



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Department Earns ‘Partner in Prevention’ Status

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County Department of Public Health has achieved “Partner in Prevention” status by the nonprofit organization Darkness to Light. The designation is awarded to organizations that take extra steps to protect the children they serve by training staff to understand the issue of child sexual abuse, identify unsafe situations and practices, and react responsibly in the best interest of the children they serve.

Cumberland County Department of Public Health earned the “Partner in Prevention” designation by providing “Stewards of Children” training to more than 90 percent of its management, staff, and volunteers. The training, which is completed every three years through the Child Advocacy Center, is an evidence-informed program that is scientifically proven to help participants prevent and respond to child sexual abuse.

“We are proud of our staff for completing the training,” said Public Health Director Buck Wilson. “Helping to protect children in our community will always be a top priority.”

According to Darkness to Light, one in 10 children will be sexually abused before the age of 18. “Partner in Prevention” was created as a national standard to recognize organizations that implement policy and train staff to prevent child sexual abuse.

Darkness to Light is an international organization that leads the movement to end child sexual abuse by providing individuals, organizations, and communities with the tools to protect children from sexual abuse. Darkness to Light has affiliates in all 50 states and 16 international locations.

To learn more about child sexual abuse prevention training or to enroll in Darkness to Light’s “Partner in Prevention” program, visit www.D2L.org/Partner.

If you would like more information about the Cumberland County Department of Public Health’s programs and services, health-related data, or community resources, please call 910-433-3600 or visit with someone at the information desk, or visit our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health.aspx#. Comments are welcome and can be submitted on our website at co.cumberland.nc.us/health/comment_form.aspx. The Health Department is located at 1235 Ramsey St. in Fayetteville.