

SSWG Stage Two: Collaboration



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




How Does It Work?

Report

Contact

Communicate

- Home county receives report, identifies COI
- Contacts Catawba for COI to be assigned to a partner county
 - *Rotation schedule established in advance*
 - *Catawba does not serve as arbiter*
 - *If disagreement, grievance submitted for review by full group*
- Home county sends information sheet; both counties share information as necessary



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

NC Collaborations Forthcoming

CPS Training

- Buncombe and Henderson

Child support enforcement


- Hyde, Tyrell, and Washington

COI

- Currituck, Dare, and Pasquotank

Colorado

- Colorado
 - State-supervised, county administered
 - 6 regions
- Notes related to inter-county collaboration
 - Examples
 - Counties pool resources to hire floating eligibility trainer/troubleshooter for region
 - Joint administration for certain programs
 - COI assignment rarely decided by state
 - For certain programs, future counties cannot re-determine eligibility



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Questions



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