



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services –

April 27, 2026

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: PERMANENCY AND IN-HOME POLICY UPDATES

PURPOSE/BACKGROUND: IMPLEMENTATION OF UPDATED POLICY

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

To support the upcoming launch of the Ongoing (In-Home and Permanency Planning) modules in the Partnership and Technology Hub for North Carolina (PATH NC), NCDHHS DSS is issuing updates to the Permanency Planning and In-Home policy manuals.

Beginning with the eleven CWIS counties in Group One — scheduled to go-live in the Intake & Assessment (I&A) and Ongoing (In-Home and Permanency Planning) PATH NC modules on April 27th, 2026 — caseworkers should refer to the updated policy manuals found under the “Child Welfare Manuals (PATH NC)” tab on [DSS Web](#).

When each subsequent rollout group transitions into the Ongoing PATH NC Modules, those counties should reference the updated policy manuals found on DSS Web under the “Child Welfare Manuals (PATH NC)” tab. Until their county goes live in the Ongoing PATH NC Modules, caseworkers should continue to use the policy manuals available under the “Child Welfare Manual (Non-PATH NC)” tab of the DSS website.

Attached is a summary of the policy updates, including revisions to related forms and finance appendices. Below are details about upcoming office hours to review these changes.

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

A. Office Hours- for counties NOT in PATH NC (Ongoing)

1. [Permanency Policy Updates \(non-ongoing PATH NC counties\)](#), Monday, May 11th 11-12pm
2. [LINKS and Foster Care 18 to 21](#)

Date/Time	Registration Link
April 28, 2026 11:00-12:30pm	LINKS and FC 18 to 21 Policy Updates- For Social Workers and Child Welfare Staff
April 29, 2026 11:00-12:30pm	LINKS and FC 18 to 21 Policy Updates- For Social Workers, Child Welfare Staff, GAL, and Adult Supporters
April 30, 2026 2:00-3:30pm	Transitional Living Plan and LINKS Reimbursements Forms- For Social Workers and Child Welfare Staff
May 5, 2026 6:30-8:00pm	LINKS and FC 18 to 21 Policy Updates-Youth and Adult Supporters

B. Office Hours and Opportunities for Feedback- for counties in PATH NC

1. [Structured Decision-Making \(SDM\) Tools Webinar \(hosted by Evident Change\)](#)
Use the surveys linked below to document questions and provide feedback on the Ongoing SDM tools. Your input will be used to develop the Office Hour topics.
 - o [Family Strengths and Needs Assessment \(FSNA\) Survey](#)
 - o [Progress to Case Closure Guide \(PCCG\) Survey](#)
 - o [Reunification Assessment Survey](#)

Date/Time	Registration Link
June 30, 2026 11:00-12:00pm	Intake and Assessment SDM Tools
July 2, 2026 10:00-11:00am	Ongoing (In-Home and Permanency Planning) SDM Tools
July 8, 2026 10:00-11:00am	Intake and Assessment SDM Tools
July 8, 2026 12:00-1:00pm	Ongoing (In-Home and Permanency Planning) SDM Tools

2. [LINKS and Foster Care 18 to 21](#)

Date/Time	Registration Link
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3. [Feedback on Updated Case Plans/PPR](#)

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Use the surveys linked below to document questions and provide feedback on the updated In-Home Family Case Plan (IHFP), Permanency Planning Family Case Plan (PPFCP), and Permanency Planning Review. Your input will be used to develop future Office Hour topics.

- [IHFCP Survey](#)
- [PPFCP and PPR Survey](#)

For additional training resources on preparing for PATH NC, NC SDM tools, case plans, and more, please visit the *Online Courses* on [NCSW Learn](#).

For questions, please contact your Regional Child Welfare Specialist (RCWS).

Sincerely,



Adrian W. Daye, MSW
Section Chief, Permanency
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
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief, Regulatory and Licensing
Kathy Stone, Section Chief, Safety
Heather McAllister, Section Chief, Child and Family Services
Meredith Houchins, Interim Section Chief, County Operations

CWS-34-2026

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