May 18, 2022

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS, CHILD WELFARE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS, MANAGERS, SUPERVISORS, AND SOCIAL WORKERS

SUBJECT: PERMANENCY PLANNING POLICY UPDATES

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒ Immediate ☐ Time Sensitive ☐ Information Only

PURPOSE: NOTIFICATION OF PERMANENCY PLANNING POLICY UPDATES

The North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) is committed to providing counties with protocol and guidance to support compliance with the law and best practice of child welfare services. There were changes to the law regarding child welfare during the 2021 legislative season. Session Law 2021-132 was enacted on October 1, 2021. This law addresses safe and appropriate placement for children in need of mental health services including the roles and responsibilities of the Rapid Response Team. The Permanency Planning Manual has been updated to reflect these changes to the law. Additionally, and in the interest of clear instructions, a DSS form (DSS-6190) has been created for counties to utilize when making referrals to the Rapid Response Team.

The policy was published May 18th, 2022 and can be found on the Division’s web page at https://policies.ncdhhs.gov/divisional/social-services/child-welfare/policy-manuals.

The revised changes in the Permanency Manual are as follows:

• Requirements when a juvenile in the custody of the Department of Social Services presents to a hospital emergency department for mental health treatment
• Referral process to the Rapid Response Team
• Court procedure for an emergency motion for placement and payment

The associated DSS form (DSS-6190) was published May 16th, 2022, on the Division’s web page at https://policies.ncdhhs.gov/divisional/social-services/forms.
Next Steps:

To assist with the implementation of the recent policy changes, two new Permanency Planning: Policy to Practice Office Hour workgroup sessions have been added. County child welfare staff may sign up using the below links:

July 28th, 2022, 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM: https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/923428562064745986
July 28th, 2022, 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM: https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/9223064596541253890

If you are unable to attend, you may access the recorded webinar online following the workgroup session at https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/social-services/county-staff-information/policy-office-hours.

Thank you for your interest and ongoing commitment to North Carolina’s children. Should you have questions regarding the policy changes or the new DSS form (DSS-6190), please contact Margaret Knight at margaret.knight@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

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Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
    Lisa T. Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services
    Adrian Daye, Deputy Director of Child Welfare Practice
    Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for Operations/Licensing Regulatory
    Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
    Kimaree Sanders, Interim Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory