

Monthly Director's Report to

Board of Social Services



September 2018

Submitted by:
Jerrie McFalls, Director

~ NC Fast Child Welfare (P4): On August 22nd, during the 100 County monthly call, Susan Perry Manning (who was recently promoted to Principal Deputy Secretary of DHHS) announced that P4 would resume rollout in a compressed format. She stated, “the 11 pilot counties have taken the brunt of a system that wasn’t ready for primetime.” The compressed roll out will begin in November 2018 with the paper-based counties in the East and January 2019 for the paper-based counties in the West, including Henderson County. Readiness will begin for us in mid-October 2018 culminating in roll out on January 21, 2019 for intake and assessment cases.

I have great concern that DSS has not been provided with information on changes to the system during the pause from May '18 until the announcement in August '18 that we are moving forward. The pilot counties continue to express concern about the appropriateness of the system for child welfare and continue to struggle daily in using the system. Training will be provided through both the sandbox and Instructor lead sessions. Staff will have to travel to training in December. NCACDSS plans to develop an organized approach to advocacy around this issue.

~ The Social Services Workgroup(SSWG) has resumed their meetings. They participated in a webinar on August 30, 2018 to review feedback related to inter-county collaboration and to establish their meeting schedule and work plan. They met for a full day meeting on September 4, 2018. “In Stage Two, the SSWG is charged with

- * Developing recommendations regarding legislative and regulatory changes necessary to improve collaboration between counties in the administration of social services programs and services. The recommendations must address, at a minimum, information sharing, conflicts of interest, and inter-county movement of people enrolled in programs or receiving social services.
- * Developing a vision for transitioning the State from a county-administered system to a regionally- administered system. The vision must identify general benefits and challenges associated with making such a transition.”

The School of Government has released a synthesis of the feedback they received on inter-county collaboration. Feedback on regional administration will be synthesized and shared in several weeks.

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