

WCDSS Accomplishments

WCDSS child welfare accomplishments over the past five years:

- The number of foster children in Wilson County has decreased by over 45%; and over the past 10 years by over 266%.
- Wilson County's repeat maltreatment rate has been lower than the federal standard.
- Wilson County has not experienced an incident of child abuse/neglect of a child after the child has left foster care.
- No Wilson County foster child has experienced child abuse/neglect while in foster care.
- No child/family successfully completing Wilson County DSS's child abuse prevention program has entered the child welfare/protection system in Wilson County.



These accomplishments have been achieved by building county initiatives which are generally recognized throughout the country as best/promising practice models. For example:

- Wilson County Department of Social Services (WCDSS) is certified under the local LME/MCO system. The Department provides outpatient behavioral health services to children and families within Wilson County's child welfare/protection system. This has allowed children and their family members suffering from trauma and other behavioral health disorders to receive the immediate and specific treatment needed to build resiliency in their lives and lead to better outcomes for them and their families. Feedback from the federal level have been very complimentary of this model.
- WCDSS is a trauma-informed and trauma treatment agency. WCDSS was the first county department in NC to help develop a national approach to trauma-informed practices and implement those practices across its child welfare/protection system.
- WCDSS clinical social workers have been certified in numerous evidence-based practices.
- WCDSS has implemented a social work theory based model of practice called Signs of Safety-SoS. The agency is practicing this model with fidelity across its system. SoS has armed WCDSS social workers with the practice skills needed to build relationships with families and help families develop their own sustainable safety networks.
- WCDSS has implemented a Child Abuse/Neglect Prevention Program which has been recognized as a national model of excellence. Social Workers in the prevention program have successfully worked with families at-risk of child abuse/neglect to help them avoid entering the child welfare/protection system.



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- WCDSS is certified through the LME/MCO to license Therapeutic Foster Homes so children suffering from serious behavioral health disorders can receive the level of care needed from within Wilson County.
- All of Wilson County's foster parents are trained on Trauma-Informed Practices so they can better understand trauma-induced behavior and how best to respond to it.
- WCDSS has a strong Child Family Team program with trained family group coordinators that are able to skillfully help families and children.
- WCDSS places a high priority on hiring professionally educated social workers (BSW with experience; MSW) in its child welfare/protection programs. This helps insure that the practitioners hired have the educational foundation to practice at the competency level needed for the agency's theory-based practice models: SoS and Trauma-Informed Interventions.

WCDSS has excelled in building community partnerships:

- WCDSS has strong partnerships within the county with the court system, school system, Barton College, community college, public health, law enforcement and several partner and non-profit agencies.
- WCDSS has social workers at Beddingfield High School and Forest Hills Middle School.
- We have a Social Worker and Income Maintenance Worker stationed at the Wilson County Health Department.
- The department recently received grant funding, in conjunction with several community partners, for a Student-Based Health Center within Forest Hills Middle School.
- The Department is the lead county agency for grant funding for rapid re-housing of the homeless in Wilson County and helps lead the work of the Neuse Regional Committee to End Homelessness.
- For 24 years, WCDSS has led several community partners in celebrating seniors and disabled adults at an annual Senior Awareness Day event. This event is typically attended by 700 to 1000 seniors.
- WCDSS has been instrumental in helping lead the work of Wilson 20/20 Community Vision, an organization dedicated to improving the quality of life, the workforce, and the economy in Wilson.

