

ROY COOPER · Governor KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary SUSAN G. OSBORNE · Assistant Secretary for Human Services

December 19, 2022

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR of SOCIAL SERVICES

HUMAN SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM MANAGERS, and FISCAL STAFF

SUBJECT: MONITORING CHANGES FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES ANNUAL **REPORT AND ANNUAL PLAN**

REQUIRED ACTION: __ Information Only X Time Sensitive __ Immediate

To inform county child welfare agencies of monitoring changes to check their PURPOSE: submission of required Family Reunification Services Annual Report and Annual Plan

As part of the NCDSS Monitoring Plan for Family Reunification Services funded by Promoting Safe and Stable Families (Title IVB-2), each county child welfare agency must submit an annual report and an annual plan to NCDSS on the attached templates, even if the agency did not expend any IVB-2 Family Reunification funds the previous year. Released on June 29, 2022, the DCDL CWS 35 2022 communicated deadlines for the 2022 Family Reunification Services Report by August 1, 2022, and for the 2023 Family Reunification Services Plan by September 1, 2022.

NCDSS would like to thank the 84 county child welfare agencies who submitted their 2022 reports and the 70 county child welfare agencies who submitted their 2023 plans. NCDSS has reviewed these reports and plans and will provide an individualized analysis to each county in the new year. Regional Child Welfare Consultants will follow up with county agencies that still need to submit reports and/or plans.

Effective January 1, 2023, NCDSS will add this reporting and planning requirement to the Title IVB-2 Family Reunification Services Monitoring Tool. If county child welfare agencies have not submitted their required report and plan at the time of the monitoring visit, then it will constitute a monitoring finding and be included in a corrective action plan, which may require financial reimbursement. If you have any questions about these changes to the monitoring tool, please contact Beth Riley, Title IV-E Coordinator at <u>beth.riley@dhhs.nc.gov</u>.

To avoid monitoring findings and corrective actions, NCDSS encourages county child welfare agencies who have not yet done so to submit their Family Reunification Services 2022 Report and/or 2023 Plan to Wendy Clewis at wendy.clewis@dhhs.nc.gov by December 31, 2022. If you have any questions about the reports or plans, please contact Ms. Clewis.

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

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Sincerely,

Kathy P. Stone

Kathy Stone, Section Chief for CPS and Prevention

- Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for Human Services
 Lisa T. Cauley, Senior Director for Child, Family and Adult Services Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
 Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for Operations
 Carla McNeill, Section Chief for Permanency Planning
 Peter L. West, Section Chief for County Operations
 Kimaree Sanders, Interim Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory
- Attachments: Family Reunification Services Annual Report Template Family Reunification Services Annual Plan Template

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