July 20, 2010

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DEAR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF ADOPTION CHILD PLACING AGENCIES

SUBJECT: ADOPTION PROMOTION PROGRAM

As a key partner in placing foster children in safe, permanent homes, we are seeking your assistance in evaluating our Adoption Promotion and Special Children Adoption Fund Programs. As you know, the Division of Social Services disperses funds to departments of social services and licensed child placing agencies for providing an array of comprehensive services leading to the adoption of special needs children from foster care. Historically, since the implementation of these programs the number of adoptions has steadily increased and the available funds are usually expended prior to the end of the state fiscal year. Once the funds are expended statistics on finalized special needs adoptions are not collected and without this valuable information the Division does not have a full picture of the successes in placing special needs children. Our current efforts are directed at conducting an analysis of the adoption of children from foster care and with better information we will be able to maximize our resources more efficiently and effectively to improve our adoption promotion program.

We need your assistance in providing the Division with information on your agency’s finalized adoptions for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2010 (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010). Please list your special needs adoptions for SFY 2010 on the attached form. Only those adoptions which meet the eligibility criteria of the Adoption Promotion or Special Children Adoption Fund programs for children who are receiving adoption assistance cash payments for whom you have not already received reimbursement should be included. If you have questions contact Amelia Lance at 919-334-1096 or amelia.lance@dhhs.nc.gov.

Please return the attached worksheet with the required information by July 30, 2010 to:

North Carolina Division of Social Services
Child Welfare Services Section
Child-Welfare Policy Team
ATTN: Adoption Promotion Program
325 N. Salisbury Street, Suite 725
2408 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2408
The Division sincerely appreciates your partnership in providing permanency for North Carolina’s waiting children. We hope that this fund will provide additional resources to improve adoption services for children from the child welfare system as we continue to explore ideas on improving our adoption promotion program. We are very proud of the outstanding work you have done to provide permanency through adoption for so many children.

Sincerely,

Charisse S. Johnson, Chief
Child Welfare Services

Attachment:
ADOPTION PROMOTION DATA FORM

cc: Sherry Bradsher
    Sarah Barham
    Hank Bowers
    Children’s Program Representatives
    Family Support and Child Welfare Services Team Leaders
    Local Business Liaisons
    Work First Representatives
    Jack Rogers
    Regulatory and Licensing Consultants
    Kevin Kelley

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