



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Health Benefits

JOSH STEIN • Governor

DEV DUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

June 18, 2026

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

**ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS,  
SOCIAL WORKERS**

**SUBJECT: CHILD WELFARE AND CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH: FOUNDATIONS FOR  
EFFECTIVE PRACTICE TRAINING**

**REQUIRED ACTION:**  Information Only  Time Sensitive  Action Required

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services (NCDHHS DSS) is offering an in-person child welfare and children's mental health training occurring in each of the seven social services regions.

This in-person training is designed to strengthen child welfare professionals' knowledge and skills in supporting the behavioral health needs of children and families. Participants will gain a foundational understanding of the impact of trauma, child and adolescent mental health, and the ways trauma can influence behavior, functioning, and service needs.

The training will provide practical guidance on recognizing and responding to mental health concerns, including identifying behavioral health escalation signs, understanding the continuum of mental health services, making appropriate referrals, and responding effectively during a mental health crisis. Participants will also explore key terminology and language differences between the child welfare and mental health systems to enhance cross-system communication and collaboration.

Additional topics include psychotropic medication management for children involved with child welfare, roles and responsibilities when partnering with Medicaid Health Plans, and an overview of resources and supports available through the NC DHHS Rapid Response Team. Through discussion, case examples, and real-world application, participants will strengthen their ability to navigate complex behavioral health systems and support positive outcomes for children and families.

This training will be offered in all seven regions across North Carolina, with four regional trainings scheduled during the month of June and the remaining sessions occurring in July. Child welfare professionals are encouraged to attend the session most convenient to their region. Registration is required.

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

LOCATION: 1915 Health Services Way, Raleigh NC 27607

MAILING ADDRESS: 2408 Mail Service Center

Raleigh NC 27699-2410

[www.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.ncdhhs.gov) • Main Tel. 919-527-6340

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

**Target Audience:** Child Welfare Professionals, Supervisors, Program Managers, and other staff involved in supporting the behavioral health needs of children and families.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Describe the impact of trauma on child development, behavior, and well-being.
- Recognize common mental health conditions and behavioral health concerns affecting children and youth.
- Identify and appropriately respond to mental health crises.
- Differentiate key terminology and perspectives used within child welfare and mental health systems.
- Navigate mental health services and referral pathways for children and families.
- Understand best practices related to psychotropic medication oversight and management.
- Clarify roles and responsibilities when partnering with Medicaid Health Plans.
- Utilize NC DHHS Rapid Response Team resources to support complex child welfare cases.

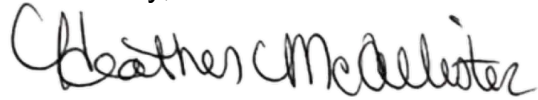
**Training Format:** In-Person Regional Training

**Training Dates/Times/Locations:**

|          |                                   |  |
|----------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Region 1 | July 28, 2026, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm | Haywood County DSS, Training Room, 157 Paragon Parkway, Suite 300, Clyde, NC 28721   |
| Region 2 | July 27, 2026, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm | The Foundation Performing Arts & Conference Center at Isothermal Community College, 172 Rapid Ct., Forest City, NC 28043<br>1032-Tanner Room                                       |
| Region 3 | June 29, 2026, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm | Forsyth County DSS, 741 N. Highland Ave., Winston-Salem, NC 27101  |
| Region 4 | June 30, 2026, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm | Richmond Community College, 1042 W. Hamlet Ave., Hamlet, NC 28345<br><b>Important:</b> Look for the <b>large brown building</b> , not the white one—GPS often misdirects attendees |
| Region 5 | June 25, 2026, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm | Pitt County Ag Center Auditorium, 403 Government Circle, Greenville, NC 27834  |
| Region 6 | June 26, 2026, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm | Brunswick Community College, Odelle Willaimson Auditorium, VWEC Room 1, 1150 College Road NE, Bolivia, NC 28422  |
| Region 7 | July 23, 2026, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm | Washington County Center for Human Services (Conference Room), 209 East Main Street, Plymouth, NC 27962  |

**Registration for Training:** [https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3dWVSJbvMvbgPt4](https://unc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3dWVSJbvMvbgPt4)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather McAllister". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather McAllister, MSW, LCSW, LCAS, CBIS  
Section Chief for Well-Being  
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare  
NC 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 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

CWS-42-2026