

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

SERT PLAN

Revised July 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section	Page Number
Introduction	1
Plan Background	1
DSS Section Overview	2
Automated Systems Overview	3
Advanced Planning	5
Preparation	6
Response	7
Recovery	8
DSS Communication Center	8
State DSS Liaison with County DSS	9
Food and Nutrition Services Program Response to a Natural Disaster	10
Family Support and Child Welfare Response to a Natural Disaster	11
Plan Implementation and Management	13
Appendices	
1. DSS Executive Management Contacts	15
2. Directory of North Carolina County Departments of Social Services	17
3. NCDSS SERT Briefing Agenda	
4. DHHS SERT Briefing Agenda	
Debriefing Questionnaire	34
5. Proposed Conference Call Protocol	
6. Disaster Response Communications Center Operational Guidelines	
7. General Public Shelters and American Red Cross (ARC) Responsibiliti	es40

INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Division of Social Services is dedicated to assisting and providing opportunities for individuals and families in need of basic economic support and services to become self-supporting and self- reliant. The Division of Social Services advocates for and encourages individuals to seek actions appropriate to their needs. Furthermore, we recognize our responsibility through teamwork and professional effort to assist in this process. Toward this end, in cooperation with county department of social services, and other public and private entities, we seek to identify needs, devise and focus resources, and deliver services responsively and compassionately.

The Division of Social Services strives to:

- Ensure that children are protected from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Enable citizens to maintain or achieve maximum self-sufficiency and personal independence through employment if possible;
- Strengthen family life in order to nurture our children so that they may become productive, healthy, and responsible adults;
- Ensure that every family and individual has sufficient economic resources to obtain the basic necessities of life.

PLAN BACKGROUND

In the event of a state emergency it is the goal of the NC Division of Social Services to provide as needed:

Coordinates the DHHS State Emergency Response Team (SERT) Support to local Departments of Social Services Support to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) when SERT has been activated Administration of the Disaster Food and Nutrition Services Program Assessment of whether the Division's capacity to carry out its roles has been affected by the disaster and making provision for the continuation of cores Division functions. Evaluation of the need for special policies and procedures to ensure safety and well-being of families and children.

Further, the NC Division of Social Services recognizes the role of coordination of mass care. However, through a Memorandum of Agreement between the American Red Cross (ARC) and the State of North Carolina, generally the ARC operates appropriate shelter facilities and arranges for mass feeding during peacetime disasters, including precautionary evacuations and peacetime radiological emergencies/nuclear accidents.

The roles that the NC Division of Social Services and the local Department of Social Services have in an emergency are very important to ensure that citizens continue to receive the services that have been previously described.

The process through which we assure we are able to carry out our role includes:

Advanced Planning Preparation Response Recovery

This plan outlines these processes as they relate to the goals of the NC Division of Social Services.

DSS PROGRAM SECTIONS OVERVIEW

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT, Judy McArn, Section Chief

The Child Support Enforcement Section has the responsibility for supporting and supervising local child support enforcement offices. The State CSE:

- Serves as a resource for the local child support offices to ensure that staff have a clear and comprehensive understanding of policy, that training needs are met, that location assistance through the State Parent Locator Service, and technical advice provided promptly and courteously to assist staff in the delivery of child support services in an effective and efficient manner.
- Has the responsibility for Collections, Reporting/Control, Distribution, Administrative Services, Client services, new hire, Tax Intercept and Credit Bureau Sections. It receives and posts all child support payments to ensure that monies are distributed properly and timely in accordance with state and federal regulations.
- Provides oversight of local child support offices statewide, quality control of service delivery to clients, and technical assistance to ensure that agencies are in compliance with policy and procedures, state and federal regulations.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES, Kristin O'Connor, Asst. Chief

The Family Support and Child Welfare Section carries out the Division's supervisory responsibility related to child protection as prescribed in Federal and State laws, administrative rules, and policies. The Family Support and Child Welfare Section is committed to the development and support of a collaborative, outcome-based approach to child protection that is proactive, family-centered and focused on achieving a safe, permanent home for all children. In addition, the Family Support and Child Welfare Section supports and supervises county departments of social services in the delivery of benefits and services to eligible families and individuals for the Work First Program.

