

### **Background**

The Child and Family Services Plan (**CFSP**) is a 5 year strategic plan that states are required to develop. This plan outlines the goals and objectives for the state child welfare system over child and family outcomes and the systemic factors that impact these outcomes. NC's current plan is approved for 2015-2019.

The Annual Progress and Services Review (**APSR**) is a summary of the progress that the state has made on its goals and objectives outlined in the CFSP. States, stakeholders and federal partners participate in a "joint planning" session around the adjustment of the goals and to identify if the goals are still relevant. This annual update is required to be submitted by June 30<sup>th</sup> every year.

The Child and Family Services Review (**CFSR**) is authorized by the 1994 Amendments to the Social Security Act (SSA), described in 45 CFR 1355.33, and are administered by the Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families (CB/ACF). The goals of the CFSR are to ensure that IV-B and IV-E child welfare requirements regarding safety, permanency and well-being outcomes and seven systemic factors are being followed; to determine what is happening to the children and families that are being served by NC's child welfare system, and to assist the state in achieving outcomes. This is a two-phase process. The first phase is an assessment of the statewide child welfare system and involves agencies who are integral to the functioning of the system. The second phase is a review of child welfare case files. Information from both processes are used to determine if the state is in *substantial conformity* with the outcomes and systemic factors the make up the child welfare system. If not, the state is required to enter into a Program Improvement Plan to address the areas that are not in conformity.

Each of these activities require that stakeholders be engaged in the development of the plan and subsequent review.

### **Request**

The Child Welfare Services Section at the Division of Social Services (NC DSS) recognizes that the court system plays a large role in the achievement of child and family outcomes. The court system is also a systemic partner. NC DSS is seeking Social Services Attorneys' to participate in

- CFSR interviews with the CB/ACF in a discussion of how well the child welfare system is functioning as a part of the CFSR, specifically as it relates to the seven system factors (Statewide Information System, Case Review System: Periodic Reviews, Permanency Hearings, TPRs and Notice of Hearings and Reviews to Caregivers. Quality Assurance System, Training system, Foster and Adoptive Parent licensing and recruitment, Service Array, Responsiveness to the Community).
  - CFSR interviews will take place the week of [May 11-15](#), by phone. Interviews can accommodate up to 8 individuals at one time.
- In addition, we are seeking participants to collaborate with NC DSS in our "joint planning" session for the APSR. APSR "joint planning" will take place [May 6 and 7](#), 2015 in Raleigh.

For those who would like to participate, more detail around the CFSP, the CFSR interview questions and the APSR "joint planning" agenda, will be shared.

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