

## **DSS ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER**

### **FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FSCWS-10-06**

**TO:** County Directors of Social Services

**ATTENTION:** DSS CPS Supervisors and Program Managers  
DSS CPS Social Workers

**DATE:** July 5, 2006

**SUBJECT:** CPS Caseload Standards Reduced to 1:10  
Policy and Practice

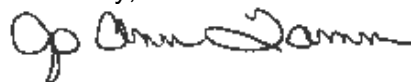
**DATE:** July 5, 2006

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

This letter is to inform you that the Services to Children and their Families Committee has approved a new caseload standard for Child Protective Services. The new ratio of caseworker to cases is 1:10 for both CPS assessments and CPS Case Planning / Case Management (In-Home) services. This reduction is consistent with the intent of the General Assembly when it appropriated \$4,000,000 (Session Law 2004-124; House Bill 1414 - "The Current Operations and Capital Improvements Appropriations Act of 2004") and an additional \$2,000,000 in 2005 (Session Law 2005-276; Senate Bill 622 "The Current Operations and Capital Improvements Appropriations Act of 2005"). This funding was appropriated in order to expand the Multiple Response System and make it possible for each county to move towards this reduced caseload standard. These appropriations were based, in part, on the evaluation from Duke University's Center for Child and Family Policy stating that the practice of the use of one worker throughout the life of the Child Protective Services case is consistent with best practice. Additionally, in order to be successful in this practice, caseloads needed to be reduced. These funds were distributed using information from the staffing surveys provided to the Division by all 100 counties, and by the North Carolina Association of Directors of Social Services. The Division strongly encourages County Departments of Social Services to implement a "blended caseloads" approach that would facilitate the best practice of keeping one worker throughout the life of the CPS case from assessment through in-home services.

Please contact your Children's Program Representative or the Work First/CPS Policy Team at (919) 733-4622 if you have questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Lamm, Chief  
Family Support and Child Welfare Services

JL:hlm

cc: Sherry S. Bradsher  
Sarah Barham  
Family Support and Child Welfare Team Leaders  
Children's Program Representatives  
Work First Program Representatives  
Local Business Liaisons