ECONOMIC AND FAMILY SERVICES, David Locklear, Section Chief

Economic and Family Services supports and supervises county departments of social services in the delivery of benefits to eligible families and individuals for the Food Assistance, Low Income Energy Assistance and Crisis Intervention Programs. The section provides technical assistance in the area of detecting and preventing the occurrence of erroneous overpayments and prosecuting fraud in public assistance programs. In addition, Economic and Family Services supports and supervises county departments of social services and other providers in the delivery of benefits and social services to the State's Refugee population.

AUTOMATED SYSTEMS OVERVIEW

The Division provides program management of the following systems. These systems provide information to/from the county departments of social services, generate benefits for families, and allow county departments and the State to track individuals and families receiving benefits and services. The Division of Information Resource Management (DIRM) provides the technical oversight and expertise to ensure the systems continue to operate. Toward that end, DIRM has a complex disaster plan to safeguard the systems and the confidential information they contain.

AUTOMATED COLLECTION AND TRACKING SYSTEM (ACTS) - Performs all case management, payment distribution and check printing functions for child support.

CENTRAL REGISTRY FOR CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT SYSTEM - Tracks children reported as having been abused, neglected, and/or dependency, as well as perpetrator information for substantiated cases. Gathers data to enable research and produce statistics and management reports for county DSS.

CHILD FATALITIES SYSTEM - Tracks investigations of circumstances where a child fatality has occurred.

CHILD PLACEMENT AND PAYMENT SYSTEM - Collects and tracks placement information on children in custody or placement responsibility of a county DSS. Issues reimbursements to county DSS, payments to child carrying institutions, and public agencies for foster care. Issues adoption assistance subsidy to adoptive parents.

DAILY REPORT OF SERVICES SYSTEM - Tracks time spent by county DSS staff and identifies this time by client, service, and funding source.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION SYSTEM (EIS) - Maintains current and some historical information on Work First families. Vehicle for eligibility determination for Work First and Special Assistance benefits. Issues cash benefits. Provides data to produce statistics and management reports for county DSS and federal reporting.

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS INFORMATION SYSTEM (EPIS) - Maintains current and historical employment activity information for individuals participating in Work First employment services **ENERGY -** Processes eligibility for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES INFORMATION SYSTEM (FSIS) - Maintains current and some historical information on Food and Nutrition Services households. Vehicle for eligibility determination for Food and Nutrition Services benefits. Sends information to EBTIS for the issuance of benefits. Provides data to produce management reports for county DSS.

FOSTER CARE FACILITY LICENSING SYSTEM - Maintains current and historical licensing information on foster parents and generates licenses for foster parents.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM - Facilitates the Interstate Compact on Placement of Children. Maintain data on adoption and foster case placements between other states and counties.

SERVICES INFORMATION SYSTEM (SIS) - Maintains current and historical record of all clients receiving services from county departments of social services. Provides notices to clients. Transmits authorization of service provider's claim for reimbursement. Provides data to produce management reports for county DSS.

ENTERPRISE PROGRAM INTEGRITY CONTROL SYSTEM (EPICS) - Maintains tracking of all referrals and overpayments for Food and Nutrition Services, AFDC, Work First (TANF) and Medicaid. Performs reporting and accounting functions to maintain integrity in accounting for overpayments in each program.

CRISIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM SYSTEM (CIP System)- Allows counties to enter applications for Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) assistance, approve or deny applications, track county spending and families' receipt of assistance statewide. Produces required state and federal reports for target populations and spending. Contains allocations for each county for the SFY to have a real-time record of authorized assistance statewide and county-by-county.

