	<a href="#">LINK</a>	<a href="#">Click here to register and select the date you will attend in the registration.</a>
2	4/9/26	Caldwell County Health & Human Services	<a href="#">LINK</a>	
3	4/10/26	Durham County Social Services	<a href="#">LINK</a>	
4	5/15/26	Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Building	<a href="#">LINK</a>	
5	5/14/26	Franklin County – Franklin Plaza	<a href="#">LINK</a>	
6	5/13/26	Pender County Cooperative Extension	<a href="#">LINK</a>	
7	5/12/26	Bertie County DSS	<a href="#">LINK</a>	

*The Region 7 Training that was canceled on 1/27 due to inclement weather is rescheduled to 8/28 and registration will be shared at a later date.*

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LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh, NC 27607  
MAILING ADDRESS: 2410 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2410  
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-527-6404 • FAX: 919-733-3052

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## **VIRTUAL COACHING SESSIONS**

Live, virtual coaching sessions will occur in various dates from April through June 2026, and registration information will be shared later. These sessions offer an opportunity to take a deeper dive with the SEEK trainers into family search and engagement topics ranging from engaging fathers, utilizing social media and other search tools, and barrier busting. *You MUST attend SEEK training prior to coaching sessions.*

For questions, please contact the NCDHHS DSS Foster Care Coordinator, Jessica Frisina at [Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Jessica.Frisina@dhhs.nc.gov).

Sincerely,



Adrian W. Daye, MSW  
Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice  
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare  
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult Regional Support  
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations  
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director  
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services  
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing  
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Service

CWS-18-2026

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