

Monthly Director's Report to Board of Social Services



July 2020

Submitted by:
Jerrie McFalls, Director

~ The Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) and the Community Child Protection Team (CCPT) will meet on July 23, 2020 via Microsoft Teams. We did not meet in March or May 2020 due to COVID.

~ Session Law 2020-4 passed by the NC General Assembly appropriated Federal Cares Act funding to county Departments of Social Services to support Child Protective Services/Adult Protective Services costs. The funds are available effective March 1, 2020 and must be expensed by December 30, 2020. The funds can be used for “unbudgeted costs associated with pandemic-driven workforce shortfalls”. Examples of this are overtime, paid comp time and temporary/time limited worker costs. Henderson County DSS has received a funding authorization for \$116,518 based on 1216 cases.

~ The USDA recently denied two waiver extensions requested by NC DHHS regarding Food and Nutrition benefits. The waiver requests were: 1) to eliminate the interview required at initial application and for recertifications during the month of July 2020 and 2) to adjust periodic reporting requirements for ongoing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) households during the month of July 2020. These two waivers were previously active as a result of COVID-19. Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary of NCDHHS requested an extension of the previous adjustments due to the continued increase in the number of positive cases in NC and the reduced capacity of DSS offices due to COVID-19. Please refer to the enclosed chart for specific information.

~ The additional 19 offices and conference room space is scheduled to be completed on July 17, 2020. Furniture will be delivered on July 20th and moves will start soon afterwards. Our Child Support Unit will be moving into the building from the Court Services Building. With this move all staff will be housed at DSS except two Medicaid staff that work at Pardee and Advent Hospitals and one Medicaid staff that works at the health department.

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