

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

2408 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2408 Courier # 56-20-25 Fax 919-733-9386

Michael F. Easley, Governor Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary Pheon E. Beal, Director (919) 733-3055

June 3, 2004

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Attention: County Directors, Child Welfare Program Managers, DSS Fiscal Officers.

SUBJECT: Expansion of North Carolina's IV-E Waiver Demonstration Project

North Carolina's IV-E Waiver Demonstration project has been operating on a series of "bridge" extensions since July 1, 2002, while the Children's Bureau has been considering our request for extension and expansion. The revised Terms and Conditions document has made its way through the federal DHHS/OMB approval process. The Division has received verbal approval and anticipates receiving formal written approval prior to the end of June, when the current bridge extension expires.

Approval of the revised T&C document means that North Carolina can continue to operate a IV-E Waiver project for the next five years, and can expand the project to include more counties in the demonstration group. Although the final written approval is still being processed in Washington, the Division, in partnership with the School of Social Work at UNC-CH, would like to invite all interested county DSS directors, fiscal staff, and child welfare managers to attend a bidders' conference on June 17, 2004 in Chapel Hill. The purpose of this conference is to provide an overview of the demonstration project for those counties not currently participating; to discuss the anticipated increase in data collection and reporting requirements under the extension; to discuss the connection of the IV-E Waiver with the continued rollout of MRS; and to answer any questions from interested counties.

At the conclusion of the meeting on June 17th, every interested county will be asked to submit a statement of interest to the Division by close of business on June 25, 2004. Each county invited to participate in the demonstration group will then be asked to develop a more comprehensive plan of how the Waiver will be implemented in your county. That plan will be due to the Division by COB July 9, 2004. The content of this plan will be discussed in detail at the conference.

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The bidders' conference will be held at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill on Thursday, June 17, 2004. The Friday Center is located at 100 Friday Center Drive, approximately three miles east of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus, just off Highway 54 East (Raleigh Road). The Center is a short distance from Interstate 40 (from Raleigh, I-40 exit 273A; from Greensboro, I-40 exit 273). After exiting I-40 and getting on Highway 54, Friday Center Drive is approximately 2 miles on the left at the red light. A detailed map with driving directions is available at the Friday Center's website- http://fridaycenter.unc.edu, click on "Directions to the Friday Center".

We would like to begin the meeting promptly at 10:00 AM and adjourn by 3:30 PM. Lunch is on your own, and there are several restaurants and fast food places within three miles of the Friday Center. If you have any questions about the conference, please contact David Atkinson at (919) 733-4570, or email at David.Atkinson@ncmail.net.

See you at the Friday Center on June 17th at 10:00.

Sincerely,

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Jo Ann Lamm, Administrator Family Support and Child Welfare Service

CC: Pheon Beal Sherry Bradsher Sarah Barham LBLs FSCWS Team Leaders FSCWS-18-04