

## **Comment from Sunshine Parker, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians**

**From:** Barbara Parker <[barbpark@nc-chokeee.com](mailto:barbpark@nc-chokeee.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 9, 2018 4:21:56 PM

**To:** Kelly, Ryan Frances

**Subject:** RE: Social Services Working Group - Proposed Regional Maps

Hi Ryan,

I reviewed the maps and my initial thoughts are below:

1. The proposed western region in both maps is too large. A better grouping would be Cherokee, Graham, Clay, Macon, Jackson and Haywood in their own region.
2. This grouping of counties is the better grouping of a judicial district. The proposed maps combines us with the 24<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, and 29<sup>th</sup>.
3. Being in the same region as Buncombe is particularly concerning as Buncombe has a large DSS workload and would probably require more support which could become a detriment to the smaller counties. Haywood already has a large DSS workload and combining that with Buncombe would be a strain on regional staff.
4. The grouping of counties I propose would also provide support to a very rural region of NC and one that is in desperate need of better supports from the state.
5. The six counties I would propose grouping into their own region cover a large land area and I think would require more time to support than most would expect. Most locations are 45 mins to an hour apart county to county.
6. These six counties also reflect the natural network of the western region and the regions that work most with the EBCI.
7. These six counties also encompass the lands of the EBCI.

Let me know if you have any questions or need anything else from me.

Sunshine