



Beth W. Duncan
Director

Department of Social Services

Samuel R. Frazier
Board Chair

PRESS RELEASE

“We all play a part in Preventing Child Abuse”

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. In recognizing that “prevention” is a community effort, the Randolph County Department of Social Services will host a Community Partner Forum on Child Abuse on April 24, 2018 at Northridge Church in Asheboro NC. The focus of the forum will be the important role that communities play in protecting children. Participants in the forum include judicial, law enforcement, schools, child care, and medical professionals.

Each year, there is an estimated 3.6 million referrals of child abuse in the United States. DSS involvement is activated when a parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker inflicts, creates, or allows someone else to inflict or create abuse or neglect. In 2017 Randolph County, completed investigations or assessments on nearly 1,200 reports of abuse and neglect. Of those, about 200 children were identified as abused, neglected, or dependent. In Randolph County, abuse runs the full spectrum of maladies from serious physical injury by non-accidental means, serious emotional damage, cruel or grossly inappropriate procedures or devices to modify behavior, and criminal sexual offense. Neglect has also been substantiated and also runs the full range of definitions including not receiving proper care, abandonment, and living in an injurious environment.

Ensuring parents have the knowledge, skills, and the resources they need to care for their children can help prevent child abuse and neglect. Research shows that when parents are empowered the risk for abuse and neglect is lowered and positive outcomes for children are more likely. Some protective factors are:

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting skills and of child development
- Parental Resilience
- Community connections
- Concrete supports for parents
- Social and emotional support of children

In North Carolina, the law requires any resident that suspects child abuse or neglect to report it to their local Department of Social Services. In Randolph County, you can call the Child Abuse Hotline at (336) 683-8200 during regular business hours and 911 at any other time. For more information about child abuse prevention visit the NC Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Social Services web site at: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/dss>

P.O. Box 3239 • Asheboro, North Carolina 27204

www.co.randolph.nc.us/dss/

Serving by empowering, protecting, educating, and promoting stability.