



A Future Oriented Source of Leadership

THE NC ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY DIRECTORS OF SOCIAL SERVICES (NCACDSS) OPPOSES MANDATORY REGIONALIZATION



While NCACDSS supports many areas of the legislation, we believe that the best way forward is through maintaining county administered social services.

DSS Directors are legally responsible for the delivery of child welfare in NC. Based on our experience and the experience of other states, we believe that regionalization will further fragment the system, weaken the safety net in each county, and place children and families at unnecessary risk.

ACTION NEEDED:

- The most pressing need is to remain focused on implementation of the Child Welfare Strategic Plan as enhanced by the Roadmap for Program Improvement and the Federally approved Program Improvement Plan. Working toward a regionalized system without addressing the necessary infrastructure improvements puts everyone at risk.
- Advocate for the time and resources to support implementation of the Legislative mandated Strategic Plan including the practice model. To strengthen the Child Welfare System the State must provide a stable, adequate funding base, adequate supervision, and training.
- Educate the General Assembly, County Commissioners and our communities:
 - National research and data does not show that privatization or regionalized child welfare systems will result in improved outcomes or improved performance relative to the Child and Family Service Review (CFSR)
 - Community safety nets will be compromised by a regional system
 - Community partnerships will be eroded by a regional system
 - Children and families will best be served by increasing local flexibility and strengthening local presence and response
- Regionalization will place additional financial burden on counties. The legislation provides authority to the State to require counties to cover ANY cost the State deems necessary. This equates to an open ended potential financial liability that counties will be unable to project or plan for.