

PUBLIC INFORMATION

ITEM NO. 3.

DATE OF MEETING: June 7, 2010

REQUESTED BY: Dr. Reta Shiver, DSS Director

SHORT TITLE: Update on Transition of State Child Support Enforcement Program to Pender County DSS

BACKGROUND: Transition of the State Child Support Enforcement Program to Pender County DSS was mandated by the NC General Assembly during the 2009 session. Dr. Shiver and DSS staff has been collaborating with program officials (including state and local staffs) over the past year to facilitate the transition. The program will officially transfer effective July 1, 2010. The Board of Commissioners has taken the necessary actions and approved all steps to date necessary to make the transition, including budgeting for the program costs in the FY 10-11 budget. The last item, approval of the building lease agreement is on the June 7 agenda for consent approval.

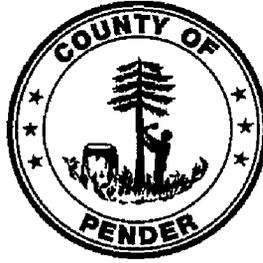
DSS staff, and the Pender County Child Enforcement Program staff have all worked in partnership and diligently over the past year to assure a smooth and effective transition. They should all be commended for such a positive and collaborative effort.

County of Pender

Board of Commissioners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Child Support Enforcement Program Transfers to Pender County DSS

Burgaw, N.C. (June 7, 2010) – In 2009 the North Carolina General Assembly directed, through the 2009 Appropriations Act (Senate Bill 202, Section 10.46A), that effective July 1, 2010, each State-operated Child Support Enforcement (CSE) office will be administered by County Government.

During the past 9 months, Pender County has put forth diligent efforts to ensure a smooth transition of the Child Support Enforcement Program. Pender County DSS Director Dr. Reta Shiver and DSS staff have been collaborating with state and local Child Enforcement Program officials to facilitate the transition. Efforts have included: (1) submitting a transition plan to the State by the January 1, 2010 deadline, (2) securing an office location and lease agreement, (3) advertising for, hiring, and having staff in place to begin working for the county effective July 1st, (4) attending and participating in State Child Support Training, and (5) installing all necessary Information Technology (IT) equipment and ensuring that it is operational.

The program will officially transfer to Pender County DSS effective July 1, 2010. The County Board of Commissioners has taken the necessary actions and approved all steps to date necessary to make the transition, including budgeting for the program costs in the FY 10-11 budget.

“Dr. Shiver, DSS staff, and the Pender County Child Enforcement Program staff have all worked in partnership and diligently over the past year to assure a smooth and effective transition”, says Pender County Manager Rick Benton. “They should all be commended for such a positive and collaborative effort, and Pender County looks forward to managing one of the most effective and efficient programs in the State, no different than the high achieving programs and services DSS currently provides.”

The Child Support Office location will remain at 305 South Walker Street, Burgaw, NC, and clients will report to that same location. Any changes in terms of telephone numbers will be given to clients by both current Child Support staff and DSS staff. Clients will not be negatively impacted by this transition because there will be no interruption of services provided by Pender County Child Support Enforcement.

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