ADVANCED PLANNING

Planning by both the state Division of Social Services and local agencies must occur prior to a disaster. The state is responsible for developing and maintaining a plan of operation as outlined in this document.

Responsibilities of the state during the advanced planning stage include:

- 1. Assign central office and field staff to SERT.
- 2. Develop and update at least annually a directory listing names of state office and county personnel responsible for disaster duties. The directory should include office, home, cellular and pager telephone number.
- 3. Provide an annual review of the plan to county directors.
- 4. Provide counties guidance on developing a local county DSS disaster plan of operation, separate from that developed with Emergency Management. Copies of sample plans will be provided by the County Operations Liaison if needed. The County Operations Liaison is available to assist counties by reviewing their local disaster plans annually as requested by each county.
- 5. Compile a list of information needed from counties which does not duplicate information available through another source such as outage information and available shelter sites from Emergency Management.
- 6. Use the Division of Emergency Management as a facilitator of information, which is not Division of Social Services specific.
- 7. Determine equipment needed, including short-term use of cellular phones.
- 8. Complete an annual skills assessment inventory of state staff and maintain database.

PREPARATION

The preparation phase will begin when it is determined that a disaster or emergency is imminent. The Division's Disaster Coordinator or his/her designee will notify the Executive Management Team of SERT alerts or activations.

The Division will have the following responsibilities:

Notify counties anticipated to be in harm's way. Counties involved initially will be those in the path predicted by the Emergency Management Agency. The purpose of this communication will be to discuss DSS specific issues and to obtain information not provided through Emergency Management. (See Appendix 2, Directory of North Carolina County Departments of Social Services)

Notification will occur via:

- E-mail,
- Terminal message,
- Telephone, and/or
- Web Site

The initial call down will officially notify counties of an imminent emergency or disaster and give information on if and when the DSS Communication Center (919-527-6335) will be activated.

- 1. Provide alternative communication methods in the event that telephone service is interrupted.
- 2. Update the directory of changes in personnel and telephones using e-mail and conference calls.
- 3. Notify state and field staff assigned to disaster response and review responsibilities.

The local agency will have the following responsibilities:

- 1. Provide any changes needed to directory.
- 2. Review local plan with staff
- 3. Monitor equipment needs, forms and supplies with staff
- 4. Coordinate with local Emergency Management
- 5. Notify Central Office of any needed personnel, equipment, forms or supplies.

RESPONSE

Response will begin as soon as environmental conditions allow it, immediately following the event.

The Division responsibilities include

- 1. Contacting the counties known to have been impacted by the event to determine immediate needs. This will be accomplished through use of Emergency Management Communications system and the regularly scheduled conference calls with the agency Director or his/her designee. In addition, communications for changes in written procedures may be transmitted via e-mail and the state Division computer systems at pre-arranged intervals as required.
- 2. Responding to requests by the counties for specific needs. This will include coordination of multi-agency resources.
- 3. Determining the need to provide staff as necessary to assist the county operations.
- 4. Implementing plan to assign staff to special duties as required, making adjustments to these assignments as necessary based on event's impact on staff
- 5. Serving as a clearinghouse for counties volunteering to share staff.
- 6. Providing a list of shelters, including pet friendly shelters (ARC and non-ARC), their capacity, and availability to out of county residents to be updated from conference call and EOC information.

The local agency - responsibilities include

Activate immediately the agency SERT plan. Determining any changes needed to assignments as a result of the disaster, Notifying the state of any special needs Providing updated data through the EMC system and participation in the scheduled conference calls. Coordinating with local Emergency Management for all requests for assistance other than personnel needs.

RECOVERY

Recovery begins once normal operations have been resumed.

Division responsibilities during recovery include:

- 1. Developing a format used to debrief staff.
- 2. Participating in Departmental efforts at staffing Community Relations Teams
- 3. Debriefing staff, including state, regional and county.
- 4. Analyzing debriefing data and modify procedures accordingly.
- 5. Recognizing staff as appropriate.

