

Item Title: Duke Endowment Grant Award for Child Health and Development Program

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners accepts and appropriates \$1,094,128 into the Grants and Donations Fund from The Duke Endowment and establishes 4.0 full-time grant-funded positions to expand the scope of the Child Health and Development Program.

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners must approve all additional revenue and new full-time positions (FTEs) added to the FY 2020 Adopted Ordinance.

Background: Child Welfare staff applied for a grant from The Duke Endowment to expand the Child Health and Development Program (CHDP). With the additional funding, CHDP can provide additional medical and behavioral healthcare coordination for children, youth, and families. The funding also will enable CHDP to expand services to the target populations of families involved with Child Welfare. First, families and children in prevention services (kinship and family support). Second, families and children who have been part of screened-out reports of child abuse and/or neglect, but would benefit from services; open assessments or in-home services. And third, families and children with juvenile justice involvement, such as those impacted by Raise the Age legislation.

Board Goal: This action complements several initiatives in the Community Health and Social and Economic Vitality goal areas.

Fiscal Impact: The County will receive \$1,094,128 over three years from The Duke Endowment to support an additional 4 full-time positions (FTEs). The positions are 100% grant funded, requiring no increase in County funds. The positions will be abolished when the grant ends unless additional funding is identified. Other potential future funding sources include, but are not limited to: Title IV-E (Post-Family First Prevention Services Act in FY 2022), MAC (Medicaid Administrative Claiming), and Medicaid (clinic-based services).

Additional Information:

The Duke Endowment funds innovative practices to improve the well-being for at-risk children. Wake County Human Services, Division of Child Welfare submitted a grant

application in January 2018 to improve medical and behavioral health care coordination and home visitation for at-risk children and received notice of award on June 4, 2019. Target populations include: families and children in prevention (kinship and family support) services; families and children who have been part of screened-out reports of child abuse and/or neglect; open assessments or in-home services; families and children with juvenile justice involvement (Raise the Age); and families and children whose cases have closed.

Families will be referred to the program based on the criteria below:

- Year 1: Raise the Age, Assessment, and In-Home Services
 - Youth ages 16 and 17 would have dual involvement with juvenile justice and child welfare;
 - Families being assessed to determine if child abuse and/or neglect occurred in their home, and/or families who did not abuse and/or neglect their children, but are in need of further support; and
 - Families receiving in home services to mitigate risk and lessen the likelihood of repeat child maltreatment.
- Year 2: Family Support and Prevention Services
 - At-risk families who do not meet criteria for child welfare involvement; this includes relative caregivers and families who were reported, but the report was screened out because the report did not contain an allegation of child abuse and/or neglect.
- Year 3: Post Child Welfare Services
 - Families previously receiving in-home services;
 - Families recently reunited with their children from foster care; and
 - Youth who recently aged out of foster care.

The grant will be used to hire four nurses to review medical and behavioral health records of children involved with Child Welfare. The nurses will then recommend and coordinate needed resources and services for the children. This approach supports best practices in social work and compliance with federal standards. It reduces delays in receiving services, and it assists with a family's understanding of their child's needs.

The nurses will be able to accompany Child Welfare workers on home visits to assist with assessing:

- Sleep environment;
- Hazards to infant/toddler safety;
- Medication access and management;
- Environmental impacts on chronic illnesses;
- Recognizing and responding to symptoms of illness and injury;
- Child development; and
- Behavioral health interventions.

The nurses will also attend child and family team meetings, appear in court, and serve in a Public Health Clinic one day per week.

The Child Welfare Division has an over 10-year history of partnering with the Division of Public Health, the NC Pediatric Society, Prevent Child Abuse NC, Child Care Coordination for Children, Community Care of North Carolina, Nurse Family Partnership, and other key stakeholders in North Carolina involved in the reform of Child Welfare and Medicaid. The expansion of CHDP's scope promotes families' skills and access to quality medical and behavioral health care, increases Child Welfare's ability to positively impact the well-being of children and families and decreases child maltreatment and the need for out-of-home care. This collaborative and supportive approach addresses both medical and non-medical drivers of health, resulting in sustainable behavioral changes and improved quality-of-life outcomes.

The following table displays the project funding by budget category over the three-year award period:

Budget Category	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Total Award
Salary	\$184,768	\$252,569	\$250,165	\$687,502
Benefits	\$59,640	\$80,826	\$79,242	\$219,708
Temp Agency	\$14,321	\$19,094	\$19,094	\$52,509
Computer Equipment	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000
Phone/Mobile WiFi	\$4,430	\$5,100	\$5,100	\$14,630
Staff Development	\$9,600	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$13,600
Travel	-	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$8,000
Contract Services: Program Evaluation	\$29,393	\$29,393	\$29,393	\$88,179
TOTAL	\$312,152	392,982	388,994	1,094,128

Attachments:

1. Award Letter
2. Budget Memo