



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

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Courier # 56-20-25 Fax 919-334-1018

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

Sherry S. Bradsher, Director
(919) 733-3055

July 8, 2010

Dear DSS Director:

On behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Division of Social Services is asking for local DSS's cooperation with the General Assembly's Program Evaluation Division (PED) in its study of county DSS functional consolidation opportunities.

The PED was directed by a special provision in last year's state budget to investigate what barriers exist to functional consolidation of DSS administration and what cost-savings could accrue from consolidation. Please find attached a brief handout that describes PED and its study purpose and methodology. As evidenced by the attached, extensive county input is needed and desired to inform this study appropriately. The Division of Social Services will be providing input to the PED regarding the formation of both DSS Director focus groups and select agency site visits. The Division's goal will be to assure that as many directors as possible have the opportunity to provide information and feedback throughout this study.

The Division met early on with PED staff and attended the kick off meeting along with representation from NCACC where both of us emphasized county preference for local flexibility in organizing human services. Given the county's role and responsibility for human services administration and the program supervision provided by the Department, PED has asked both of us to be engagement partners in the DSS study, which in essence provides us the opportunity to review and comment on the study's findings and recommendations prior to public dissemination.

Please let us know if you have any questions or comments. The Division will be providing regular updates regarding the study at the State/County Relations monthly meetings as well as updates to the Executive Committee. On behalf of the Department, we appreciate your help in this important study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sherry S. Bradsher".

Sherry Bradsher

cc: County Managers
DSS Directors

DIR-03-2010