

CHANGE #03-2013

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I. SECTION .0000 | MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

The Mission, Vision and Values of the North Carolina Division of Social Services (Division) are imbedded within the continuum of child welfare services, which include Foster Home Licensing. By adopting a common mission, vision and values, the Division, all 100 county departments of social services and private child-placing agencies for foster care will share a commitment to excellence.

The mission makes our purpose clear and tells everyone whom we are. Ensuring safe, permanent, nurturing families for children is our charge, whether we work in Intensive Family Preservation, Child Protective Services, CPS In-Home Services, Foster Care, or Adoptions. The **vision** is a clear statement of what we believe the child welfare system should look like. It is the ideal; it is what we want the system to look like through the eyes of the families and children whom we serve. A common vision keeps us focused and challenged to always find ways to improve system performance, despite the very real considerations of resource limitations and other constraints. The **values** are what we promise to do, the link between our agencies and the public. They provide a guide for service delivery and staff behavior. Collectively, the mission, vision and values are a strong statement of our advocacy for families and children who come in contact with the child welfare system.

A. Mission

The Division of Social Services, Child Welfare Services Section is committed to providing family-centered services to children and families to achieve well-being through ensuring self-sufficiency, support, safety, and permanence.

B. Vision

The vision of the Division is that all programs administered by the Division of Social Services will embrace family-centered practice principles and provide services that promote security and safety for all. This means that every child in North Carolina will grow up in a safe, permanent, self-sufficient family where well-being needs of all are met.

C. Values

Foster home licensing is a crucial part of North Carolina's child welfare system. North Carolina licenses foster homes to assure that children in out-of-home care have safe, nurturing homes that will help them grow and reach their full potential.

To improve the care and safety of children, licensing social workers must focus on relationships. Foster parents are encouraged to view the licensing worker as their social worker. Through an ongoing relationship between the foster parent and the licensing social worker, the foster home becomes more and more adept at meeting the specific needs of children in the home.

The licensing process gives the licensing worker an understanding of the strengths and supports needed for the individual foster parents and of the foster home as a unit. Rather than being viewed as an inspector, the effective licensing worker strives to be seen as a partner, a colleague, and an advocate to make the child welfare system work effectively for each child.

Service delivery does not exist in a vacuum. To best serve the needs of children and families, all agencies that work with the family should work cooperatively in ways that maximize service delivery and resources. To the fullest extent possible, service providers should be within the family's community, convenient for the family and child.

It is important to note the foundational philosophy of North Carolina's Child Welfare System is grounded in family-centered practice delivered within a System of Care framework. The six family-centered principles of partnership are:

- Everyone desires respect
- Everyone needs to be heard
- Everyone has strengths
- Judgments can wait
- Partners share power
- Partnership is a process

The foundational philosophy of the NC System of Care (hereinafter SOC) is family-centered practice. The six SOC Principles are:

- Interagency collaboration
- Individualized strengths based care
- Cultural competence
- Child and family involvement
- Community based services
- Accountability

D. Purpose of the Manual

Foster home licensing is a crucial part of North Carolina's child welfare system. The purpose of this manual is to provide guidance to foster home licensing social workers during the assessment and recommendation of foster parents for licensure and relicensure. Foster home licensure policy is based on North Carolina General Statutes and Administrative Rules. Administrative rules related to foster home licensing are found in the Administrative Code [10A NCAC 70E](#). Policies and procedures are provided after each administrative rule.