Social Services Working Group Preparation for 2/27 Meeting

Assignment #1

Identify challenges or concerns that make <u>local governance and oversight</u> (i.e., supervision) less than ideal. Note that we are asking you to think beyond just the role of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). We want you to step back and consider the local system composed of the agency, social services governing body, and BOCC. Remember that various stakeholders may contribute to the concern or challenge, including individual DSS staff, the DSS director, the DSS board, the county manager, the Board of County Commissioners, or others involved with the system. The challenge or concern may stem from a challenge that is internal to the agency or county or a broader issue facing the community or the profession, such as political dynamics, economic climate, or difficulty attracting a skilled workforce. Think expansively about the individual, systemic, and environmental issues that negatively impact local governance and oversight.

Assignment #2

Identify strategies to improve local governance and oversight of social services prior to the State assuming control of administration pursuant to G.S. 108A-74. These opportunities to strengthen local governance and oversight can lie anywhere along this procedural timeline (from agency formation to state assumption of administration). The table highlights the role of the BOCC at each stage because that is SSWG's specific charge. But the proposed strategies may involve any of the stakeholders involved in local oversight and governance (director, DSS board, county manager, etc.)

	Description	Current BOCC Role	Strategies
Agency Formation	 Choose agency type Choose governing board Choose personnel system Hire/Supervise director 	 BOCC chooses agency type (single county, regional, CHSA) BOCC choose governing board (DSS board, CHS board, BOCC) If CHSA, BOCC election re: SHRA If BOCC governing board, hire/supervise director May require some integration of functions under county manager (such as HR, IT, finance) 	
Ongoing Oversight of Agency	Annual written agreement between state and county	 County manager signs contract; monitors performance with DSS director If BOCC governing board, active role in oversight (monthly meetings, director reviews, performance measures, etc.) If not governing board, budget oversight 	

	Description	Current BOCC Role	Strategies
Initial Non- Compliance	Dashboard, monitoring, or other data identify non-compliance (less than 3 consecutive months; 5 of 12 months)	• None	
Extended Non- Compliance or Urgent Situation	 Dashboard, monitoring, or other data identify extended period of non-compliance (3 consecutive months; or 5 out of 12 consecutive months) OR urgent situation arises State required to work with county DSS to develop joint corrective action plan 	If BOCC governing board, receive regular updates on progress	
Failure of corrective action plan	State required to assume administration	 Notice to BOCC, DSS board, manager 30 days in advance Updates on progress Notice when administration restored 	

Assignment #3

Compare your reflections from Assignments #1 and #2.				
Are your proposed strategies in Assignment #2 connected to the source of the challenge or concern identified in Assignment #1? If so, how?				
How does each proposed strategy strengthen local governance and oversight?				