NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER • Governor
KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary
SUSAN OSBORNE • Assistant Secretary for Human Services

November 16, 2022

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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

SUBJECT: NCDSS NC KIDS ADOPTION AND FOSTER CASE NETWORK AND PERMANENCY INNOVATION AND INITIATIVE

REQUIRED ACTION: ☐ Immediate ☐ Time Sensitive ☒ **Information Only**

PURPOSE: NCDSS NC KIDS ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE NETWORK EXCHANGE AND PERMANENCY INNOVATION INITIATIVE (PII) WEBINAR

November is National Adoption Month, and our national theme is "Small Steps Open Doors." The National Adoption Month campaign seeks to increase national awareness of adoption issues, bring attention to the need for adoptive families for teens in the foster care system and emphasize the value of youth engagement. North Carolina Division of Social Services (NCDSS) is committed to the safety, permanency and well-being for children and continues to aim to achieve permanence for children in a timely manner. NCDSS is excited to announce an upcoming webinar to NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care Network and our partnership with Children's Home Society (CHS) of North Carolina.

NC Kids is the official Adoption Exchange program for the State of North Carolina and is housed at NCDSS. NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care Network Exchange program assists local agencies with finding permanent families for children in foster care who are legally free for adoption and assist approved adoptive applicants in their search for waiting children. ***All waiting children who do not have an identified adoptive family must be registered with NC Kids within 30 days of becoming legally free for adoption***.

The NCDSS Permanency Innovation Initiative (PII) is designed to improve permanency outcomes for children living in foster care via engagement with biological and fictive relatives. Children's Home Society of North Carolina (CHS), a private child-placing agency, implements an evidence-based Child Focus Recruitment program to discover and engage relatives and network members of children in public foster care. Children's Home Society has achieved positive outcomes for children and families through focused adoption recruitment and permanency related training.

As part of our ongoing work to enhance our efforts towards permanence for children in a timely manner, NCDSS is excited to announce an upcoming webinar to discuss NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care Network and North Carolina's Permanency Innovation Initiative (PII) through our partnership with CHS on November 29, 2022, from 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Please register by clicking the following link: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7897514272754182671.

During this session, we will provide an overview of NC Kids Adoption and Foster Care Network Exchange, Permanency Innovation Initiative (PII), NCDSS Rapid Response and guest speakers who will share their experience utilizing services from these programs.

If you have any questions, please contact your NC Kids Consultant Jessica Farmer at 919-527-7269 or Jessica.Farmer@dhhs.nc.gov or ShaNia Leach at 919-527-6355 or Shania.Leach@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Carla McNeill

Carla McNeill, MSW
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 Human Services
Lisa Tucker Cauley, Senior Director of Child, Family and Adult Services
Adrian Daye, Deputy Director for Child Welfare Practice
Tammy Shook, Interim Deputy Director for County Operations
Kathy Stone, Section Chief for Safety and Prevention Services
Kimaree Sanders, Interim Section Chief for Regulatory and Licensing
Peter West, Section Chief for County Operations

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