

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Social Services

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Michael F. Easley, Governor Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary Pheon E. Beal, Director (919) 733-3055

June 19, 2003

DEAR COUNTY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: Communications and Coordination Initiative to Strengthen Long Term Care Services

Enclosed please find an announcement and related materials from Lynda McDaniel, DHHS Assistant Secretary for Long Term Care and Family Services, outlining a Departmental initiative to pilot an effort to evaluate and develop strategies to improve long term care services for disabled and older adults in two North Carolina communities. Please review these materials at your earliest convenience.

County departments of social services have a unique and critical role in the planning and delivery of long term care services for older and disabled adults and their families. I want to encourage you to collaborate with your local providers, consumers, advocates and elected officials to consider participation in this important project. Our Division, along with other Divisions in the Department, will be partnering with the two selected pilot communities to help carry out this initiative.

A summary of the initiative and the Request for Proposal package are included with this letter for your ready reference. These materials are also available on the DHHS Long Term Care web site at <u>www.dhhs.state.nc.us/ltc</u>. Please note that project proposals are due July 23, 2003.

Two of our Adult Program Representatives are representing the Division on this project and are part of the team to provide consultation and technical assistance to the pilot communities. Please feel free to contact either Nancy Warren (919-639-6711) or Joyce Massey-Smith (336-591-4205), if you have questions or need or additional information.

Sincerely,

John T. Tanner, Chief Adult and Family Services Section

Enclosure JTT/JMS

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