



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

LISA TUCKER CAULEY • Division Director, Human Services

December 31, 2024

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: MONTHLY HOT TOPIC MEETINGS

REQUIRED ACTION: Information Only Time Sensitive Immediate

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services (NCDHHS DSS) is committed to ensuring that staff are made aware of significant changes in policy, when statewide events are offered, and other activities impacting their work. To support this effort, the Regional Child Welfare Specialists (RCWS) Team will begin hosting virtual *Hot Topic* meetings twice a month. Staff may choose to attend either meeting. These meetings will provide an opportunity for the RCWS Team to review and provide further explanation of recent Dear County Director Letters (DCDL) and other high priority or “hot” topics; as well as offering county staff an opportunity to ask questions. In addition to the RCWS Team, who will facilitate the meetings, the appropriate policy consultants will also be available to assist with questions.

The first *Hot Topics* meetings will be held via Go To Webinar on the following dates:

Tuesday, January 14 from 10:00 AM-11:30 AM
Wednesday, January 15 from 1:00 PM- 2:30 PM

While the primary audience is Supervisors and Program Managers, other county leadership are encouraged to attend as well. Each meeting will be recorded and posted on the NCDHHS website. There will also be a Question-and-Answer document generated for county staff to reference in the future.

Again, Staff may attend either of the two meetings offered each month. We would ask that staff register ahead of time and, when possible, plan on joining the meeting as a group. You can register for the meetings using the links below:

Please register for Child Welfare Division Hot Topics 1/14/25 on Jan 14, 2025, 10:00 AM EST at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7481496473094853979>.

Please register for Child Welfare Division Hot Topics 1/15/25 on Jan 15, 2025, 1:00 PM EST at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6321965804093646680>.

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

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

MAILING ADDRESS: 2401 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2401

www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-855-6335 • FAX: 919-334-1018

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. An agenda, including links to all DCDLs issued the prior month, will be sent to registered attendees no later than the Friday preceding the meeting.

The RCWS Team is excited to offer these meetings in response to feedback from our county partners requesting additional opportunities for dialogue around policy and practice changes.

If you have questions and/or suggestions for how we might improve these meetings, please contact jennifer.miller@dhhs.nc.gov , meredith.houchins@dhhs.nc.gov or mirna.gereige@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Peter L. West

Peter L. West,
Section Chief for County Operations
Division of Social Services

Cc: Lisa Tucker Cauley, Division Director, Human Services, Child, Family, and Adult, Regional Support
Adrian W. Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Donna Fayko, Interim Deputy Director for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety
Heather McAllister, Section Chief for Child and Family Services
Kimaree Sanders, Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations
Ben Rose, Lead Regional Director

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

LOCATION: 820 S. Boylan Avenue, McBryde Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 2401 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2401
www.ncdhhs.gov • TEL: 919-855-6335 • FAX: 919-334-1018

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER