

FORSYTH COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: APRIL 24, 2017 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 6

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2017 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
MONTH IN FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
(FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES)**

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS: Recommend Approval

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

See Attached

ATTACHMENTS: yes no

SIGNATURE: *J. Dudley Carter, Jr. /c/h* DATE: April 18, 2017
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2017
AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN
FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
(FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES)**

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month is recognized throughout the country annually in April and this recognition strives to increase awareness, education and civic opportunities for members of our community to support children that have been mistreated; and

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month also provides the opportunity to raise awareness and educate the community on the various ways to support families and prevent child abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, children are vital to our State's success, prosperity, and quality of life, and are our most valuable assets; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 National Child Abuse Prevention Theme is "*Children Thrive in Safe, Stable, Nurturing Homes*"; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect improves both the current and future quality of life of a community; and

WHEREAS, finding solutions to adverse reactions for children decreases the likelihood of substance abuse, heart disease, obesity, and future child maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, in Forsyth County 1,879 children were referred for child abuse, neglect, and dependency in fiscal year 2015 and 52% of those represented the age group of 0-5; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual cost of child abuse and neglect for North Carolina is \$2,057,467,000; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can be prevented by making sure every family and caregiver have the support they need to raise their children in a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, the majority of child abuse and neglect cases stem from situations and conditions that are preventable with the help of an engaged and supportive community such as partnerships among citizens, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement, and the business community; and

WHEREAS, Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of North Carolina, Incorporated is acknowledged for its continued efforts to eradicate child abuse and neglect in the communities it serves in North Carolina by providing child abuse prevention and treatment services; and

WHEREAS, the Cool Program is a community program that provides Community Intervention and Educational Services for Winston-Salem and surrounding counties; the program's focus is to support and empower families and individuals in need of advocacy and quality support services stemming from crises; the program has a strong partnering relationship with the judicial system, mental health providers, law enforcement, and other service providers in the community; and

WHEREAS, Forsyth County is proud to have a comprehensive Child Abuse and Neglect protocol that streamlines community assets and partners to address child maltreatment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners hereby recognizes April, 2017 as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Forsyth County and encourages all citizens, community agencies, faith based groups, and medical facilities to increase participation in the efforts of the Forsyth County Department of Social Services to prevent child maltreatment and strengthen the communities in which we live.

Adopted this 24th day of April 2017.