



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Social Services
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Social Services Wins Four Best Practice Awards

FAYETTEVILLE – The Department of Social Services received four Best Practice Awards at the Social Services Institute Oct. 21-23 in Hickory. The awards recognize DSS initiatives in 2014-15.

The department won **Best Practice Award for Advancement in Staff Leadership and Development** for its annual “Job Swap – Is the Grass Greener on the Other Side?” event. The North Carolina Association of Directors of Social Services presented the award. The “Job Swap” began seven years ago and is held annually during County Government Week. The event allows DSS staff to vote management into their positions and to vote themselves or their co-workers into management or other positions throughout the agency for 25 cents per vote. The event provides an opportunity for staff to display their leadership potential, give management a firsthand perspective of the daily tasks of staff and help identify improvements and efficiencies. This year, DSS staff cast 2,880 votes, which raised \$720. All proceeds went toward the agency’s Senior Health Fair and the March to Work job fair. A post-event luncheon was held for participants to share their experiences and lessons learned.

The Cumberland County chapter of the North Carolina Social Services Association (NCSSA) received three awards for efforts to empower others. The awards were **Best Practice in Membership Retention, Innovative Fundraising** and **Chapter of the Year**. The awards recognized the Cumberland County NCSSA for its efforts to help DSS employees have fun, relieve stress and strengthen morale. The activities included assistance with food drives, staff appreciation initiatives, support of foster care events, CARE Family Domestic Violence Center donations, sponsorship of County Government Week activities and continued sponsorship of the Cumberland County NCSSA Scholarship.

The NCSSA sponsors an awards program aimed at recognition of chapters and counties excelling in leadership, creative, innovative membership and development.

The Department of Social Services is located at 1225 Ramsey St. The main phone number is 910-323-1540 and the agency can be visited online at co.cumberland.nc.us/social_services.aspx.



Front row, from left, Ebony Stevenson (NCSSA Secretary), Venkia Gooseby (NCSSA Executive Advisor), Theresa Taylor (NCSSA President) and Robert Hanley (NCSSA VP). Back row, from left, are NCSSA members Gwendolyn Goetz, Dorcas Smith, Tiera Maynor, Tashima Wilson, Dwane Sezawich, Daphine Little and Nicholas Barrow.

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