

Item Title: Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners proclaims April 2018 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Item Summary:

The US Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) has proclaimed April 2018 as Child Abuse Prevention Month with the theme of “Building Community, Building Hope.” The purpose of Child Abuse Prevention Month is to raise awareness so that communities rededicate themselves to being supportive of families. Communities should play an active role in preventing child abuse and neglect and take positive action towards promoting child and family well-being. One way DHHS helps to ensure this accrues is by providing community-based grants for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (CBCAP).

In partnership with community partners including the local Child Advocacy Center and Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina, Wake County Human Services (WCHS) has developed a Child Abuse Prevention Month Committee to support the national child abuse prevention month movement. The team 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 give the community an opportunity to focus its attention on the ongoing needs of Wake County children and youth. During calendar year 2017, there were 8,912 children reported to Wake County Human Services Child Welfare.

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 system. Child abuse prevention is an indispensable resource for the community. When quality prevention services are provided, 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, and Parents as Teachers.

We give thanks to our community partners for working with Wake County Human Services on prevention services. If it were not for them, we would see an increase of Wake County children involved with the child welfare systems.

Attachments:

1. Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation
2. List of activities for Child Abuse Prevention Month 2018