

Given the size and scope of the child welfare assessment requested by North Carolina, CSF developed eight research questions designed to focus on:

- ◆ Assessments of children coming to the attention of DSS/DHHS to ensure children are safe from immediate threats to their health, safety, and future risk of harm;
- ◆ Services provided to children and families to ensure children are protected from immediate threats to their health, safety, and future risk of harm;
- ◆ Seeking to understand the extent to which findings from North Carolina’s fatality reviews are being used effectively to take actions to prevent other fatalities and improve the health and safety of children;
- ◆ Reasonable efforts to prevent custody and the placement process;
- ◆ Services to support and promote reunification;
- ◆ Services to support and promote permanency;
- ◆ Physical health, mental health, educational, and development needs identified and met; and
- ◆ Preparing young persons for adulthood.

The eight research questions are as follows.

<u>Research Question:</u>	<i>Are children and their household members who come to the attention of DHHS through reports of maltreatment receiving a response that ensures children are safe from immediate threats to their health, safety, and future risk of harm?</i>
<u>Primary Research Question:</u>	<i>Are children and their household family members who are in open CPS In-Home Services cases receiving services that ensure the children are protected from immediate threats to their health, safety, and future risk of harm?</i>
<u>Research Question:</u>	<i>Are the findings from North Carolina’s fatality reviews being used effectively to take actions to prevent other fatalities and improve the health and safety of children?</i>
<u>Primary Research Question:</u>	<i>Are reasonable efforts made to support families prior to removing children and effective efforts made after removal to promote stable placements?</i>

<u>Research Question:</u>	<i>Are foster children, their families, and caregivers receiving trauma-informed services and supports that facilitate family reunification?</i>
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<u>Research Question:</u>	<i>Are children and youth in foster care receiving trauma-informed services and supports that facilitate timely permanency?</i>
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<u>Research Question:</u>	<i>Are the needs of children being served in out of home care being appropriately assessed, including exploring the history of trauma, and services being provided to address those needs and achieve case goals?</i>
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<u>Research Question:</u>	<i>Are older youth served by DSS/DHHS in foster care in being prepared for adulthood?</i>
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Focus Groups

The focus groups in the central part of North Carolina were held May 15 and 16 in Guilford County. Stakeholders participated in these from the following counties.

- Caswell
- Chatham
- Guilford
- Moore
- Randolph
- Yadkin

The focus groups in the eastern part of North Carolina were held May 22 and 23 in Carteret County. Stakeholders participated in these from the following counties.

- Beaufort
- Carteret
- Craven
- Perquimans
- Jones
- Pender

The focus groups in the western part of North Carolina were held May 30, 31, and June 1 in Rutherford County. Stakeholders participated in these from the following counties.

- Buncombe
- Burke
- Haywood
- Jackson
- McDowell
- Rutherford

XI. APPENDICES

Appendix A: Focus Groups Conducted

Date	Group	Location
April 12, 2018	Child Welfare Focus Group	Greensboro, NC
April 26, 2018	County Directors	Blowing Rock, NC
May 9, 2018	Children Services, Adult Services, and Economic Services Focus Group	Cary, NC
May 24, 2018	Finance Staff Focus Group	Raleigh, NC
May 25, 2018	Child Support Supervisors	Raleigh, NC
June 6, 2018	Aging and Adult Services, Child Support, Child Welfare, and Energy Program	
June 7, 2018	Child Care and FNS	

The following counties participated in-person or by phone in focus groups or interviews on the assigned date or follow up at another time (note: not all counties participated in all focus groups; there were approximately 6 in each).

Central

- ◆ Guilford (host).
- ◆ Caswell (Karen traveled there and did some interviews).
- ◆ Chatham.
- ◆ Randolph.
- ◆ Yadkin.
- ◆ Moore.

Eastern

- ◆ Carteret (host).
- ◆ Jones.
- ◆ Beaufort.
- ◆ Craven.
- ◆ Perquimans (came for one day).
- ◆ Hyde (came for one day).
- ◆ Pender.

Western

- ◆ Rutherford (host).
- ◆ McDowell.
- ◆ Buncombe.
- ◆ Jackson.
- ◆ Haywood.
- ◆ Burke.

Half-Day Site Visits

- ◆ Orange County.
- ◆ Wilson County.

Appendix B: 15 Counties Selected for Site Visits

- ◆ Alamance.
- ◆ Alleghany.
- ◆ Anson.
- ◆ Caldwell.
- ◆ Camden.
- ◆ Edgecombe.
- ◆ Greene.*
- ◆ Halifax.
- ◆ Johnston.
- ◆ Mecklenburg.
- ◆ Orange.
- ◆ Robeson.
- ◆ Scotland.
- ◆ Swain.
- ◆ Wake.

**Greene County was unavailable for in-person visit the week scheduled, so a telephone interview was conducted.*