



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

325 North Salisbury Street • Raleigh, North Carolina 27603
Courier # 56-20-25

Michael F. Easley, Governor
Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

Sherry Bradsher, Director
(919) 733-3055

September 28, 2007

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES:

SUBJECT: LOCAL NETWORK SECURITY

The purpose of this letter is to alert you to recent developments in Information Technology (IT) infrastructure design that could have impacted the security of your DSS Local Area Network (LAN).

There is a statewide project underway called Enterprise Services Access Point (ESAP). This will provide a centralized security model for every access point to the state network, including all county DSSs. It is designed to isolate and secure state network traffic from that being routed to other agencies and to the public through a web site.

ESAP is a highly technical project that will be transparent to local DSS operations. However, there could be a problem with the structure of your county's local networks that could impact the security of the state network, in spite of ESAP.

In recent years there has been a move towards sharing county IT resources among different agencies. This can save money and enable better communications. However, security issues can arise if the county places resources inside the DSS network. Examples would be using the DSS file server to run a public web site or a county e-mail system. Both would leave the county DSS and the entire state network exposed to a variety of malicious attacks.

Your county's IT Director, or other person responsible for IT, should verify that your county IT department has not used DSS resources in such a fashion. If they have any questions about your network security, they should direct them to the DHHS Privacy and Security Office. The contact people are Pyreddy Reddy, phone 919-855-3090, e-mail Pyreddy.Reddy@ncmail.net or Scott Gardner, phone 919-855-3188, e-mail Scott.Gardner@ncmail.net

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry S. Bradsher".

Sherry S. Bradsher

PM-REM-06-2007