



Randolph County

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Hope Haywood, Randolph County Commissioner Joins 100 Counties Prepared Task Force Meeting to Discuss Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Training for County Commissioners



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — Randolph County, N.C. (October 25, 2021) — Hope Haywood, Randolph County Commissioner, joined the kick-off meeting of the 100 Counties Prepared Task Force, an initiative led by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners. This initiative was announced by NCACC President and Brunswick County Commissioner Frank Williams and aims to equip county commissioners statewide with the tools they need to lead effectively during emergencies. The task force will develop training for county commissioners on how to prepare, respond, and lead during emergencies, and will focus specifically on the role of a county commissioner in these situations.

"The focus of Emergency Management during emergencies or disasters must be the protection of a county's residents through effective, efficient implementation of emergency plans. If each county had a disaster communication plan in place for county

commissioners, they could serve as a trusted source of accurate information for their constituents. Service on this task force will equip me to collaborate with Randolph County Emergency Management in the development of such a plan for our Randolph County Commissioners." said Commissioner Haywood.

Chief of Staff to The University of North Carolina System Norma Houston spoke during the task force meeting to share her insights and perspectives on developing a highly effective disaster and emergency preparedness training program. Houston is an expert in emergency management, local government ethics, and public purchasing and procurement. She has spent years training local officials through her position as faculty at the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government and will continue to advise the task force during the year-long initiative.

Led by Co-Chairs Guilford County Commissioner Kay Cashion and Brunswick County Commissioner Randy Thompson, the 100 Counties Prepared Task Force represents counties from across the state and recognizes the range of disasters that occur throughout the state. Members include:

- Kay Cashion, Task Force Co-Chair, Guilford County Commissioner
- Randy Thompson, Task Force Co-Chair, Brunswick County Commissioner

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- Tracey Johnson, NCACC President-Elect, Washington County Commissioner
- Glenn Adams, Cumberland County Commissioner
- Kitty Barnes, Catawba County Commissioner
- Kevin Gordon, Cleveland County Commissioner
- Maria Cervania, Wake County Commissioner
- Hope Haywood, Randolph County Commissioner
- Ann Keyes, Washington County Commissioner
- Teresa McCall, Transylvania County Commissioner
- Linda Rouse Sutton, Lenoir County Commissioner
- Gordon Wilder, Vance County Commissioner
- Kris Noble, Hyde County Manager
- Marche Pittman, Polk County Manager
- Robin Caldwell, Cherokee County Emergency Services Director & President of the North Carolina Emergency Management Association

"I am grateful to have such a diverse group of county leaders willing to serve on this task force, and am excited about the energy and enthusiasm I witnessed during our kickoff meeting," said President Williams.

This kickoff meeting allowed task force members to gather and discuss the different focus areas for the training they will develop. NCACC President Williams encouraged the task force to orient the training around three components: education, resources, and relationships. The task force will continue to meet every other month and plans to introduce the training program by next summer. For more information on the task force and its work, visit 100countiesprepared.com.

About the NCACC: The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) is a non-partisan organization, which represents the official voice of 100 counties on issues considered by the General Assembly, Congress, and federal and state agencies. The Association provides expertise to counties in advocacy, research, risk management, and education and leadership training.