



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

325 North Salisbury Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
Courier # 56-20-25 MSC 2409

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director
(919) 733-3055

July 9, 2008

Dear County Director of Social Services

Attention: County Directors, Child Welfare Program Managers, Supervisors and Child Welfare Workers

Subject: Referral of Foster and Adoptive Children to Carolina Access

This letter is intended to encourage the referral of foster and adoptive children to the Carolina ACCESS Program for Medicaid recipients. Carolina ACCESS (CA) is a statewide program whose purpose is to improve access to primary care, improve quality of care and utilization of services, and provide a more cost effective system of care. This is accomplished by linking recipients to a medical home where there is a primary care provider (PCP) to deliver and coordinate health care.

Children in foster care and children receiving adoption assistance (Medicaid categories IAS and HSF) are in an optional coverage group. They are not required to be enrolled in Carolina ACCESS, but may be enrolled. However, only a small percentage of foster and adoptive children are currently enrolled.

Enrollment in Carolina ACCESS has many advantages for foster and adoptive children. Among the advantages are:

- Carolina ACCESS provides a system of coordinated health care for Medicaid recipients. The program was designed to provide a medical home with a primary care provider (PCP) to coordinate patient care by providing and/or authorizing services.
- The medical home can be a doctor's office, a community clinic, or a local health department.

- There is no longer a need to go to the emergency room when the problem is not life threatening or when the problem does not threaten the person's health without immediate treatment.
- Treatment and/or medical advice is provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

We encourage your agency to consider your foster and adoptive children's needs and refer them for enrollment in Carolina ACCESS unless there is a compelling reason not to enroll them. If a child coming into foster care already has an established medical home, please insure that the child's relationship with the medical home is maintained if at all possible. This is an important component of Social Service's mandate to insure that the health care needs of children in our care are met and to work toward maintaining a foster child's connections to all parts of their community, including health care.

If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please feel free to contact Thomas Smith of the Foster Care and Adoption Policy Team at 919-334-1089 or at thomas.smith@ncmail.net.

Sincerely,



Charisse S. Johnson, Chief
Family Support Child Welfare Services

cc: Sherry S. Bradsher
Sarah Barham
Local Business Liaisons Managers
Jo Ann Lamm
Children' Services Program Representatives
Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Work First Representatives
Hank Bowers

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