

Item Title: Recognize April as Child Abuse Prevention Month

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners recognizes April as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Item Summary:

The US Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) has proclaimed April 2017 as Child Abuse Prevention month with the theme of “Building Community, Building Hope.” In partnership with community partners such as the local Child Advocacy Center, Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina, and Wake County Human Services (WCHS) the Child Abuse Prevention Month Committee supports the national child abuse prevention month movement. The Committee is tasked to develop and implement events and activities to bring awareness to the importance of Child Abuse Prevention.

Proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Wake County will allow the community an opportunity to focus attention on the ongoing needs of Wake County children and youth. During the fiscal year 2016, there were 3,785 children reported to the Child Welfare System for service. It is hopeful that Child Abuse Prevention Month can be used as an educational and advocacy strategy to decrease the number of children being served by the Child Welfare Systems.

Child Abuse Prevention is an indispensable resource for the Wake County community. There are benefits to Child Abuse Prevention Services. Research indicates that when families are engaged with the five Protective Factors, family well-being and children’s ability to thrive is enhanced. The five Protective Factors are:

1. Enhancing parental resilience;
2. Providing an array of social connections;
3. Providing parents concrete support in times of need;
4. Facilitating knowledge of parenting and child development; and
5. Supporting healthy social & emotional development in young children.

When services are aligned with the five Protective Factors, it increases stability for all family members and reduces child abuse and recidivism. Some of the programs currently available to Wake County families include: parent education (ex. Triple P, Parenting 101, Family Wellness and specialty classes for parenting infants, toddlers and adolescents), Darkness to Light seminars geared at preventing sexual abuse, and Parents As Teachers.

We give thanks to our community partners in working with Wake County Human Services on prevention services.

Attachments:

1. Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation
2. Prevention Month Committee Members
3. Prevention Month Activities
4. 2017 Pastries and Prevention Tea Invitation