

Director's Report

- **Medicaid update:**

Governor Stein has two key asks of legislators first, to fully fund Medicaid and second and to work with him on commonsense solutions to make our state safer. Currently, the state has not fully funded Medicaid. This means that cuts for health care providers began on October 1, which could make it hard to get appointments or even lead to doctors no longer accepting Medicaid. But it's not too late for the General Assembly to reverse the cuts.

Fully funding Medicaid will also help protect people, since many of the people who need mental health care rely on Medicaid.

Currently, we are able to still provide the same benefits until we hear differently.

- Our November all staff meeting what feature a luncheon learn in honor of adoption awareness month.

Sheriff's Department Contract Review Amendment

FIRST AMENDMENT TO

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

RUTHERFORD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND

RUTHERFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

THIS AMENDMENT to the MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, made and entered into this the ____ day of September, 2025, is made by and between RUTHERFORD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (hereinafter "DSS"), and RUTHERFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE (hereinafter referred to as "Agency").

WITNESSETH:

THAT, WHEREAS, DSS and Agency entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on the 20th day of December, 2024 (hereinafter "MOU"); and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of DSS, through the MOU, to retain the services of a deputy of the Sheriff of Rutherford County (the "DSS Deputy" as defined in said MOU) to fulfill certain functions as outlined therein, and the Agency agreed; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Parties for the DSS Deputy to have and maintain an

office at the facilities of DSS and to work from that office; and

WHEREAS, whether by error, inadvertence or oversight, the MOU has a clerical error indicating otherwise that the Parties hereto wish to correct.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises contained herein and other good and valuable considerations, the parties hereto contract and agree as follows:

1. Article I, Section 5 of the MOU shall be amended to read as follows:

DSS Deputy Work Hours. The DSS Deputy shall be provided an office at DSS facilities and perform the DSS Deputy's duties set herein during the normal hours set herein. Agency shall not utilize the DSS Deputy during the designated workday for duties other than set forth herein, except in emergency situations that necessitate removal of the DSS Deputy from normal duties pursuant to this MOU.

2. All other terms, definitions and conditions of the MOU are hereby confirmed and adopted herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have signed and sealed this agreement to be effective the day and year first above written.

Department of Social Services

By: _____

Delores Hunt

Date: _____

Rutherford County Sheriff's Office

Aaron Ellenburg, Sheriff of Rutherford County

Date: _____

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 26, 2025

Attendees: Dee Hunt, Director DSS; Sheriff Aaron Ellenburg; Captain Stephen Ellis, Pam Price, DSS Chief Fiscal Officer; Kim Murray, Executive Assistant; Richard Williams, County Attorney.

Excused: Board Chair Leon Godlock was unable to attend due to a previous commitment.

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the meeting was to review and confirm the accuracy of the current contract related to the DSS Deputy position. The primary objective was to ensure that the position continues to meet all state and federal mandates necessary to claim full reimbursement.

Supporting documentation included:

- Guidance from the **Social Services Fiscal Manual**.
- An email from **April McMasters, Local Business Liaison, NC Department of Health and Human Services**.

Key Discussion Points

1. **Contract Continuation**
 - Director Hunt confirmed her intent to keep the contract for the DSS Deputy in place.
 - She reiterated that she had previously discussed with the Board Chair and both agree that losing the contract could result in delays in DSS operations.
2. **Office Location Requirement**
 - The group agreed that the DSS Deputy must maintain an office physically located within DSS facilities.
 - This arrangement ensures compliance with state and federal funding requirements for reimbursement, consistent with the documentation provided.
3. **E-Courts Transition Tracking**

- Given the newness of the E-Courts system, DSS and the Sheriff's Office will jointly track the Deputy's responsibilities until mid-December 2025.
- Director Hunt and Captain Ellis will reconvene in December, if necessary once the full impact of E-Courts has been evaluated.

4. **Contract Amendments**

- County Attorney Richard Williams will amend Article I, Section 5 of the current contract to specify that the Deputy's office will be located at "**DSS facilities**" instead of the broader term "**Agency's facilities.**"
- Director Hunt agreed that this correction resolves reimbursement concerns and Attorney Williams noted that the original language may have been an error at the time of drafting.

Action Items

- **Sheriff Ellenburg and Captain Ellis** will ensure the Deputy is assigned an office at DSS and will coordinate with the IT Department to transfer any necessary software.
- **Director Hunt** will ensure that the Deputy's office is properly equipped with the supplies and resources required to perform her duties effectively.
- **Richard Williams** will finalize and circulate the amended contract language.
- **Captain Ellis** will monitor the rollout of E-Courts and provide updates to Director Hunt. He and Director Hunt will meet in December 2025 to reassess the contract based on E-Courts implementation, if necessary.
- **Pam Price and the DSS Fiscal Team** will continue monitoring compliance with reimbursement requirements.

Conclusion

The meeting resulted in clear alignment between DSS and the Sheriff's Office regarding the Deputy position, its operational requirements, and necessary contract adjustments. These actions ensure compliance with reimbursement mandates while supporting continuity of services.

Respectfully Submitted,



Delores Hunt
Director