REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE:

December 3, 2018

SUBJECT:

Memorandum of Understanding – NC DHHS

PRESENTER:

Jerrie McFalls/Kevin Marino - DSS

ATTACHMENTS:

Yes

1. Letter from Department of Health and Human Services

2. Memorandum of Understanding

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

At the June 27, 2018 meeting, the Board adopted a Memorandum of Understanding between the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Henderson County effective for FY2019. Subsequent to that MOU, DHHS has revised the performance measures which are to be obtained by the Department of Social Services during the fiscal year, making them less stringent than those originally adopted. Staff recommends adopting the revised MOU as presented.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested to adopt the revised MOU as presented, and authorize the Chairman to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board.

Suggested Motion(s):

I move the Board adopt the revised MOU as presented, and authorize the Chairman to sign the MOU on behalf of the Board.



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 <u>Paris.Penny@dhhs.nc.gov</u> no later than December 17, 2018.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Becketts

Assistant Secretary for Human Services

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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 12month 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.

Modification Agreement to the

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (FISCAL YEAR 2018-19) BETWEEN THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND HENDERSON COUNTY

The parties agree to modify the MOU as set forth below. The terms and conditions set forth in the MOU are adopted by reference and fully incorporated as if set forth herein. The terms of this Modification Agreement supersede and replace any conflicting or contrary terms of the MOU.

2.1 Default and Modification

Performance Improvement/Corrective Action: Prior to the Department exercising its authority to withhold State and/or federal funding for a failure to satisfy the mandated performance requirements or failure to comply with the terms of this MOU, the steps set forth in Attachment X will govern. For this MOU covering Fiscal Year 2018-2019, the Department will not initiate any actions set forth in Attachment X on the basis of this MOU. Nothing contained in this MOU or Attachment X shall supersede or limit the Secretary's authority to take any action otherwise set forth in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 108A-74.

12.0 Notice

The persons named below shall be the persons to whom notices provided for in this MOU shall be given. Either Party may change the person to whom notice shall be given upon written notice to the other Party. Any notice required under this MOU will only be effective if actually delivered to the parties named below. Delivery by hand, by first class mail, or by email are authorized methods to send notices.

For the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services

IF DELIVERED BY US POSTAL SERVICE	IF DELIVERED BY ANY OTHER MEANS
Michael Becketts, Assistant Secretary	Michael Becketts
NC Department of Health and Human Services	NC DHHS
2001 Mail Services Center	Doretha Dix Campus, McBryde Building
Raleigh, NC 27699-2001	Phone: 919-527-6338
	E-mail: Michael.Becketts@dhhs.nc.gov

14.0 Responsibilities of the County

The County hereby agrees that its responsibilities under this MOU are as follows:

(1) The County shall adhere to the mandated performance requirements for each social services program as identified in Attachments I through IX. For a County Performance Measure designated in Attachments I through IX as a Growth Measure, the County's performance will be assessed based on its achievement of this Growth Measure. The County will ultimately work towards achievement of the Standard Measure.

ATTACHMENT I — MANDATED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS: Child Welfare - CPS Assessments

	Standard Measure	County Performance Measure	Rationale and Authority
	The County will initiate 95% of all screened-in reports within required time frames	DHHS will work with the county to identify a performance measure for FY19-20 based on the prior fiscal year's performance.	Ensure that allegations of abuse, neglect and dependency are initiated timely. The timeframes for initiating an investigation of child maltreatment are defined in state law as, immediately, within 24 hours, or within 72 hours depending on the nature and severity of the alleged maltreatment.
			NC General Statutes § 7B-302; 10A NCAC 70A .0105; NCDHHS Family Services Manual: Vol. 1, Chapter VIII: Child Protective Services, Section 1408 - Investigative & Family Assessments
2	For all children who were victims of maltreatment during a twelve-month period, no more than 9.1% received a subsequent finding of maltreatment	DHHS will work with the county to identify a performance measure for FY19-20 based on the prior fiscal year's performance.	Ensure that children who have been substantiated as abused, neglected or dependent are protected from further harm. National Standards for State Performance on Statewide Data Indicators established by the Children's Bureau to determine conformity with Title IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act and the Child and Family Services Review.

