



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

ROY COOPER • Governor

MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary

MICHAEL BECKETTS, MSW, MS, MEd • Assistant
Secretary

November 14, 2018

Dear County Manager and County Director of Social Services:

A Modification Agreement for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) covering Fiscal Year 2018-2019 is attached. These modifications have been made in response to the feedback and information received from counties following the execution of the MOU's and our ongoing analysis of performance data.

Specifically, the modifications to the MOU move nine (9) additional performance measures from static to growth measures, for a total of 17 growth measures, five (5) of the measures have been updated to align with federal benchmarks, and one (1) of the measures has been removed. The attachment to this letter describes each element that has been modified.

Further, given the impact of Hurricane Florence on county and state operations, the Department is modifying the MOUs to clarify that no performance improvement or corrective action will be initiated on the basis of this MOU for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. Ongoing oversight and monitoring activities will continue as they have in prior years.

DHHS is in the process of creating reports that will allow counties to pull the data for their county's performance on all measures. Additionally, we are creating a data validation process and will work collaboratively with counties to validate the performance data.

Attached is a list of the specific changes made in this Modification Agreement. All other parts of the MOU remain in effect and unchanged.

Thank you for your continued partnership to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of the children, families and adults served by these programs. As always, please contact me if you have questions, ideas or concerns.

Please return the signed Modification Agreement to Paris Penny by email at Paris.Penny@dhhs.nc.gov no later than December 17, 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Beckett".

Michael A. Beckett
Assistant Secretary for Human Services

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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Modifications to the MOU

- 1) **Section 2.1:** Clarifying language that the Department will not take any actions under Attachment X on the basis of the MOU for fiscal year 2018-2019.
- 2) **Section 12.0:** Change to the Department's point of contact
- 3) **Section 14.0:** Clarifying language that for some performance measures, a County will be assessed based on an individualized growth measure and not the standard performance measure.
- 4) **Attachment I through IX - Performance Measurements:**
 - a. The format of the performance measurements has been modified. This modification creates three columns: Standard Measure, County Performance Measure and the Rationale and Authority. The Standard Measure is the statewide measure based upon federal or state law, rule or policy identified in the Authority. The County Performance Measure will be the county-specific target. For some performance measures, this county measure will be the same as the Standard Measure for all counties. For other performance measures this county measure will be the growth measure tailored to each individual county to be determined for next fiscal year's MOU.
 - b. Included with every performance measure is an expanded rationale giving additional background and context to the required measure as well as updated and additional citations to the authority from which the measure is derived.
 - c. Specific Attachments:
 - i. Attachment I: Child Welfare – Child Protective Services (CPS)
 - The two CPS performance measures have been changed to growth measures.
 - ii. Attachment II: Child Welfare – Foster Care
 - All Foster Care performance measures have been changed to growth measures.
 - We have deleted the Foster Care performance measure which read: "The County will document permanency goals for 95% of foster youth within 60 days of a child entering custody or for whom the county has placement authority."
 - We have amended the Standard Measure from 41% to 40.5% for the Foster Care performance measure which previously read: "The County will provide leadership for ensuring that 41% of children who enter foster care in a 12-month period are discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care."
 - We have amended the Standard Measure from 9% to 9.1% for the Foster Care Performance Measure which previously read: "For all children who were victims of maltreatment during a twelve-month period, no more than 9% received a subsequent finding of maltreatment."
 - iii. Attachment III: Child Support
 - Each Child Support performance measure will remain growth measures.
 - In the first four Child Support performance measures, we have included in the text of the Standard Measures what is required under federal law.
 - The fifth Child Support performance measure remains unchanged.
 - iv. Attachment IV: Energy Programs
 - These performance measures will remain the Standard Measure for each county.

- The Rationale and Authority for these performance measures has been updated.
 - v. Attachment V: Work First
 - The first two of these performance measures have been changed to growth measures.
 - The remaining two performance measures will continue as the Standard Measure for all counties. The standard measure has been changed from 100% of applications and recertifications processed in the given timeframe to 95% of applications and recertifications processed in the given timeframe.
 - vi. Attachment VI: Food and Nutrition Services
 - These performance measures will remain the Standard Measure for each county.
 - We have amended the Standard Measure from 100% to 90% for the Food and Nutrition Services performance measure which previously read: “The County will ensure that 100% of Program Integrity claims are established within 180 days of the date of discovery.”
 - vii. Attachment VII: Adult Protective Services
 - Each Adult Protective Services measure has been changed to a growth measure.
 - viii. Attachment VIII: Special Assistance
 - Each Special Assistance measure has been changed to a growth measure
 - ix. Attachment IX: Child Care Subsidy
 - This performance measure will remain the Standard Measure for each county
 - The Rationale and Authority for this performance measure has been updated
- 5) Attachment X - Corrective Action**
- a. We have inserted a clarification that the Department will not initiate any actions set forth in Attachment X during this fiscal year.