April 15, 2001

Dear County Director of Social Services:

As you are likely aware, over the last two years, the Division has funded the North Carolina Child Welfare Education Collaborative. This is a project whose mission is to increase the number of professionally educated social workers who are specially trained to work in public child welfare. The students who participate in this program receive generous financial aid towards the completion of their degree and in return are required to "pay back" their award through service in public child welfare. The students are required to pay back one year of service for each year they received the award. In most cases, the students have a two-year total “pay back” period.

This year, we will have approximately 40 students graduating with their BSW or MSW who will be seeking full-time employment in a county DSS. The challenge for some of the MSW students in securing employment is that their caseload for the first year only of their payback period (SFY 2001-2002) must be only with all IV-E eligible clients and all services provided must be IV-E allowable activities (program code Z). This is required based on how the Education Collaborative was funded by the State in the first year of these students enrollment. After the first year of the Education Collaborative, the state cost-allocated this program. With just a few exceptions, after SFY 01-02, no part of a child welfare scholars pay back period will be required to be all IV-E. This restriction does not apply to BSW students or to MSW students who joined the program in SFY 00-01.

For SFY 01-02, the services that these MSW students/employees may provide are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>009</th>
<th>Adoption Services for Children</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>011</td>
<td>Adoption Case Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>012</td>
<td>General Recruitment, Assessment and Training of Adoptive Parents</td>
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<tr>
<td>013</td>
<td>Adoption Assistance Case Management</td>
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<td>016</td>
<td>Child Specific Recruitment, Assessment and Training of Adoptive Parents</td>
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<td>019</td>
<td>Post Adoption Case Management</td>
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<td>028</td>
<td>Adoption Case Planning and Case Management</td>
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<td>028</td>
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<td>Foster Care Services for Children</td>
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<td>Foster Care Assistance Eligibility</td>
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<td>103</td>
<td>Foster Care Training</td>
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<td>103</td>
<td>General Recruitment, Assessment and Training of Foster Parents</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer
Please note that for the first year of their payback period, these students/employees may not provide any service not coded to program code “Z”, including CPS Investigative Assessment (service code 210) and CPS Intake (service code 211). However, they may carry a Case Management and Case Planning caseload because service code 215 is considered to be a IV-E service as the clients are defined as reasonable candidates for foster care in the absence of preventive services.

These students/employees may not be placed in the new TANF “0” positions (those that were established after January 1, 2000 and those that were established after July 1, 2000) as by definition, the use of TANF is only possible when IV-E is not possible.

Despite the fact that IV-E Waiver counties can have all their cases act like IV-E cases, for the purposes of this program, students/employees working in these counties may only actually work with those cases that are truly IV-E eligible with IV-E eligible services or carry a CPS Case Planning/Case Management caseload (service code 215).

We are very enthusiastic about our first pool of graduates to enter the field. It is unfortunate that for some of the MSW students, their first year of payback (SFY 01-02), we are under these restrictions. For their second year of payback they will be able to be employed in any child welfare service area. We hope that your desire to employ a professionally educated social worker who has a commitment to child welfare will cause you to build a caseload that will fit within these guidelines. Students who are subject to this restriction understand their contractual obligations and will identify their commitment to the individual who is interviewing them.

County Department of Social Services Directors will be asked to sign a memorandum of understanding with the NCDSS which assures that the county DSS understands the obligation that they assume when employing a child welfare scholar. A draft copy of this agreement is attached.
Should you have questions about the Child Welfare Education Collaborative please contact, Rebecca Brigham: rebecca.brigham@ncmail.net or (919)733-7672. If you have questions about the use of the funding codes in relation to the Education Collaborative please contact Hope Hunt: hope.hunt@ncmail.net or (919)733-4622.

Sincerely,

Chuck Harris
Children’s Services Section Chief

Cc: E.C. Modlin
    Nancy Coston
    Jane Smith
    JoAnn Lamm
    LSM’s
    LBL’s
    CPR’s
    Evelyn Williams
    Myrna Miller
    Child Welfare Scholars
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Among

THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

_______________ COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered by and among the following two parties: the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services (hereinafter referred to as the "NCDSS") and the _______________ County Department of Social Services. The administrator for the NCDSS will be Ms. Gail McClain, Consultant, 325 N. Salisbury Street, Suite 735, MSC 2412, Raleigh, NC 27603, (919)733-7672, gail.mcclain@ncmail.net. The administrator of the _______________ County Department of Social Services will be _________________.

The NCDSS and the _______________ County DSS recognize that the North Carolina Child Welfare Education Collaborative is a unique partnership between the NCDSS, whose role it is to fund the Collaborative and the student’s education; the applicable NC School’s of Social Work, whose role it is to provide the student’s education; the County DSS, whose role it is to provide employment; and the student, whose contractual obligation is to be employed for a specified period of time in public child welfare in a county DSS. The student is required to “pay back” one year of employment for each year they received an award.

When employing a NC Child Welfare Education Collaborative Scholar the _______________ County DSS agrees:

➢ For the employment period that the scholar is contractually obligated to the Collaborative, the scholar will be assigned only child welfare services as outlined in the Services Information System Manual. and

➢ For the MSW scholars who have the one year restriction, they will be assigned only IV-E eligible clients with all IV-E allowable services (including Case Management and Case Planning, Service Code 215).

The MOU shall begin on _______________ and end on _______________.

_______________ County Department of Social Services Director

BY: ______________________
   Director

Date: ______________________

North Carolina Division of Social Services

BY: ______________________
   Director

Date: ______________________