



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor  
KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary  
SUSAN G. OSBORNE • Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being

June 29, 2023

**DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

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

**SUBJECT: Regional Abuse and Medical Specialist (RAMS) Policy and Child Medical Evaluation  
Program (CMEP) Policy Update**

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

To help support Child Welfare workers, supervisors, program managers and administrators' efforts in conducting comprehensive assessments and investigations in child welfare, NC DSS has developed policy for the Regional Abuse and Medical Specialists (RAMS) consultations.

The RAMS are a state level consultant team under the Child Medical Evaluation Program (CMEP) who will provide case specific support and technical assistance to county child welfare agencies in the assessment phase. These consultations focus on high-risk for fatality cases that meet certain criteria based on the Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities' report in 2016.

The RAMS Policy Includes:

- History and Purpose
- Legal Basis
- Case Criteria for Consultation
- Process for Consultation
- Escalation Process for Consultation Conflicts
- Required Documentation and Forms
- Closure of the Consultation Process

The RAMS Policy can be found on the Child Welfare Manuals site under [RAMS Manual](#). Currently the RAMS team is live in 74 counties and onboarding with an additional 15 counties. The RAMS team will be reaching out to counties who have not begun the on-boarding process and will conduct, at minimum, one meeting prior to July 1, 2023. **All counties shall be actively engaged with RAMS by August 1, 2023.**

If there are any questions regarding the policy, please contact Emi Wyble, RAMS Manager, [Emi.Wyble@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Emi.Wyble@dhhs.nc.gov).

Additionally, the CMEP policy and guidance found in the [Assessments Manual](#) has been updated to reflect the RAMS policy addition as well as the addition of Clinical Assessment of Protective Parenting (CAPP). The Child and Family Evaluation (CFE) that was noted in the [DCDL 39 CWS Conclusion of Child-Family Evaluation](#) has been removed from policy and guidance to reflect the conclusion of the

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program. Guidance resources for the CME program including the Clinical Assessment of Protective Parenting (CAPP) have been added under [Child Welfare Practice Resources](#), **CMEP Resources**.

Sincerely,

*Kathy P. Stone*

**Kathy Stone**

Section Chief for Safety and Prevention  
North Carolina Division of Social Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Deputy Secretary for Opportunity and Well-Being  
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