

# Monthly Director's Report to

## Board of Social Services



April 2018

Submitted by:  
Jerrie McFalls, Director

- ~ Our Henderson County Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution on Monday April 2, 2018 declaring April as CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH. Look for the blue pinwheels around our Spartanburg Highway sign.
- ~ Before recessing Congress passed the spending bill covering the remainder of this fiscal year ending September 30, 2018. The Social Service Block Grant (SSBG) is included in the bill. Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) and Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) were also funded.
- ~ We participated in the County Commissioners Opioid Forum last week. Kevin presented on the effects of drug misuse on our children, families and adult clients. The forum was well received and made an impact on the participants.
- ~ We were notified by Northwoods that they are not able to provide a cost proposal for counties who wish to federate their documents required by NC Fast because the state is not able to answer key questions that would allow Northwoods to determine an accurate cost to “build a bridge” between counties and the state. As you know, our supporting documents for economic services programs (Medicaid and food & nutrition services) are currently stored in Northwoods/ Compass. Without a bridge we will need to convert all of those documents to NC Fast. Work continues to determine the best, most efficient plan for document management.
- ~ We met with our state OST consultant regarding our Medicaid program. We have been granted a waiver for the report card for the months of January and February 2018. This means the state concluded the reasons for our performance were warranted due to sickness, absences, FMLA etc. We successfully passed the March report card and are on track for April. We are looking at applications and recertification’s that are due each and every day and are being proactive in addressing any issues preventing our success in completing applications timely and accurately.
- ~ The Social Service Work Group (SSWG) established by the General Assembly in HB 630/ SL 2017-41 has released the report regarding “recommendations for improving state supervision of the county-administered social service system through the use of a new system of regional state offices.” The report was presented to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC) on April 10, 2018. The SSWG will convene on May 2, 2018 to begin discussion about regionally administered county systems. At this point counties can choose to regionalize with other counties. The SSWG will recommend the feasibility of requiring regional county administered programs.
- ~ JLOC stressed the importance of an “integrated data system” to produce a dashboard for each county DSS that is accurate and is helpful when families move from county to county. Secretary Cohen clarified that the system referenced is NC Fast.
- ~ The North Carolina General Assembly will reconvene on May 16, 2018.

**Employees of the Month:** The April Employees of the Month list is enclosed.