

Monthly Director's Report to Board of Social Services



November 2019

Submitted by:
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~ The General Assembly returned to Raleigh on November 13, 2019. The primary focus is on redistricting, but some other bills could pass. If there is not a budget passed by Friday (Nov 15) then Medicaid Transformation will likely be “paused.” The General Assembly plans to return on January 14, 2020 although they may meet in December. We continue to wait for the decision about Medicaid Transformation.

~ A bipartisan bill to support transformation of child welfare was introduced in the US House and Senate on November 5, 2019. The “Family First Transition Act” will help states transform their child welfare systems and keep more children safely at home, instead of placing them in foster care; and will provide financial support for the Families First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) passed last year. This legislation will provide states with the tools to successfully implement the FFPSA. NC could receive 17.1 million dollars if this bill becomes law. The Family First Prevention Services Act supports states in providing evidence-based services to prevent children from entering foster care, encourages states to place children with foster families instead of in group homes, reduces bureaucracy, and provides help to relatives so more children can live with extended family if they must be removed from their homes.

~ Both our Social Work and Economic Benefits sections are evaluating their programs and staffing. We did not receive additional positions in this year’s budget, so we are considering other ways to meet our responsibility to our clients. In some programs we are considering ways to redesign specific positions to provide more efficient services and to cross train additional staff.

~ Our staff chose to order shirts or a blanket with the county logo on them this year in lieu of having an agency Christmas luncheon. We will celebrate with the other County departments at the County Luncheon.

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