

Monthly Director's Report to

Board of Social Services



May 2018

Submitted by:
Jerrie McFalls, Director

~ The County Manager's recommended budget for FY18/19 has been posted to the Henderson County website. Included for DSS are the social worker position we requested to support the implementation of NC Fast in child welfare (P-4) and a vehicle to replace an existing older one. The County Commissioners will have a budget workshop on May 16th starting at 9am.

~ We have ordered iPads for our Social Work staff in preparation for NC Fast (P-4). Currently the iPads will be used during home visits and face to face contacts outside of the office for documentation and form completion. At the time we "go live" in NC Fast there will be a mobile app available to investigator/assessors.

~ There continues to be much concern about P-4 across the state. Even if currently identified enhancements and defects are resolved, there remains a system functionality problem. The biggest concern is that child protection will be impaired by NC Fast. Counties that are participating in the pilot have stated that there are daily challenges and the system is driving practice. Currently there are 52 pages of job aids associated with P-4 that workers must refer to when entering a child welfare case in NC Fast. The job aids are organized by the date they were established and the most current are on top. I have included a few pages in your packet as an example of the Job Aid document.

~ State/County Agreements: In your packet you will find a copy of the final draft of the State/County Agreement that was mandated by Session Law 2017-14 (HB 630). Each county will be required to sign the agreement before July 1, 2018. The agreements are the same for all 100 counties except for the child support performance measure. These measures were implemented several years ago and are adjusted based on previous years' performance. One significant addition to the final draft is Attachment XI- Corrective Action. This section outlines a process to be followed should a DSS not meet any measure as outlined. This is an important section since failure to comply may result in DHHS withholding federal and/or state funding or the Secretary may exercise the statutory authority to assume control of service delivery in the County.