ATTACHMENT II— MANDATED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS: Child Welfare - Foster Care

	Standard Measure	County Performance Measure	Rationale and Authority
1	The County will ensure that 95% of all foster youth have face-to-face visits by the social worker each month.	DHHS will work with the county to identify a performance measure for FY19-20 based on the prior fiscal year's performance.	Ensure the ongoing safety of children and the engagement and well-being of families. Child and Family Services Improvement Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–288, section 7) amending Section 422(b) of the Social Security Act (42 USC 622(b))
2	The County will provide leadership for ensuring that 40.5% of children who enter foster care in a 12-month period are discharged to permanency within 12 months of entering foster care.	DHHS will work with the county to identify a performance measure for FY19-20 based on the prior fiscal year's performance.	Ensure that children in out-of-home placements are able to obtain safe and permanent homes as soon as possible after removal from their home. National Standards for State Performance on Statewide Data Indicators established by the Children's Bureau to determine conformity with Title IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act and the Child and Family Services Review.
3	The County will provide leadership for ensuring that of children who enter foster care in a 12-month period who were discharged within 12 months to reunification, kinship care, or guardianship, no more than 8.3% re-enter foster care within 12 months of their discharge.	DHHS will work with the county to identify a performance measure for FY19-20 based on the prior fiscal year's performance.	Ensure that children existing foster care are in stable homes so that they do not re-enter foster care. CFSR: Safety Outcome 1: Children are, first and foremost protected from abuse and neglect. National Standards for State Performance on Statewide Data Indicators established by the Children's Bureau to determine conformity with Title IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act and the Child and Family Services Review.
4	The County will provide leadership for ensuring that of all children who enter foster care in a 12-month period in the county, the rate of placement moves per 1000 days of foster care will not exceed 4.1%.	DHHS will work with the county to identify a performance measure for FY19-20 based on the prior fiscal year's performance.	Ensure that children who are removed from their homes experience stability while they are in foster care. CFSR: Permanency Outcome 1: Children have permanency and stability in their living situations. National Standards for State Performance on Statewide Data Indicators established by the Children's Bureau to determine conformity with Title IV-B and IV-E of the Social Security Act and the Child and Family Services Review.

ATTACHMENT III— MANDATED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS: Child Support

	Standard Measure	County Performance Measure	Rationale and Authority
	80% of paternities established or acknowledged for children born out of wedlock.	DHHS will work with the county to identify the County's performance measure for FY19-20 based on the County's performance for the preceding state fiscal year	Paternity establishment is an essential component in obtaining and enforcing support orders for children. 42 USC § 652(g)(1)(A) 42 USC § 658a(b)(6)(A) NCGS 110- 129.1
2	80% of child support cases have a court order establishing support obligations.	DHHS will work with the county to identify the County's performance measure for FY19-20 based on the County's performance for the preceding state fiscal year	A court order creates a legal obligation for a noncustodial parent to provide financial support to their children. 42 USC § 652(g)(1)(A) 42 USC § 658a(b)(6)(B) NCGS 110- 129.1
3	80% of current child support paid.	DHHS will work with the county to identify the County's performance measure for FY19-20 based on the County's performance for the preceding state fiscal year	The current collections rate is an indicator for the regular and timely payment of child support obligations. 42 USC § 652(g)(1)(A) 42 USC § 658a(b)(6)(C) NCGS 110- 129.1
4	80% of cases received a payment towards arrears.	DHHS will work with the county to identify the County's performance measure for FY19-20 based on the County's performance for the preceding state fiscal year	Collection of child support has been shown to reduce child poverty rates and improve child well-being. 42 USC § 652(g)(1)(A) 42 USC § 658a(b)(6)(D) NCGS 110- 129.1

5	The county will meet its annual goal of total child support collections.	DHHS will work with the county to identify the County's performance measure for FY19-20 based on the County's performance for the preceding state fiscal year	Measuring total child support collections is an important measure of the program because it encompasses the strength of the laws, practices, and fiscal effort to determine its effectiveness.
			42 USC § 652(g)(1)(A) 42 USC § 658a(b)(6)(E) NCGS 110-129.1

ATTACHMENT IV— MANDATED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS: Energy Programs

	Standard Measure	County Performance Measure	Rationale and Authority
1	The County will process 95% of Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) applications within one (1) business day for applicants with no heat or cooling source.	The County will process 95% of Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) applications within one (1) business day for applicants with no heat or cooling source.	Ensure that eligible individuals in a household without a heating or cooling source receive relief as soon as possible. 42 USC §§ 8621-8630 10A NCAC 71V
2	The County will process 95% of Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) applications within two (2) business days of the application date for applicants who have a heat or cooling source.	The County will process 95% of Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) applications within two (2) business days of the application date for applicants who have a heat or cooling source.	Ensure that eligible households who are in danger of losing a heating or cooling source receive financial assistance to avert the crisis. 42 USC §§ 8621-8630 10A NCAC 71V

ATTACHMENT V— MANDATED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS: Work First

