

NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

June 2, 2025

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: Announcing Leadership Changes at NCDHHS DSS

REQUIRED ACTION: ☐ Information Only ☒ Time Sensitive ☐ Immediate

Dear County Directors,

Effective Thursday, May 29, 2025, Peter West in his capacity as NCDHHS DSS Section Chief for County Operations has transitioned to a special assignment as PATH-NC Implementation Coach for county departments of social services.

In this role, he will work closely with counties to ensure they are prepared for PATH-NC implementation from a practice standpoint, assisting with integration of practice and technology. Guidance will be provided to the Regional Team regarding areas for technical assistance and to state teams to develop system expertise. He will continue to collaborate with PATH-NC to coordinate training to meet county needs and align calendars across programs to avoid overlap.

Peter's other focus area will be to work with North Carolina's tribal communities to build capacity and continue to strengthen engagement to improve outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system.

Throughout the month of June, Peter will serve in his special assignment as PATH-NC Implementation Coach while also transitioning his full responsibilities as County Operations Section Chief to other members of the NCDHHS DSS child welfare services team. By July 1, 2025, the following state staff will assume these responsibilities:

- Meredith Houchins, RCWS Manager, will lead the County Operations and Regional Specialists teams
- Holly McNeil, State CQI Lead, will lead the Quality Assurance team (formerly OSRI) and oversee Constituent Concerns
- NCDHHS DSS is in the process of hiring a new Section Chief for Workforce and Staff Development. In the interim, Tammy Shook will continue to manage the Workforce and Staff Development team

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LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603

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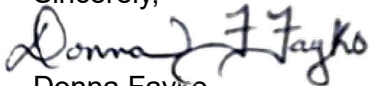
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We anticipate no interruptions in regular operations as these highly experienced, capable staff transition into their new or interim roles. If you need assistance in any of these areas during the June 2025 transitional period, please feel free to reach out to the above points of contact and continue to include Peter on relevant communications so that we can ensure a consistent and timely response.

Peter has made significant contributions to the North Carolina child welfare system, particularly in his role as Section Chief for County Operations. We look forward to his continued expertise and leadership as PATH-NC Implementation Coach, and he will remain a critical member of the NCDHHS DSS leadership team.

For questions, please contact Donna Fayko, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Operations.
Donna.Fayko@dhhs.nc.gov

Sincerely,



Donna Fayko
Deputy Director
Child Welfare Operations
Division of Social Services
NC Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Lisa T. Cauley, Division Director Human Services Child, Family, and Adult, Regional Support
Adrian W. Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
William "Ben" Rose, Lead Regional Director
Peter W. West, PATH-NC Implementation Coach
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
Kimaree Saunders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services
Meredith Houchins, RCWS Manager
Holly McNeil, State CQI Lead

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