



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

Pat McCrory
Governor

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

Secretary
Secretary DHHS

Wayne E. Black
Division Director

June 25, 2013

Dear County Directors of Social Services

Attention: Work First Program Administrators and Supervisors

Subject: Head Start Programs and Work First Collaboration

The North Carolina Division of Social Services and the Head Start State Collaborative Office have developed a workgroup. The purpose of this group is to strengthen partnership between the agencies to assist families of North Carolina in receiving available services and benefits.

Departments of Social Services (DSS) and Head Start agencies throughout the state offer a variety of programs including child care and other services to support families. Local county Department of Social Services Work First programs are encouraged to continue working collaboratively with local Head Start agencies to establish protocols to ensure that participants are aware of both programs and their benefits. The collaboration of services will strengthen relationships between agencies and improve outcomes for Work First and Head Start families.

Currently, the Head Start State Collaborative Office is providing grant opportunities to local Head Start agencies interested in working more closely with their local DSS agencies. The goals of the grants include:

- increasing the enrollment of Work First families participating in Head Start programs
- increasing referrals
- developing effective communication
- providing joint training opportunities

The Head Start State Collaborative Office is hosting webinars to discuss collaboration with local DSS agencies. The Division encourages local DSS agencies to participate in these webinars as your

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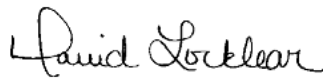
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schedule permits, in order to facilitate on-going partnerships at the local level. The webinars are currently scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at 11:15 am and Thursday, July 11, 2013 11:15 am. If you are interested in registering for a webinar, please send an email request to Khari Garvin at khari.garvin@dpi.nc.gov at least 24 hours before your date of preference. An email response will be sent back with detailed instructions on how to join the webinar.

The Division appreciates your commitment to the Work First Program and look forward to partnering with you as we strengthen collaboration at all levels. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact workfirst.support@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

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

David Locklear, Assistant Chief
Economics and Family Services

DL/kb

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