

# FORSYTH COUNTY

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: APRIL 11, 2019

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 8

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE KATE B. REYNOLDS CHARITABLE TRUST TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT, IF AWARDED, GREAT EXPECTATIONS FUNDS TO ADDRESS ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES  
(FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES)**

**COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:** Recommend Approval

### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

Forsyth County Department of Social Services is interested in partnering with the Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of North Carolina, Incorporated, d/b/a The Parenting PATH in a collective impact approach to pursue grant funding. The proposed collective impact model and grant opportunity by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust will provide voluntary home visiting and parenting engagement and coaching services in an effort to prevent or mitigate adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in Forsyth County. Children who have experienced significant trauma and toxic stress are more likely than their peers to have poor physical health outcomes, developmental delays and various behavioral health needs, which impacts their success in school. Access to support is a key issue. We've learned that not enough children and families, especially those in households with low incomes, have access to the needed supports to heal, thrive and build resiliency.

Early prevention services are an integral part of fostering healthy parent-child relationships and resilience for children at-risk for child maltreatment due to familial and societal stressors. Many of the families with children who would be at elevated risk to have Adverse Childhood Experiences are brought to the attention through CPS reports to FCDSS. This serves as a critical opportunity to offer early prevention services. It should be noted that early prevention services are not a part of the statutory child welfare service provision in the state of North Carolina. Various counties have taken a similar path to independently provide these services. Early prevention services include, but are not limited to, providing information and parent engagement services intended to do the following:

1. Strengthen families and improve child well-being,
2. Minimize harm to children,
3. Maximize the family's ability to navigate and access essential community services
4. Enhance family advocacy
5. Maximize the ability of families to protect and care for their own children and
6. Prevent child abuse, neglect, and the need for out-of-home care.

Our collective impact model will establish a home visiting program to provide information, referrals and voluntary parental coaching and case management services to families that meet the following criteria:

1. Closed CPS Cases with Services Recommended
2. Maltreatment diversion efforts for reports screened out from Winston-Salem Forsyth County School (WSFCS), Winston-Salem Police Department and Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, Forsyth Medical Center and Wake Forest Medical Center.
3. Judges referral from juvenile delinquency court.

In 2018, Forsyth Department of Social Services received over 5,500 CPS reports alleging abuse, neglect and/or dependency. On average, sixty-five percent of those cases were accepted/screened in based on statutory guidelines. Therefore, around 1,900 CPS reports were screened out with no services provided per state statute. The grant proposal is seeking to offer voluntary assessment of the needs of those families who meet the referenced criteria by providing prevention and mitigation services to address potential adverse childhood experiences.

The grant proposal is requesting to fund three full-time prevention social work positions and training (NCDSS Pre-Service) expenses at the projected amount of \$200,505.00. In effort to foster parental engagement and address the stigma of participation of prevention services within the local DSS construct, the proposal operation design addresses this barrier through placing prevention social workers in a community-based organization like The Parenting Path by means of contracted services. The Parenting Path and Forsyth County DSS will enter into an information and data sharing agreement to build a process for referrals, case staffing/consults and collective measurement of performance outcomes.

Forsyth County DSS is seeking approval to pursue grant funding to pilot this early maltreatment prevention and mitigation program. The pilot will only be pursued based on grant funding.

ATTACHMENTS:  YES  NO

SIGNATURE: f. Dudley Watts, Jr /AMS COUNTY MANAGER DATE: April 10, 2019

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE  
KATE B. REYNOLDS CHARITABLE TRUST TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT,  
IF AWARDED, GREAT EXPECTATIONS FUNDS TO ADDRESS  
ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES  
(FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES)**

**WHEREAS** the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust (Grantor), through its Great Expectations Initiative, provides grant funding to organizations providing evidence-based approaches to prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in Forsyth County by increasing accessibility to services; and

**WHEREAS** the Forsyth County Department of Social Services proposes to jointly apply for and accept, if awarded, a grant of \$200,505.00, to provide a pilot of early prevention services with the Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of North Carolina, Incorporated, d/b/a The Parenting PATH. The Parenting PATH (Positive Actions, Thriving Homes) is a local, non-profit agency with a 37-year track record of providing parent education and support services such as Parent Aide, Welcome Baby, Fathers Are Parents Too, Supervised Visitation and Intensive Family Preservation Services (IFPS). The proposed pilot will serve households with minors aged 0-17 within Forsyth County of closed CPS cases with services recommended, screened out child protective services reports from Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools (WSFCS), Winston-Salem Police Department, Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, Forsyth Medical Center and Wake Forest Medical Center and referrals from juvenile delinquency court. Services will designate three social workers to perform voluntary home visits, information and referrals, parental coaching, community resource navigation and case management services in an effort to prevent or mitigate adverse childhood experiences;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes submission of a grant application to the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, and the Chairman or County Manager and Clerk to the Board are hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of Forsyth County, necessary documents to receive grant funds, if awarded, from Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust to support early intervention, prevention and mitigation services for child protection and adverse childhood experiences, subject to a pre-audit certificate thereon, by the County Chief Financial Officer, where applicable, and approval as to form and legality by the County Attorney.

Adopted this the 11<sup>th</sup> day of April 2019.