



**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

**ITEM NO.** 9.

**DATE OF MEETING:** April 6, 2009

**REQUESTED BY:** Dr. Reta M. Shiver, DSS Director

**SHORT TITLE:** Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

**BACKGROUND:** Pender County Commissioners annually proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:** Review and approve the attached resolution.

## **Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation**

**Whereas**, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem affecting both the current and future quality of life in Pender County communities; and

**Whereas**, child maltreatment occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources, and do not know how to cope; and

**Whereas**, the majority of child abuse cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable in an engaged and supportive community; and

**Whereas**, child abuse and neglect can be prevented by making sure each family has the support they need to raise their children in a healthy environment; and

**Whereas**, child abuse and neglect not only cause immediate harm to children, but are also proven to increase the likelihood of criminal behavior, substance abuse, health problems such as heart disease and obesity, and risky behavior such as smoking; and

**Whereas**, all citizens of Pender County should become involved in supporting families to provide safe, nurturing environments for their children giving them the opportunity to grow up to be caring, contributing members to the community; and

**Whereas**, effective child abuse prevention programs succeed because of partnerships created among social service agencies, schools, faith communities, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pender County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim

April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and call upon all Pender County citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

This 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.

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Chairman

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County Manager