

Social Services Working Group Proposed Stage Two Work Plan

Charge – S.L. 2017-41

- Develop recommendations regarding legislative and regulatory changes necessary to improve collaboration between counties in the administration of social services programs and services. Recommendations shall address, at a minimum, information sharing, conflicts of interest, and intercounty movement of people enrolled in programs or receiving social services.
- Develop a vision for transitioning the State from a county-administered system to a regionally administered system. The vision must identify general benefits and challenges associated with making such a transition.
- SSWG Stage Two Report due to legislature by February 1, 2019.

Proposed Plan

May-August

The primary goal over the summer is to gather relevant information from the following stakeholders about the two elements of the Charge (improving collaboration, vision for regional administration).

- Social Services Directors
 - Preliminary survey to be sent in mid-May to gather perspectives on both issues
 - SOG will synthesize survey results
 - Facilitated discussions at the annual legal conference (6/27-28) will allow directors to build on those results
- Social Services Attorneys
 - Focus groups at the summer conference to discuss barriers to collaboration and potential solutions (7/26-27)
- County Commissioners
 - Focus group with commissioners from across the state to discuss the vision for regional administration (date TBD)
- Boards of Social Services
 - Focus group with board members from across the state to discuss the vision for regional administration (date TBD)

- Open and Mixed Focus Groups: We will extend invitations to all of the other stakeholders identified in the legislation to participate in online focus groups¹ (dates TBD)
 - Two focus groups on collaboration
 - Two focus groups on the vision for regional administration
 - If demand is high, additional focus groups will be organized
- Social Services Commission
 - Consult with the Commission Members at one of their upcoming meetings (date TBD)
- Public survey
 - Post a survey on the microsite to solicit feedback from the general public about both issues

The SOG will take the lead on this information gathering but would appreciate involvement from SSWG members, especially when their stakeholder groups are engaged in discussion. For example, it would be helpful to have all three DSS directors who are SSWG members at the summer conference to hear each of the focus group discussions. It would be helpful to have at least two of the county commissioners on the SSWG listening in to the commissioner focus group.

September-October

SOG will share information gathered over the summer and the SSWG will begin developing recommendations about improving inter-county collaboration. Upon request of the SSWG Co-Chairs, SOG will assist with preparing draft legislation to accompany this section of SSWG's Stage Two Report.

October-November

SOG will share information gathered over the summer related to transitioning from a county-administered social services system to a regionally-administered system. SSWG will use this information to develop a vision for making such a transition. The SSWG is not charged with presenting legislation for this section of the report.

December-January

SSWG will draft and finalize the Stage Two Report. In order for it to be prepared in time for the February 1 deadline, the content must be finalized by mid-January.

¹ Stakeholder groups identified in the legislation that will be invited to participate in these focus groups include: the Guardian ad Litem Program, the Office of Indigent Defense Services, the NC Partnership for Children, Inc., Disability Rights of NC, Benchmarks NC, the NC Association of Local Health Directors, the NC Council of Community Programs, the NC Emergency Management Association, the NC Child Support Council, the NC Pediatric Society, and AARP-NC.