	Standard Measure	County Performance Measure	Rationale and Authority
1	The County will collect documentation from 50% of all Work-Eligible individuals that demonstrates completion of the required number of hours of federally countable work activities.	DHHS will work with the county to identify the County's performance measure for FY19-20 based on the County's performance for the preceding state fiscal year	Ensure that all work-eligible individuals are engaged in federally countable work activities. TANF State Plan FFY 2016 - 2019 NCGS 108A-27.2(10) NCGS 108A-27.6(1) NCGS 108A-27.13(a) NCGS 108A-27.14(a)-(b)
2	The County will collect documentation from 90% of two-parent families with Work Eligible individuals that verifies that the they have completed the required number of hours of federally countable work activities.	DHHS will work with the county to identify the County's performance measure for FY19-20 based on the County's performance for the preceding state fiscal year	Ensure all work-eligible two-parent families are engaged in federally countable work activities for the required number of participation hours. TANF State Plan FFY 2016 - 2019 NCGS 108A-27.2(10) NCGS 108A-27.6(1) NCGS 108A-27.13(a) NCGS 108A-27.14(a)-(b)
3	The County will process 95% Work First applications within 45 days of receipt.	The County will process 95% Work First applications within 45 days of receipt.	Ensure that eligible families receive Work First benefits in a timely manner. TANF State Plan FFY 2016 - 2019 NCGS 108A-31
4	The County will process 95% Work First recertifications no later than the last day of the current recertification period.	The County will process 95% Work First recertifications no later than the last day of the current recertification period.	Ensure that Work First families continue to receive assistance and benefits without unnecessary interruption. TANF State Plan FFY 2016 - 2019 NCGS 108A-31

ATTACHMENT VI— MANDATED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS: Food and Nutrition Services

Г		County	
	Standard Measure	Performance	Rationale and Authority
L		Measure	
1	The County will process 95% of expedited FNS applications within 4 calendar days from the date of	The County will process 95% of expedited FNS	Ensure all expedited FNS applications are processed within required timeframes.
	application.	applications within 4 calendar days from	7 CFR § 273.2 FNS Manual: Section 315
		the date of application.	FNS Administrative Letter 1-2015
2	The County will process 95% of regular FNS applications within 25 days from the date of application.	The County will process 95% of regular FNS applications within 25	Ensure all regular FNS applications are processed within required timeframes. 7 CFR § 273.2
		days from the date of application.	FNS Manual: Section 315 FNS Administrative Letter1-2015
3	The County will ensure that 95% of FNS recertifications are processed on time, each month.	The County will ensure that 95% of FNS recertifications are processed on time, each month.	Ensure that eligible families have their recertification benefits processed in a timely manner without interruption. 7 CFR § 273.14
4	The County will ensure that 90% of Program Integrity claims are established within 180 days of the date of discovery.	The County will ensure that 90% of Program Integrity claims are established	Ensure allegations of fraud are addressed promptly. 7 CFR § 273.18
		within 180 days of the date of discovery.	

ATTACHMENT VII— MANDATED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS: Adult Protective Services (APS)

	Standard Measure	County Performance Measure	Rationale and Authority
1	The County will complete 95% of APS evaluations involving allegations of abuse or neglect within 30 days of the report.	DHHS will work with the county to identify the County's performance measure for FY19-20 based on the County's performance for the preceding state fiscal year	Responding quickly to allegations of adult maltreatment is essential to case decision-making to protect the adult. State law requires that a prompt and thorough evaluation is made of all reports of adult maltreatment. NCGS 108A-103
2	The County will complete 85% of APS evaluations involving allegations of exploitation within 45 days of the report.	DHHS will work with the county to identify the County's performance measure for FY19-20 based on the County's performance for the preceding state fiscal year	Protecting a disabled adult from exploitation is critical to ensuring their safety and well-being. State law requires a prompt and thorough evaluation is made of all reports of adult exploitation.
			NCGS 108A-103

ATTACHMENT VIII— MANDATED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS: Special Assistance (SA)

	Standard Measure	County Performance Measure	Rationale and Authority
1	The County will process 85% of Special Assistance for the Aged (SAA) applications within 45 calendar days of the application date.	DHHS will work with the county to identify the County's performance measure for FY19-20 based on the County's performance for the preceding state fiscal year	Ensure eligible individuals receive supplemental payments to support stable living arrangements. Timely application processing of SAA benefits is essential to an individual's proper care and treatment.
2	The County will process 85% of Special Assistance for the Disabled (SAD) applications within 60 calendar days of the application date.	DHHS will work with the county to identify the County's performance measure for FY19-20 based on the County's performance for the preceding state fiscal year	Ensure eligible individuals receive supplemental payments to support stable living arrangements. Timely application processing of SAD benefits is essential to an individual's proper care and treatment.
			10A NCAC 71P .0604

ATTACHMENT IX— MANDATED PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS: Child Care Subsidy

	Standard Measure	County Performance Measure	Rationale and Authority
1	The County will process 95% of Child Care Subsidy applications within 30	The County will process 95% of Child Care Subsidy	Ensure that families can place their children in quality child care without undue delay.
	calendar days of the application date.	applications within 30 calendar days of the application date.	North Carolina Child Care Development Fund State Plan

ATTACHMENT X— CORRECTIVE ACTION

For this MOU covering Fiscal Year 2018-2019, the Department will not initiate any actions set forth in Attachment X on the basis of this MOU.

