

# **Stage Two Charge**

### **Collaboration**

- Recommendations regarding legislative and regulatory changes necessary to improve collaboration between counties in the administration of social services programs and services.
- Must address:
  - information sharing
  - conflicts of interest
  - Inter-county movement of people/clients



## COIs - Background

- County A receives a CPS report. Someone in the family involved with the report is an employee of the department. According to state policy, County A must recuse itself (unless immediate safety risk) and ask another county to conduct the assessment.
- Other examples of conflicts
  - County commissioner or manager
  - Foster parent supervised by the county
  - Member of governing board
  - Relatives of agency employees
  - Child's parent is incompetent and DSS is guardian
  - Parent is a minor in foster care



#### **COIs – What We Heard**

#### **Problems**

- Lack of clear direction and specificity in state policy
- Relies heavily on county/director relationships
- Some counties not seen as good partners
- Chronic understaffing = not enough staff to manage COIs for other counties

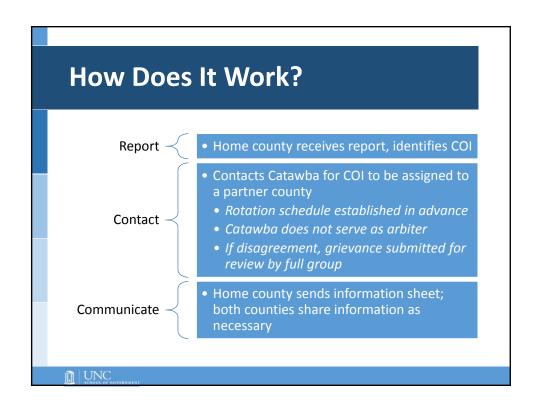


# **COI Regional Collaborations**

- Several voluntary regional networks exist to manage COIs
- Catawba's region is an example:

|           | Partnering County                            |
|-----------|--|
| Alexander | Caldwell, Catawba, Iredell                   |
| Burke     | Caldwell, Catawba, Lincoln                   |
| Caldwell  | Alexander, Burke, Catawba                    |
| Catawba   | Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Iredell, Lincoln |
| Iredell   | Alexander, Catawba                           |
| Lincoln   | Burke, Catawba                               |





### **Interview Notes**

- If COIs standardized and working well, better for all programs and services
  - Regular CPS supervisor meetings in region helpful
- COI system helps alleviate the feeling that the county is "doing a favor" for another county
- Size, resources, staffing, differing policy interpretations can create challenges
- Keep in mind:
  - Point person, documentation system, alignment with judicial districts



