

Monthly Director's Report to

Board of Social Services



February 2018

Submitted by:
Jerrie McFalls, Director

~ Late last week I received a draft copy of the: ANNUAL WRITTEN AGREEMENT (FISCAL YEAR 2018-19) BETWEEN THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND HENDERSON COUNTY. The 22 page document is mandated by GS 108A-74. It addresses the responsibilities of both DHHS and HC DSS. Mandated performance measures are included for all programs administered by DSS. There has been much discussion about the agreements. The first five pages of the agreement, which outline the Terms of the Agreement, will be reviewed by a workgroup consisting of County Commissioners, County Attorneys and others. There is substantial concern about the agreements which are required to be signed by July 1, 2018. Each DSS County Director was sent a copy.

~ Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Susan Perry Manning announced last week that P4, NC FAST in child welfare will not roll out to group 1 counties on February 26 as planned. A date for roll out has not been determined. We do not know how this date change will affect our anticipated roll out on November 26, 2018.

~ The HB 630 working group continues to meet. They have created two maps for consideration in the development of regional supervision for DSS. One of the maps has five regions and the other has seven regions. They are considering the organizational structure of the regional offices and the assignment of staff. The maps are included in your packet. Your recommendation would be appreciated.

~ Hope Rx – Substance Abuse Task Force announced “WE ARE HOPE” week activities planned for March 26th – 30th. Many activities are planned including presentations at county high schools, meetings with student government associations, a video contest, and hanging of banners at the historic courthouse. On March 28th there will be a County Commissioners Opioid Forum at the Historic Courthouse from 1 to 4 pm; March 29th Sam Quinones, journalist and author, will present at Blue Ridge Community College at 6:30 pm; and on March 30th from 7 to 9 pm there will be a candlelight vigil at the Historic Courthouse to commemorate those lost to addiction and for family members and loved ones affected by the epidemic.

Hope Rx is applying for a Drug Free Communities Program Grant. The grant, if awarded would be for up to \$125,000 per year for ten years. The Department has been asked to serve as the “Youth Serving Organization Representative” for Hope Rx.

Employees of the Month: The February Employees of the Month list is enclosed.