1. Non-Compliance with performance requirements or terms of the MOU

- a. In the event a County Department of Social Services (County DSS)** fails to satisfy a performance requirement for three consecutive months or fails to comply with a term of this MOU, the Department will provide the County DSS with written notification identifying the relevant performance requirement or term and how the County DSS failed to satisfy it.
- b. Upon receipt of notification, the County DSS shall promptly provide the Department with written acknowledgment of receipt.
- c. If the County DSS does not agree that it failed to satisfy the performance requirement or comply with the terms of the MOU, it shall set forth, in writing, the basis for its disagreement. If the County DSS believes its failure to adhere to a mandated performance requirement or term of this MOU is due in whole or in part upon the failure of the Department to meet any of its responsibilities under this MOU or other external factors (i.e., limited court dates, continuances, etc.), the County DSS shall set forth in writing how the failure of the Department or external factors to meet its responsibility to the County DSS contributed to the inability of the County DSS to meet the mandated performance standard or other term of this MOU. This notice shall be received by the Department, along with all supporting documentation, within 10 business days of the County DSS' receipt of the Department's written notification of non-compliance.
- d. If written notice is received in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, the Department will provide the appropriate division director with the all documentation received. Following a review of all documentation, the division director will provide the county with a decision to proceed in developing the performance improvement plan or to rescind the notice of non-compliance.

2. Performance Improvement Plan

- a. The County DSS and Department shall work together to develop a performance improvement plan to address the non-compliance. The Parties will consider and address the County DSS's written disagreement with the identified non-compliance, if any, in the development of the performance improvement plan.
- b. The performance improvement plan shall include, at a minimum:
 - i. The role and responsibility of DHHS in providing support to the County DSS to address the non-compliance.
 - ii. The specific actions the County DSS will take to address the non-compliance and ensure ongoing compliance.
- c. The performance improvement plan shall be signed by the Department and the County DSS Director. A copy of the performance improvement plan will be sent to the chair of the DSS Governing Board.

3. Continued Non-Compliance

a. In the event a County DSS continues to fail to satisfy a performance requirement or comply with the terms of the MOU for an extended period of time and is not meeting the terms of the performance improvement plan, the County DSS and the Department will enter into a corrective action plan, not to exceed a period of twelve months. An extended period of time is defined as three consecutive months, or five months out of a twelvemonth period measured beginning with the first month after which the performance improvement plan is signed.

- b. The corrective action plan shall include, at a minimum:
 - i. A strategy to ensure regular supervisory oversight of the social services program at issue;
 - ii. A detailed strategy to ensure the issue central to the non-compliance is addressed and corrected;
 - iii. A strategy to ensure program and case documentation is both sufficient and completed within time frames prescribed by law, rule or policy; and
 - iv. A plan for the continuous review of the corrective activities by both the County Director of Social Services, the County DSS Governing Board, and the Department.
- c. The corrective action plan will be signed by the Department and the County DSS Director. A copy of the corrective action plan will be sent to the Chair of the DSS Governing Board, the County Manager, and the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners.

4. Failure to Complete Corrective Action Plan/Urgent Circumstances

- a. In the event a County DSS fails to complete the corrective action plan or otherwise fails to comply with the terms of the corrective action plan, the Department may exercise its authority under the law, and this MOU, to withhold federal and/or state funding.
- b. In circumstances of continuous extended non-compliance or other urgent circumstances, the Secretary may also exercise her statutory authority to assume control of service delivery in the County pursuant to N.C.G.S. 108A-74.
- ** In the event the performance requirement or term of the MOU falls outside of the authority of the County DSS, the notification of non-compliance will be sent to the County, and all subsequent steps contained herein shall be followed by the County.

Effective Date: This Modification Agreement shall become effective upon the date of execution by both parties and shall continue in effect until June 30, 2019.

Signature Warranty: Each individual signing below warrants that he or she is duly authorized by the party to sign this Modification Agreement and to bind the party to the terms and conditions of this Modification Agreement and the MOU.

Henderson County	North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
BY:	
Name	BY:
	Name
TITLE:	
DATE:	TITLE:
DATE	DATE.
	DATE: