From:	Nancy Warren
To:	Social Services Working Group
Cc:	Joan Pellettier; Rosalyn Pettyford
Subject:	feedback re. proposed regional maps
Date:	Monday, February 19, 2018 1:34:39 PM

Greetings - I see now that feedback was due Friday, Feb. 16. If my feedback is too late to be included in tomorrow's webinar, I hope the feedback will be useful at some future point.

This feedback relates specifically to how the proposed regional maps might impact the effectiveness of the provision of Adult Protective Services, as I'm representing the NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse. My feedback comes from many years of experience in the field of APS at the local, regional, and state level; first as a county dss adult services supervisor, then as the State's APS consultant, followed by serving as an Adult Programs Representative for 2 regional offices, and finally, as the State's APS Administrator. I'm also an active member of the National Adult Protective Services Association.

From a purely workload issue, the 7 region map seems more manageable in order to accomplish the purposes of "providing staff, technical assistance, and support to counties in a more coordinated, collaborative, and community-specific manner".

Given the lack of state and federal funding specifically for APS, the notion that there can be "consistency in program administration across counties" is very difficult to achieve. Currently, nearly 80% of funding for local APS programs comes from county dollars. So, as you can imagine, a low wealth county may choose to put very little funding into the local APS service; while a neighboring county with a different tax base or different priorities may choose to put much more funding into the program, allowing for better trained APS staff, more services to provide protection, right down to enough boots on the ground to provide the APS service as required by statute and rules.

And that's the bare minimum..."supporting innovation and best practice development" is challenging for the same reason - a recent presentation by the Catawba County APS program at the DHHS Oversight Subommittee on Aging revealed (to me) the difference an infusion of county dollars can make. Catawba DSS takes steps not required by statute and rules to ensure that vulnerable adults receive protection. A best practice that is made possible by county dollars.

One final point - APS programs need access to the court system to fully comply with statute - specifically to improve the appropriate use of APS Orders (through district court judges) and the prosecution of perpetrators of abuse, neglect, and exploitation (through the district attorney).

I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and look forward to continued participation in the work of the SSWG.

Nancy Warren