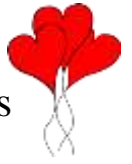




NCACBSS Newsletter

NC Association of County Boards of Social Services
"Charting the Path for the Future"



February, March 2016

Mary S. Accor- Editor

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In This Issue

Association Updates
Legislative Goals 2015-2016
Happenings:
Spotlighting Counties:

Contact Us:

<http://www.ncacbss.org>

for the following
NCACBSS information:
Legislative Updates
Advocacy Updates
Calendar
Member Benefits



Happy Easter!



The mission of the North Carolina Association of County Boards of Social Services is to inform, educate, and empower Board members to become more aware of their duties and responsibilities.



Benefits of being a NCACBSS Member.....



- Opportunity to become part of a coalition of members to help support or defeat legislation as appropriate during the legislative sessions.
- Access to education and training programs.
- Participation in an information network for members regarding issues affecting the administration and financing of social services programs.
- Participation in a forum for exchanging of information and ideas among their fellow County Board Members.
- Access to tools and help aids to local County Board Members.
- Access to The Links Newsletter, distributed to members.
- Access to the website, including exclusive member-only content, for easy access to pertinent information.
- Response to member needs via a strategic plan.
- Access to your county representative on the Board to share ideas, bring issues, and share best practices.
- Access to LBR resources.
- Access to advocate



Legislative Goals 2015-16

NC Social Services Consortium Legislative Goals FY 2015-16 Legislative Session

Goal 1: Increase funding for Services to vulnerable Older And Disabled Adults

Why? Adult Protective Services (APS) is a service provided for vulnerable older and disabled adults who are at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation. In FY 2014, 22,824 reports were received; 11,311 evaluated; 44% substantiated. There was 34% increase in the number of reports received over the last 5 years. Guardianship for Adults – County departments of social services by law serve as the public guardians in the absence of appropriate, willing, and responsible family members or friends.

Request: \$5 million in state funds for Adult Protective Services to meet the growing needs and \$2.7 million in state funds for Guardianship for Adults to support 36 FTEs to meet the recommended caseload ratio of 1 FTE: 22 wards. The State contributes 4% of the overall funding and the remainder is federal and county funds. In FY 2014 County DSS Directors served as guardian for 4328 wards.

Supporters: NCA County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS), NCA of County Boards of Social Services (NCACBSS), NC Social Services Association (NCSSA), NC Coalition on Aging, NASW, AARP, NC Justice Center, Senior Tar Heel Legislature, NCACC has adopted a similar goal to advocate for adequate state funding for services to vulnerable older adults and disabled adults needing protective and public guardianship services.

Goal 2: Implement A Statewide Case Management System For Child and Adult Protective Services

Why? To provide the necessary tools for counties to view information on families and adults from county to county and to enhance the protection of vulnerable children and adults from abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Request: Additional State funds to implement an electronic case management system.

Supporters: NCACDSS, NCACBSS, NCSSA, NASW, NC Pediatric Society, NC Justice Center, Benchmarks, NCACC has adopted a similar goal to advocate for implementation of statewide case management system(s) for both Child Welfare and Adult Protective Services.

Goal 3: Advocate To Preserve Federal Block Grants and State Aid To Counties For County-Administered Programs and oppose Unfunded Workload Mandates

Why? Any reductions in federal block grants will impact mandated services and increase unfunded mandates on Counties.

Request: No further reductions to federal block grants to Counties and the reallocation of additional TANF/SSBG funds to fill the current funding cuts for federally mandated services.

Supporters: NCACDSS, NCACBSS, NCSSA, NASW, NC Association of Local Health Directors, NC Justice Center, and NCACC has adopted a similar goal to oppose shifting or cutting money from federal and state block grants.

Goal 4: Advocate To Change State CPS Funding of 4.8 Million From Non-Reoccurring to Reoccurring

Why? Protecting children from abuse and neglect is our highest priority and the continued increase in the number of children entering the system of care will mean that the caseloads will not decrease.

Request: Maintain current State CPS Funding of \$4.8 million in the FY 15-17 State Budget for CPS staff.

Supporters: NCACDSS, NCACBSS, NCSSA, NASW, NC Pediatric Society, NC Justice Center, Benchmarks



Thank you for supporting your association!



January Executive Board Meeting held via Conference Call

The Board of Directors met via conference call due to inclement weather on Friday, January 22, 2016. Items on the agenda included the following:

- *An introduction of each new and tenured Board Member*
- *Report from Wayne Black*
- *Report from Dr. Greg Minton- Consolidated Boards*
- *Evaluation results of our 2015 Board Member Training and Annual Meeting.*
- *Updating the NCACBSS website & Newsletter*
- *Upcoming Legislative Session: What to expect*
- *Filling Vacancies of Officers & Board*
- *Appointment of Board Members to Standing Committees.*
- *Strengthening our advocacy/lobbying efforts.*
- *Reimbursement guidelines.*
- *Increased use of NCSSA and The Directors Association.*



NEXT BOARD MEETING:
MARCH 18th
 Cutting Board Restaurant
 Burlington, NC
 10:00 am- 2:00 pm

SPOTLIGHTING COUNTIES...

Cleveland County Salutes
Jewell S. Wilson
~For 60 Years of Service~
Cleveland County Department of Social Services



Recently, The Cleveland County Board of Commissioners honored County Employees, in appreciation for their service, with a luncheon and recognitions. **Several DSS employees were honored.....**The Cleveland County DSS Board of Directors congratulates each of these and all DSS employees for exemplary service! JOB WELL DONE!



★ Please submit newsletter information to msaccor@carolina.rr.com by the next deadline: April 15, 2016 Let's keep our newsletter growing!!!!!!!!!!!! ★