NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Social Services

ROY COOPER • Governor
MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary
SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for County Operations for Human Services

September 7, 2021

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL KINSHIP CARE MONTH

REQUIRED ACTION: ☒Information Only

PURPOSE: NOTIFICATION OF KINSHIP WEBINAR

September is National Kinship Care Month. This month we honor the kinship families who provide care to ensure the safety, well-being and permanency of a child. We also recognize the work that child welfare professionals and community partners have done to assist in engaging and supporting kinship families.

In support of Kinship Care Month, the North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) is excited to announce a special webinar—*Permanency Matters: Valuing the Importance of Kinship Families.* Being in a kinship placement is invaluable as it assists children in maintaining cultural and emotional ties. In addition, kinship families increase placement stability while decreasing the trauma children face when coming into care.

North Carolina continues to create opportunities to strengthen the services, support and resources for kinship families. We encourage you to join us for our next webinar when Children's Home Society will provide information on Caring For Our Own, a training for kinship providers and Family Focused Treatment Association (FFTA) will discuss their pilot project, Kinship Therapeutic Foster Care. In addition, we will be joined by a kinship provider who will share their lived experience.

The event will be held on **Thursday, September 23, 2021** from **9:30am–11:30am.** Please register for the *Permanency Matters: Valuing the Importance of Kinship Families* webinar at https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/6550294760357554945. Our community partners are also invited to attend this presentation.

Thank you for your interest, and should you have any questions regarding the *Permanency Matters: Valuing the Importance of Kinship Families* webinar, please contact Kimaree Sanders, Deputy Compact Administrator at Kimaree.Sanders@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

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Section Chief for Permanency Planning
Division of Social Services, Child Welfare
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Susan Osborne, Assistant Secretary for County Operations
Lisa T. Cauley, Senior Director for Child, Family and Adult Services
Teresa Strom, Section Chief for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Child Protective Services and Prevention
Linda Waite, Section Chief for Licensing and Regulatory

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