

# Social Services: Legislative Update

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UNC  
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# Overview

- Public guardianship
- Public assistance
- Financial exploitation
- Child support



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# Public Guardianship



DHHS/DAAS  
Task Force

Joint Legislative  
HHS Oversight  
Committee

# Public Guardianship

- Additional info in status reports
  - Residence, education, employment, etc.
  - Efforts to restore competency, seek alternatives to guardianship, identify alternative guardians; and
  - Any recommendations re: limited guardianship



# Public Guardianship

- Study re: conflicts of interest
  - Directs DHHS to study conflicts that may arise when DSS involved in child welfare case and appointed guardian of a parent/caretaker
  - Options to consider
    - Firewalls within the county DSS
    - Buddy system for guardianship
    - Corporate guardians assume responsibility
    - State assumes responsibility
    - Identify another public official to serve as DPA

# Public Guardianship

- Study re: conflicts of interest

Are there other options that should be considered?

- Corporate guardians assume responsibility
- State assumes responsibility
- Identify another public official to serve as DPA

# Public Guardianship

- Improvements/Study
  - DHHS to work with AOC re: plan regarding evaluation of complaints related to public guardians
  - Plan re: transitioning wards from one guardian to another
  - Study issues related to guardian as paid service provider





# Public Assistance

Child care  
subsidy

- Changes to eligibility would remove some with higher incomes and add some from wait list

Special  
Assistance

- Changes to eligibility; realize savings

Funding for  
drug-testing

- Work First; “reasonably suspects” that engaged in illegal use
- Requirement goes into effect 8/1/2014

Eastern  
Band

- May assume responsibility for SNAP and other programs pending federal approval

# Financial Exploitation?

- Expands scope of criminal FE statute
  - Any older adult (65+)
  - DSS Director duties still limited to disabled adults
- Increases access to information from financial institutions
  - Mandatory reporting
  - DSS or LE may subpoena records; must notify customer of subpoena or obtain order for delayed notice
- Authorizes freezing assets

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  - Any older a
  - DSS Direct
- Increases a financial ins
  - Mandatory
  - DSS or LE customer or suspect or obtain order for delayed notice
- Authorizes freezing assets

**DSS may seek an administrative search and inspection warrant?**

# Child Support Enforcement?

- Program Evaluation Division report released July 2014
- Recommend
  - Some of the federal incentive payments should be retained by state to improve support
  - Counties should be required to document that incentive payments are being used to improve program
  - Counties should maintain same level of funding
- Increasing state oversight role?

# Questions?