



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

Pat McCrory
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.
Ambassador (Ret.)
Secretary DHHS

Wayne E. Black
Division Director

June 11, 2014

Dear County Directors of Social Services

ATTENTION: Child Welfare Program Managers
Child Welfare Social Workers
Data Entry Supervisors

SUBJECT: Modifications to the Multiple Response System Database

When the Multiple Response System (MRS) first began in North Carolina it was a new framework for responding to reports of child abuse and neglect. As with any new practice model, there was a desire to compare the methodology and outcomes of traditional child welfare practice to those of Multiple Response. In part to collect data to facilitate such comparisons, the Division developed the Multiple Response Database in 2006.

Since Multiple Response is currently the practice model under which child welfare assessments in North Carolina are conducted, it is no longer necessary to collect the extensive amount of data previously needed in order to facilitate comparative studies. However, the MRS database is being used to capture data regarding caseworker visits with children in foster care. To reduce the amount of data entry required of counties, we have updated the MRS database so that counties will only need to enter caseworker visits and other information related to foster care services.

Beginning June 11, 2014, counties will no longer be required to enter 210 assessment information in order to access the 109 foster care portion of the database. The only remaining fields available for entry in the MRS database will be on the 109 Foster Care tab. These fields are as follows: Dates/Times of Child and Family Team meetings, Dates/Times of Shared Parenting Meetings, Dates/Location of Caseworker visits with children, and Data Entry Complete Indicator.

Other items to note regarding this upgrade are:

- Users can no longer key any 210 and 215 information into the MRS database. The database will only be used to record the data from 109 foster care listed above.
- If counties wish to access information previously keyed into the 210 or 215 areas of the MRS database, they may retrieve that information through a Client Services Data Warehouse query.

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- Although users are no longer keying 210 services, the architecture of the database has not changed, which means that it is still built around the child's DSS-5104 form ID. Therefore a child must still have an assessment in the county that has custody, or they cannot be entered in the system. (In other words, this does not change the issue with children who are transferred into foster care from another county).
- The child's DSS-5104 must be keyed into the Central Registry in order for a child to be populated into the MRS database for 109 foster care entry. (However, if a child was taken into foster care prior to the end of the 210 assessment, if there are other DSS-5104 forms for that child already in the system, workers may key the visits on the forms from previous assessments, as long as the same SIS ID number was used on both forms.)
- The functionality of the system, such as the initial common entry, and the ability to update all children on a form simultaneously, has not changed.

If you have any questions regarding the changes to the MRS database, please contact Heather - Bohanan at (919) 527-6260 or Heather.Bohanan@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hank Bowers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hank Bowers, Chief
Performance Management/Reporting and Evaluation
Management Section

HB/heb

DCDL PM-REM 04-2014