

**BRIEFING
DRAFT**



Forsyth County Budget & Management Department

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MEMORANDUM

To: J. Dudley Watts, County Manager
From: Kyle W. Wolf, Budget Director
Date: October 30, 2018
Subject: Family Services Transfer

As you know, during the FY19 Budget process, Family Services submitted three Alternate Service Level requests, one of which was for \$20,000 to offset administrative expenses related to its support of the Safe on Seven program. Family Services has coordinated the Safe on Seven program since its inception in 2005 and while the County has increased its level of funding for Safe on Seven as the State and Federal grants have ended, Family Services' operational and administrative expenses are not covered by County dollars.

The Court Services study that was completed earlier this year outlined four recommendations, one of which was that management of the Safe on Seven program should be enhanced and streamlined by shifting local funding to better support the program through the elimination of County funding for positions typically funded by the State. Additionally, Court Services, and Safe on Seven, should then be consolidated as one department under the Deputy County Manager for Human Services which should improve the coordination of other County resources in the Department of Social Services and the Public Health Department to assist with the delivery of services to victims of domestic abuse.

To that end, the \$20,000 request from Family Services was included in the FY19 Adopted Budget with the intention that these dollars would be used by the County as this transition took place. A workgroup has been meeting regularly to explore the possibility of transitioning Safe on Seven to the Family Justice Center model operated in Guilford County. The next step with this workgroup is to contract with the Alliance for Hope, the organization that certifies and supports multi-agency domestic violence centers which will be paid for by Family Services through a grant they received from the Governors' Crime Commission. While the grant will pay for most of this contract, there are some expenses that are not allowed and Family Services is attempting to find funding to cover this shortfall. As the transition of Safe on Seven and Court Services becoming a County-managed program does not appear to be possible in FY19, staff is recommending that the \$20,000 included in the FY19 Adopted Budget for this purpose be transferred to Family Services.

If there are any questions or concerns, please let me know.