

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

Pat McCrory Governor Aldona Z. Wos, M.D. Ambassador (Ret.) Secretary DHHS

> Sherry S. Bradsher Division Director

**January 22, 2013** 

## **DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

ATTENTION: COUNTY DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: TIME LIMITED FAMILY REUNIFICATION SERVICES

The NC Division of Social Services (NCDSS) would like to inform you that effective June 30, 2013, the services known as Intensive Family Reunification Services (IFRS) will be no longer be contracted in combination with Intensive Family Preservation Services. Family reunification service funds will be allocated directly to all local county Departments of Social Services (DSS) effective July 1, 2013. Intensive Family Preservation Services will continue as a competitive application, contract and regional service provision process.

"Time Limited Family Reunification Services" are funded under Title IV-B, Subpart 2 of the Social Security Act. Please see <a href="http://www.ssa.gov/OP\_Home/ssact/title04/0431.htm">http://www.ssa.gov/OP\_Home/ssact/title04/0431.htm</a>. The term "time-limited family reunification services" means the services and activities that are provided to a child that is removed from the child's home and placed in a foster family home or a child care institution and to the parents or primary caregiver of such a child, in order to facilitate the reunification of the child safely and appropriately within a timely fashion, but only during the 15-month period that begins on the date that the child, pursuant to Section 475(5)(F), is considered to have entered foster care. Please see <a href="http://www.ssa.gov/OP\_Home/ssact/title04/0475.htm#act-475-5-f">http://www.ssa.gov/OP\_Home/ssact/title04/0475.htm#act-475-5-f</a> for additional information.

Eligible services and activities include:

- 1. Individual, group, and family counseling;
- 2. Inpatient, residential, or outpatient substance abuse treatment services;
- 3. Mental health services;
- 4. Assistance to address domestic violence:
- 5. Services to provide temporary child care and therapeutic services for families, including crisis nurseries:
- 6. Peer-to-peer mentoring and support groups for parents and primary caregivers.
- 7. Services and activities designed to facilitate access to and visitation of children by parents and siblings.
- 8. Transportation to or from any of the services and activities listed above.

This will provide an opportunity for local county DSS to engage their staff, community partners and families they serve to assess the areas of greatest need and develop a plan for maximizing these funds in order to improve the outcomes of the children and families we serve. The Division has established a workgroup through the partnership with the NC Association of County Directors of Social Services to



consider an appropriate county allocation funding formula, program requirements and any development of policy guidance to administer these services.

If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please feel free to contact Michelle Reins at 919-334-1089 or by email at <a href="mailto:michelle.reines@dhhs.nc.gov">michelle.reines@dhhs.nc.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kelley, Section Chief Child Welfare Services

## References:

Current IFPS/IFRS Providers

REGION	PROVIDER	COUNTY SERVED
Region 1	Barium Springs Home for Children	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Jackson, Macon,
		Swain, & Transylvania
Region 2	Barium Springs Home for Children	Avery, Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, McDowell,
		Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, & Yancey
Region 3	Barium Springs Home for Children	Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Burke, Caldwell,
		Catawba, Watauga, & Wilkes
Region 4	Children's Home Society	Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg,
		Stanly, & Union
Region 5	Exchange Club	Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Iredell, Rockingham,
		Rowan, Stokes, Surry, & Yadkin
Region 6	Exchange Club	Alamance, Caswell, Chatham, Guilford, Orange,
		Person, & Randolph
Region 7	Eckerd Youth Alternatives	Anson, Cumberland, Harnett, Hoke, Lee,
		Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, & Scotland
Region 8	Children's Home Society	Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Johnston,
		Nash, Vance, Wake, Warren, Wayne, & Wilson
Region 9	Children's Home Society	Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover,
		Pender, Robeson, & Sampson
Region 10	Methodist Home for Children	Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates,
		Halifax, Hertford, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank,
		Perquimans, Tyrrell, & Washington
Region 11	Methodist Home for Children	Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Greene, Hyde, Jones,
		Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, & Pitt

Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program, reauthorized within the Children and Family Services Improvement Act of 2011 see http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-112publ34/pdf/PLAW-112publ34.pdf

## CWS-01-13

cc: Sherry S. Bradsher
Jack Rogers
Hank Bowers
Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
Local Business Liaisons