February 8, 2019

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: DIRECTORS AND CHILD WELFARE ADMINISTRATORS

SUBJECT: MANDATORY CIVIL RIGHTS AND MULTI-ETHNIC PLACEMENT ACT (MEPA) TRAINING

REQUIRED ACTION: TIME SENSITIVE

North Carolina Division of Social Services in partnership with US HHS Office of Civil Rights (OCR) will be hosting a Civil Rights / Multi-Ethnic Placement Act (MEPA) training. This training will be offered in person and through a live webinar. The training will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 from 9:00am – 4:00pm. The in-person training will be held at Guildford Technical Community College, Greensboro Campus; 3505 East Wendover Ave., Greensboro, NC 27405.

US HHS OCR requires mandatory participation by all 100 counties with at least one representative (Director, Child Welfare Program Administrator or Program Manager) from each county participating either in person or on the live webinar. This is the rescheduled training in place of the Civil Rights / MEPA workshop that was planned for the Social Services Institute in October 2018. As you may recall, the Social Services Institute was canceled due to Hurricane Florence.

This training will focus on federal civil rights laws for child welfare including MEPA law and how it is applied to child welfare services. NC Division of Social Services will also provide an overview of the updated template for localized Diligent Recruitment and Retention (DRR) Plans which includes MEPA requirements.

To pre-register for the in-person training, please contact Cynethia Escalante at (919) 527-6367 or Cynethia.Escalante@dhhs.nc.gov by February 22, 2019.

Registration for the webinar will be forthcoming.

Should you have questions regarding the training, please contact your County’s NC Kids Consultant or Mary Mackins at (919) 527-6287 or Mary.Mackins@dhhs.nc.gov.
For questions regarding Civil Rights or MEPA laws, please contact Carlotta Dixon, NC DSS Civil Rights Officer, at (919) 733-3055 or Carlotta.Dixon@dhhs.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Lisa T. Cauley  
Deputy Director for Child Welfare  
Division of Social Services

Cc: Michael Becketts, Assistant Secretary for Human Services  
   Richard Stegenga, Deputy Director for Business Operations  
   Kristin O’Connor, Section Chief, Policy and Programs  
   Teresa Strom, Section Chief, County Operations  
   Carlotta Dixon, Section Chief, Civil Rights Coordinator  
   Erin Baluyot, Interim Adoption Services Manager  
   CWS Team Leaders

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