



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

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November 1, 2014

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
DEAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF FOSTER CARE CHILD PLACING AGENCIES

SUBJECT: RESOURCE PARENT PORTAL

The North Carolina Division of Social Services (NC DSS) is committed to supporting resource parents for children served by the foster care program. Through effective partnerships with public and private agencies who work directly with parents, the system in North Carolina is a strengthened. The development of a "Resource Parent Portal" has been identified as an opportunity to build capacity to support resource parents. The development of this resource was recommended by a statewide workgroup sponsored by the Division that included representatives of public and private agencies and University partners. This workgroup identified an online learning portal as an opportunity to build capacity to support resource parents. This portal is being envisioned to provide a platform in which trainings and other support information can be disseminated. The UNC-CH School of Social Work was selected as a partner due to their many years of experience in developing and operating the online training web-based system, ncswLearn.org, for social workers in county departments of social services / human services and private child placing agencies. Building on the many years of experience in developing and operating ncswLearn.org has provided an advantage that will be applied to the resource parent portal system. Furthermore, the plan is to utilize an incremental approach to the development along with some long term visioning. This approach will ensure lessons learned can be integrated quickly.

The development of NC FAST, an automated case management system, will soon replace our existing data/information systems which includes the tracking of all homes licensed by the Division. The development of the Resource Parent Portal will enhance and support the rollout of the Child Welfare NC FAST module.

Throughout the development of the Resource Parent Portal, the NC DSS will seek opportunities to update agency leaders. Input and feedback from agency staff will be sought and collected for addressing effective communications. Such opportunities will be identified by groups and affiliations such as the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS), Benchmarks, Western Child Welfare Partnership and others.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kelley, Chief  
Child Welfare Services

CWS-25-2014

Child Welfare Services

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