



# News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Sept. 28, 2017

Department of Social Services  
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## **MEDIA INVITATION**

### **DSS Launches Child-Welfare Pilot Project Oct. 5**

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Department of Social Services invites the media to attend a kick-off meeting on Oct. 5 for an initiative to improve services to youth aging out of foster care, as well as child welfare and family support programs. Reducing the number of children in foster care and the duration of their stay is critical to improving child welfare outcomes and quality of life.

Registration for the participants and lunch will start at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will begin at 12 p.m. in Conference Room D of the DSS headquarters at 1225 Ramsey Street.

Over the past two years, DSS has worked with Southeastern Workforce Strategies and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago to create **A Model Approach for Change in Child Welfare**. This initiative incorporates a modified collective impact process to systems changes that will improve outcomes for older youth in foster care, as well as child welfare and family support programs.

DSS has received a two-year \$787,848 grant from the Duke Endowment and \$25,000 from the Casey Family Programs to pilot the project, which brings together partners such as the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services-Division of Social Services, and key community stakeholders and governing bodies.

Media are asked to contact Geneve Mankel at 910-321-7108 or [gmankel@co.cumberland.nc.us](mailto:gmankel@co.cumberland.nc.us) if you plan to attend.