

Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group Stage One Proposed Plan

Charge – Stage One

The legislation establishing the Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group (SSWG) divides the work of the group into two stages. The Stage One report must include recommendations regarding:

- The size, number, and location of the regional state offices.
- The allocation of responsibility between central/Raleigh, regional, and local/county officials in supervising and administering social services programs.
- Methods for holding the regional offices accountable for performance and responsiveness.
- Information sharing between the regional offices and the boards of county commissioners regarding local department performance.
- Options for authorizing the board of county commissioners to intervene in program administration prior to the state assuming direct control of service delivery.

The legislation provides that the report is due to the legislature no later than April 15, 2018 but it will likely need to be delivered by the end of March.

Proposed Plan

The SSWG will hold 9-10 meetings between October 2017 and March 2018. In addition, the group will likely have several online meetings primarily for information-sharing purposes. The general plan for the meetings is as follows:

Meetings 2-4: Role of regional offices in supervision

These meetings will focus on mapping out the roles and duties of the regional offices. The group will discuss various tools and practices the state may use to supervise county programs and consider the appropriate oversight roles for the state, regional, and county offices. This discussion will consume a few meetings because the group will consider needs in different areas separately – child protection, adult services, and economic services.

Meeting 5: Size/number/location of regional offices

This meeting will focus on (a) establishing the parameters for the size, number, and location of the regional offices and (b) generating a draft regional map. The draft map will be made available to the public for comment for a period of time.

Meeting 6: Relationship with commissioners

This meeting will focus on the relationship between the regional office and the board of county commissioners. The charge directs the group to consider (a) information sharing between the regional offices and the boards and (b) the possibility of allowing the board to intervene before the state assumes direct control.

Meeting 7: Reviewing map; discussion of recommendations

The first part of this meeting will focus on reviewing the public comments received on the draft map and making revisions to the map as appropriate. During the second part of the meeting, the group will begin formulating the recommendations for the Stage One report.

Meeting 8-10: Finalizing recommendations and report

The group will continue discussion of recommendations, review draft report language, and make revisions. There will be multiple opportunities to make changes, evaluate consensus, and make note of minority positions. The goal will be to vote on the final report during either Meeting 9 or 10.

Tentative Meeting Dates

Unless otherwise noted below, meetings will be hosted at the UNC School of Government in Chapel Hill from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please note that meeting dates listed below may change and additional meetings may be added.

- Tuesday, October 3
- Thursday, November 2
- Tuesday, November 28
- Thursday, December 14 (online, 2-4 p.m.)
- Thursday, January 11
- Tuesday, January 30
- Thursday, February 8
- Tuesday, February 27
- Monday, March 12
- Friday, March 23