

HAYWOOD COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



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Ira Dove
Director

Good afternoon. Following are a limited amount of practice tips – some learned the hard way – that may help you work better with your LME and local Mental Health Providers. Please understand that many DSS attorneys excel in these things, that lead to good provider relations. Feel free to pass this along to all attorneys who practice in your locale.

1. Remember that the relationship between the LME, the local Mental Health Providers and your agency is important. Work on it. For your colleagues in other offices, this relationship is important to their clients, work together.
2. Learn to communicate with the providers in your area by speaking their language.
3. Respect the providers time. The more time a provider sits in court, the less people that provider helps, including the clients in your other cases. Hint: Standby subpoenas and witness coordinators make the world more beautiful.
4. Ask before your subpoena – this way you get the witnesses and evidence you need and keep people happier.
5. Tell the provider what you need from the evaluation, and opinions and testimony before the evaluation.
6. Listen to what the provider can and cannot do in a treatment setting.
7. Advocate for best practices for your families by addressing the quality of service with your LME.
8. Work together for appropriate resources to help the children and adults in your community address the needs that you know are present.

*“Dedicated to support, protect, and enhance
quality of life in our community”*