

Clinical Assessment of Protective Parenting (CAPP)

The North Carolina Child Medical Evaluation Program (CMEP) has launched a new statewide program, the Clinical Assessment of Protective Parenting (CAPP). At the request of county child welfare agencies, rostered CAPP providers will conduct clinical assessments of caregivers to aid in decision-making in CPS investigations.

The CAPP program is driven by empirically supported measures in understanding a parent's ability and willingness to mitigate safety risks for their child. The objectives of this evaluation are two-fold: to offer a clinical lens through which to assess the current risk and potential of future harm that a caretaker may pose to a child, and to assist in identifying services that will enhance a parent's capacity to provide for their child's needs.

Participant inclusion criteria

Interviewee is the parent or caretaker to a child or children who are subject to an open CPS Assessment *and* circumstances meet any of the criteria below:

- There have been two or more reports of maltreatment by the interviewee with similar allegations and no evidence of progress
- The agency needs assistance with identifying parent/caretaker needs and/or the appropriate services to protect children from entry into foster care
- "Primary Needs" identified on the DSS-5229 indicate that the parent would benefit from further, clinical assessment
- At least one of the children is part of a population identified as at greatest risk of maltreatment AND the Family Risk Level on DSS-5230 is HIGH. Populations identified at the greatest risk of maltreatment are:
 - o Child under age 3
 - o Teenager with mental health and/or behavioral issues
 - o Child born to young parents with little to no parenting education
 - o Children born to parents with significant history of abuse/neglect
 - o Children living in significant poverty
 - o LGBTQ youth

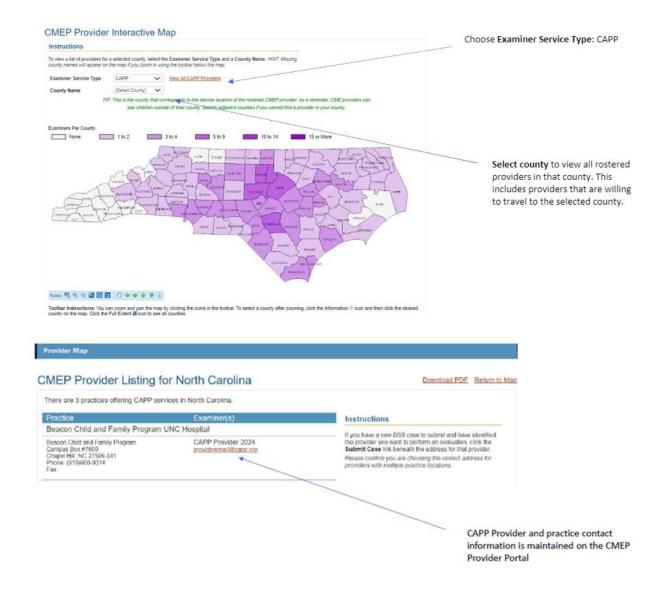
There are some circumstances in which a CAPP might *not* be the appropriate clinical evaluation. This includes if the concerns for the caretaker include a moderate to severe intellectual and developmental disability and a competency evaluation is the primary need. Additionally, a CAPP

would not be authorized if the agency has removed custody of a child and plans to cease reunification efforts or TPR based on statutory allowances. Finally, the provider will not complete the CAPP if they observe symptoms of an active and persistent mental health diagnosis and/or substance misuse that is interfering with the caretaker's ability to participate in their own assessment.

Locating a CAPP Provider

When a local child welfare agency determines that case would benefit from a CAPP, the child welfare worker must first identify and contact a CAPP Provider to confirm their availability.

CAPP Providers can be located by using the <u>CMEP Provider Portal</u>. The CMEP Provider Portal can be used to locate both CAPP and Child Medical Evaluation (CME) providers. Instructions for creating an account are located on the portal home page.



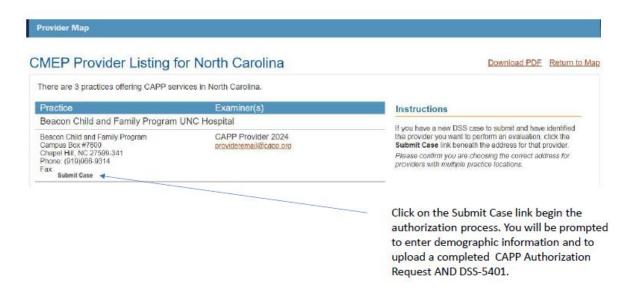
Submitting a CAPP Request for Authorization and Consent/Authorization Form for a CAPP (DSS-5401)

Once a CAPP Provider has confirmed their availability, the child welfare worker can *submit the CAPP Request for Authorization* and *DSS-5401* through the CMEP Provider Portal.

The CAPP Request for Authorization is maintained on the CMEP website under forms: https://www.med.unc.edu/pediatrics/cmep/forms/.

The Consent/Authorization Form for a CAPP (DSS-5401) is maintained on the NC DHHS Polices and Manuals: https://policies.ncdhhs.gov/divisional/social-services/forms/dss-5401-consent-form-for-a-clinical-assessment-of-protective-parenting-capp/.

Copies of both documents can be downloaded from the CMEP Provider Portal.



The CAPP requires CMEP's authorization prior to the assessment. CMEP will review the request and provide authorization via email to the referring child welfare worker and CAPP Provider.

Once the authorization has been received, the child welfare worker and CAPP Provider can coordinate scheduling of the assessment.

The CAPP Provider will send the completed CMEP CAPP Report to the child welfare worker no later than two weeks post date of service.

More information about the CAPP and referral process can be found at https://www.med.unc.edu/pediatrics/cmep. Please contact cmep_capp@med.unc.edu with questions.