

Monthly Director's Report to Board of Social Services



February 2017

Submitted by:
Jerrie McFalls, Director

- Melinda Lowrance, our esteemed DSS Board member was featured in an article in the Blue Ridge Living section of The Times News on Sunday, February 12, 2017. The article was well written and captured Melinda's many attributes. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Lowrance for her numerous contributions to our community.
- The DSS lobby is now equipped with a public service video which includes several short segments on CPR for infants and children masterminded by Dr. Jennifer Hensley, also our DSS Board member. Additional public service announcements and information about the county have been added to create a twenty five minute loop providing an educational opportunity for visitors in our lobby. Special thanks to Dr. Hensley!
- The Partnership for Health facilitated a community discussion on mental health needs in Henderson County to be used to develop a Mental Health Plan. Kevin Marino and I attended and look forward to working with this group to increase services available to our county residents.
- The budget for FY 17/18 is progressing nicely. We will continue to meet with our budget committee until the budget is approved by the DSS Board and presented to the County Manager's office.
- Family Centered Treatment (FCT) is an intensive intervention we offer to approved families involved in child custody cases. We contract with SPARC for this service. A birth family who succeeded in having their children returned to their care presented to the Social Work staff on how this intervention made a tremendous difference in their lives and enabled them to do the difficult work involved in meeting established goals for reunification. It was amazing to hear from the parents and maternal grandparents about the many things they learned and how this intervention helped prepare them to be appropriate parents.
- NC Fast Child Welfare work is continuing. A work group has recommended Diona Investigator as the mobile app. We have not received any additional information on Northwoods as the document management system.

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

Attachments:

- I. Employees of the Month