Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group

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Today's Plan

- Minutes
- Proposed Maps – Update
- Preparation for 2/27 – Homework
- Next Steps

PROPOSED MAPS: OVERVIEW OF FEEDBACK

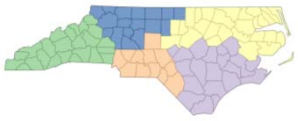
How Many?

- 40 respondents total
  - Majority were county representatives (e.g., DSS director, county manager, commissioner)
  - Others were from
    - Fort Bragg
    - Nat'l Ass'n of Social Workers
    - North Carolina Justice Center
    - Councils of Government
    - Children's Home Society of NC
    - NC Partnership to Address Adult Abuse

Reminder

Both maps optimized for strength of network relationships, then tailored to conform to judicial districts and minimize population differences

Map 1: Five regions



Map 2: Seven regions

Number of Regions

- Which did they prefer?
  - 10 preferred Map 1 (5 regions)
  - 23 preferred Map 2 (7 regions)
- Some advocated for more regions to allow for increased connection between regional staff and counties and shorter distances
- Some supported fewer/larger regions because they would have more resources, staff and expertise

Positives

Map 1 (5)

- Fewer regions = more efficient use of resources; less drain on central office
- Better for military/tribal communities

Map 2 (7)

- Fewer counties per region = better support for counties
- Shorter travel distances

Negative Comments – Both

- Not aligned with regional system for contracts with private child welfare agencies
- Alignment with judicial districts over-identifies regional supervision with protective services; not relevant for economic services
- Should align with
  - COGs/AAAs
  - Metropolitan Statistical Areas
  - LME/MCOs

- Should be based on the number of people served in each region, not total population
- Should be based on travel time, not geographical size

Other General Comments

- Regions need high-quality staff
- Regions need adequate funding
- Premature because important systems are in flux (e.g., judicial districts, Medicaid reform)
- Should partner with COGs because of existing infrastructure and experience

Specific Suggestions – Map 2

- Should not separate Durham and Wake
- Should not separate judicial districts 6 and 7
- Should not separate Cumberland, Harnett, Moore, Hoke into three regions because of military presence
- Should move Surry to western region (MCO alignment)

Questions?

PREPARATION FOR NEXT MEETING

SSWG Homework (2/8)

- SSWG charge: Identify "options for authorizing the board of county commissioners to intervene in urgent situations to assume direct control of the department of social services at the local level prior to the State assuming direct control of service delivery pursuant to G.S. 108A-74."
- Temporary assumption of administration is an extreme remedy
- ***What options should be available at the local level to help address concerns earlier and hopefully avoid TAA?***

New Homework (2/20)

- If you missed webinar on 2/8, view recording (posted under "Minutes")
- Three assignments
  - Identify challenges or concerns that make local governance and oversight less than ideal
  - Identify strategies for improving local governance and oversight prior to state assumption of administration
  - Do the strategies align with the challenges/concerns?

Questions?

Upcoming Meetings (Stage One)

- Tuesday, February 27
  - In-person meeting
  - Extended meeting time: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
  - Relationships with BOCC
  - Revise map
- Monday, March 12
  - In-person meeting
  - 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
  - Review draft report
- Monday, March 19
  - Probably in-person
  - Hold 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
  - Review draft/final report
- Friday, March 23
  - Possible online meeting
  - Hold 10 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

SSWG Information

SOG's Social Services Website

- https://www.sog.unc.edu/resources/microsites/social-services
- "Social Services Working Group" menu