



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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

March 12, 2026

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

**SUBJECT: LAUNCH OF THE NORTH CAROLINA CHILD WELFARE TRAUMA-INFORMED
ASSESSMENT**

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

North Carolina will launch the Child Welfare Trauma-Informed Assessment (CWTIA) in July 2026, through a regional phased rollout. This initiative represents a significant advancement in our shared mission to ensure that every child and family engaged in the child welfare system receives care that recognizes, understands, and responds to the impact of trauma.

The CWTIA was developed through collaboration among state and local DSS agencies, NC Medicaid health plans, clinical providers, lived experience representatives, and other partners. Together, we have built a unified framework for trauma-informed care that strengthens coordination across systems and ensures children and families receive the right support at the right time.

Guided by state legislation, the CWTIA requires that all youth determined at imminent risk of entry into foster care or entering foster care, be referred for a trauma-informed clinical assessment. This statutory foundation demonstrates North Carolina's commitment to trauma-informed care for children and families. Conducted by licensed mental health professionals, these assessments help child welfare staff identify trauma exposure, symptoms, and strengths early in the process so interventions can be tailored to their needs.

To prepare for implementation, CWTIA Communities of Practice will be held each quarter virtually for county child welfare agencies and providers in each region. Registration is open to all county child welfare staff.

NCDHHS DSS Region:	Meeting Date:	Registration Link
Region 1	March 18, 2026, from 2-3:30pm	https://benchmarks.zoom.us/meeting/register/PrOjnpZiSj-4ahTOsDsoWg

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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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Region 2	March 20, 2026, from 10:00- 11:30am	https://benchmarks.zoom.us/meeting/register/CmPh6ji7QiSAjthYXlsaUw
Region 3	March 31, 2026, from 2:00 pm- 3:30 pm	https://benchmarks.zoom.us/meeting/register/MS4oILfQTO6BSiVNeWCVow
Region 4	March 31, 2026, from 10:00- 11:30am	https://benchmarks.zoom.us/meeting/register/qF7lxscQSb6X0GLKh7QihA
Region 5	March 17, 2026, from 10:00- 11:30am	https://benchmarks.zoom.us/meeting/register/H-u72RX-TTuaAAGprfP3FQ
Region 6	March 19, 2026, from 10:00- 11:30am	https://benchmarks.zoom.us/meeting/register/zVkJQgM7iRR6p24soScA9kg
Region 7	March 24, 2026, from 10:00- 11:30am	https://benchmarks.zoom.us/meeting/register/3PN4EnxSRtms88RQG_4LA

In addition to the Communities of Practice, training will be launched on the NCSWLearn.org platform in June 2026.

The success of this initiative relies on the collective dedication and collaboration at the state and local level.

Legislation Reference: <https://www.ncleg.gov/Sessions/2023/Bills/House/PDF/H259v7.pdf>

For further information, please contact Larissa Berger, NCDHHS DSS Children’s Health and Development Coordinator, at Larissa.Spell-Berger@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

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Cc: Lisa T. Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult Regional Support
Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Services
Tammy Shook, Interim Assistant Deputy Director for Child Welfare Services
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director
Adrian Daye, Section Chief for Permanency
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
Meredith Houchins, Interim Section Chief for County Operations
Peter West, Section Chief for PATH NC Implementation Lead/Tribal Liaison

ATTACHMENT: NC DSS Trauma Informed Assessment Flyer

CWS-21-2026

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