


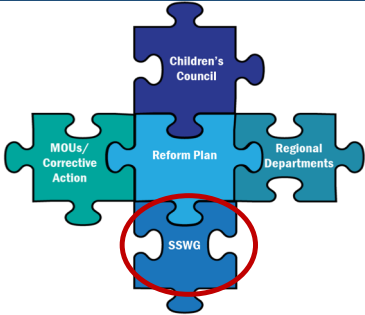


SSWG Update: Stage Two Report



Overview – S.L. 2017-41 (H 630)




Refresher: Stage One

Regional supervision

- What are the functions?
- How should offices be staffed?
- What should state consider when developing regions?

Local administration

- Increase knowledge and involvement for elected officials
- Reconsider composition and training for local governing boards
- Better communication between state and county
- If noncompliance with MOU, increase involvement/authority of local elected officials



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

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Stage Two Charge

Regional Administration

- A vision for transitioning the State from a county-administered system to a regionally-administered system.
- Identify general benefits and challenges associated with making such a transition.

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Information Gathering Process


- DSS Directors
- DSS Attorneys
- County Commissioners
- DSS Boards
- Social Services Commission
- DHHS
- System stakeholders including
 - Pediatric Society
 - Nat'l Association of Social Workers
 - Guardian Ad Litem program
 - Partnership to Address Adult Abuse
- Open survey

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Recommendations: Collaboration

Conflicts of Interest


- NCGA → Legislation to provide a general framework for COI management
- DHHS → guidance and training re: amended COI law; information repository re: COI management
- County → designate person(s) responsible



Recommendations: Collaboration

Inter-County Movement of Clients


- Transfers
 - NCGA → Legislation re: adult guardianship
 - DHHS → Guidance re: info sharing for transfers
- NCGA → Notice before appointed guardian (adult)
- DHHS → More use of technology to engage
- AOC → remote communication/participation with incarcerated parents and respondent parties



Recommendations: Collaboration

Inter-County Movement of Clients


- Studies
 - Process for determining residency
 - Appointment/funding of publicly-funded guardians
 - Portability of eligibility determinations and service authorizations



Recommendations: Collaboration


Information Sharing

- AOC → New IT system should allow DSS access
- NCGA → Require study of confidentiality laws
- DHHS → Prepare guidance and offer training on information sharing and confidentiality



Other Recommendations Related to Collaboration

NC FAST	Inter-county assistance	Workforce development
Staffing/caseload	Consistent interpretations of law and policy	Training
Examples of ICC	Reporting requirements	SS reform advisory body




Stage Two Charge

Regional Administration

- A vision for transitioning the State from a county-administered system to a regionally-administered system.
- Identify general benefits and challenges associated with making such a transition.

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Primary Recommendation

The legislature should not require counties to join together to create multicounty departments to administer social services programs




Other Recommendations Related to Regional Administration

Study all social services programs to determine whether changes in administration are appropriate

If NCGA mandates regional administration, it should legislate county financial contribution and reevaluate state supervisory role

Provide clear communication about reform




Next Steps


DHHS • Report to NCGA related to Stage One/regional supervision expected soon

CSF • Final report expected February

NCGA • May consider legislative change this session based on recommendations from DHHS, CSF and/or SSWG



Questions



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University of North Carolina
