

COMMISSIONER UPDATES - #3

SUBJECT: Fostering Hopes

PRESENTER: Vice-Chair McCall

ATTACHMENTS: Yes

1. PowerPoint

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Vice-Chair McCall has requested the inclusion of an item discussing foster care in our area. Alex Williams, President of Fostering Hopes, will be present to provide information on their work and initiatives in this field.

The Board is requested to discuss, and direct staff accordingly.



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Mission Statement

Fostering Hopes exists to improve the lives and lifelong outcomes of children in Foster Care.



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WHY WE ARE NEEDED

The ever-growing Foster Care crisis is straining an already overwhelmed system. Children face uncertain futures and multiple moves, often far from home. Foster families burn out. Costs are soaring as governments struggle to keep up with the challenges faced.



"95% OF ALL CHILDREN
IN FOSTER CARE
EXPERIENCE AT LEAST
ONE PLACEMENT
DISRUPTION"

"NATIONALLY, MORE
THAN HALF OF
FOSTER PARENTS
QUIT IN THEIR FIRST
YEAR"

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WHY WE ARE NEEDED

Foster Care is the hidden root cause for so many of the broad social issues we face in society today.

Unless we make meaningful changes to how to deal with the foster care crisis, we will continue to be faced with significant economic and societal challenges.



"20% OF FOSTER
CHILDREN WILL
INSTANTLY BECOME
HOMELESS WHEN
THEY TURN 18"

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WHAT IS THE NEED?

"80% OF INMATES INCARCERATED IN OUR PRISONS ARE FORMER FOSTER YOUTH"

"60% OF ALL SEX TRAFFICKED PEOPLE ARE CURRENT OR FORMER FOSTER YOUTH"



"50% OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGING OUT WILL DEVELOP A SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCE"*

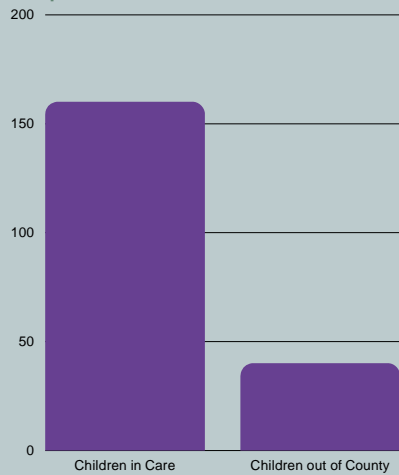
"70% OF GIRLS IN FOSTER CARE WILL BECOME PREGNANT BY THE AGE 21"

<http://www.fostercare2.org/ask-the-pros-2>, <https://nfyi.org/issues/sex-trafficking/#:~:text=Foster%20Youth%20and%20sex%20trafficking%3A%20Facts%20%26%20Figures&text=The%20FBI%20estimates%20sex%20trafficking%20care%20or%20group%20homes>, <https://nfyi.org/51-useful-aging-out-of-foster-care-statistics-social-race-media/>

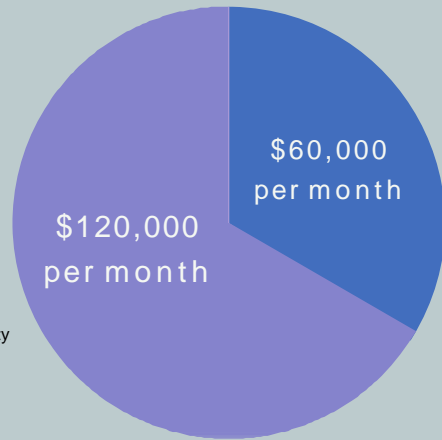
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Our Value

In addition to the community support, Fostering Hopes commits to recruiting 10 additional homes per year for the Henderson DSS Foster Care program to license. Why is that important?



Approx Cost Out of County 66.7%



Approx Cost in County 33.3%

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40 children placed out of County is costing the Department an additional \$1.4 million per year. Simply getting 10 additional homes licensed in County, averaging 1.5 placements per home per year, would save the County \$500,000 per year.



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HOW WE WILL MEET THE NEED

- Develop Foster Care Ministries with church, community, and business partners ('Hubs').
- Provide staff to support Hub partners to help direct, encourage, and implement programs.
- Facilitate and connect Hubs and partner agencies to meet the direct needs of families and children in the community.
- Contract with local DSS agencies to recruit families to meet specific placement needs and reduce out-of-County placements.



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HOW WE WILL MEET THE NEED

- Provide training to the community to increase understanding of Foster Care, trauma, and challenges faced by children, foster families, and biological families.
- Empower the community to recognize that everyone can have a role to play in the Foster Care system, beyond simply taking children into your home.
- Collect and present evidence-based data and statistics to educate governments and communities on the far-reaching impacts and long-term implications of inefficiencies in the Foster Care system.



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Expected Outcomes

- Increase in licensed foster homes in-County
- Decrease of children placed out-of-County
- Increase in placement stability
- Increase in foster parent retention
- Brighter futures for foster children



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Future Growth and Vision

Fostering Hopes has a multi-year, statewide vision to impact positively and improve the Foster Care system.

After successfully showing our proof of work, Fostering Hopes plans to expand statewide, working with County directors, NC DHHS, and state legislators to implement our program in order to bring the work of Fostering Hopes to all 100 Counties.



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Next Steps

If you are interested in taking the next steps in becoming a partner of Fostering Hopes, please contact Alex Williams:

awilliams@fosteringhopes.org

828-630-8413

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