Local Agency responsibilities during response include:

Debriefing staff and evaluating the results to determine any necessary changes in the county disaster plan, (See Appendix 3, NCDSS Disaster Debriefing Agenda; Appendix 4, DHHS Disaster Debriefing Agenda)

DSS COMMUNICATION CENTER

The Division Communications Center has been established so that in the event of a disaster the Division has a location where communication between the Division, county social service offices, other divisions and SERT can be centralized. The Center is located in the McBride Building in room 126. It is equipped with 3 digital phone lines, computers and 1 analog phone line. The phone number assigned for the DSS Communication Center is: 919-527-6335

The Division Director or his/her designee activates the Center when a specific disaster results in major damage in one or more counties and when Division resources to support its disaster response and recovery efforts generally exceed normal operations. It is anticipated that the center may be activated in preparation for a major disaster. During many disasters, the impact or the event may not exceed the Division's capacity to respond using personnel normally assigned to support a county or counties involved in a specific disaster. In these situations, the Division would rely on normal personnel assignments and communication channels in disaster response.

Administrative staff will be available to assist with requisitions for any supplies, equipment, copying or printing needs, and arranging for specific phone numbers to be assigned to the center. Personnel may also be tasked with arranging for conference call-in numbers for county briefings.

A minimum of three Division employees are assigned to be contact persons at the center. These individuals include managers and field staff and at least one employee from the Economic Services Section. The ES Section employee will serve as the Disaster Food and Nutrition Services Program liaison. The managers and field staff have overall responsibility for communication with affected county social services departments. Additional staff may be assigned as needed.

Conference calls with affected counties are to be held on an established schedule. Conference calls should be scheduled daily during center operations unless otherwise noted. During preparations in anticipation of a hurricane the counties anticipated as most likely affected by EM are usually the first counties to be included in a briefing. This briefing will be conducted approximately 48 hours prior to projected landfall and as soon as the center is activated. (See Appendix 3, NCDSS Disaster Briefing Agenda; Appendix 5, Proposed Conference Call Protocol.)

The Division will notify counties by email, EIS and FSIS of the activation of the Center, contact persons, telephone numbers, e-mail address, conference call numbers and schedule. The Division will also distribute information to the department and other divisions regarding contacts, phone numbers and department briefings. (See Appendix 6, Disaster Response Communication Center Operations Guidelines)

STATE DSS LIAISON WITH COUNTY DSS

In order to provide continuity of information and planning for the Division in its role to support counties during an emergency event, the Division Section Chiefs will be the liaison to the counties. This will help the Division develop a continued clear picture of what the situation is like in a county and how the Division can best support the county. It also provides for tracking of requests from and responses to counties. This method of operation does not preclude other Division staff and Division Management from communication with counties as may be necessary such as during conference calls.

Depending on the nature of the emergency, it may be necessary to assign one or more staff to act as the liaison to specific counties especially if staffing is needed for periods of time that are impractical for one individual to handle. A normal assignment would be for 48 hours but not to exceed 72 hours unless there is no means to relieve.

When an emergency occurs in a county, the Division will offer to the County DSS Director one or more Division staff to work on site with the Director and appropriate county staff in their efforts to respond to the disaster. Division staff will preferably be part of the team that normally serves the county. The primary functions of the state staff is to assist the DSS Director and staff as requested, and to serve as the point of contact for communications between the Division Communications Center and the County DSS.

Depending on the length of time it is necessary for Division staff to be on site, it may be necessary for other Division staff to relieve the individual(s) originally assigned to the county.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES PROGRAM RESPONSE TO A NATURAL DISASTER

The Food and Nutrition Services Program is designed to handle a natural disaster that causes interruptions in food supply, delivery and ability to purchase food. There are three separate responses to a natural disaster. Each response is contingent upon the size of the disaster and number of individuals affected. The economic situation of the individuals effected is also used to determine the need for intervention by the Food and Nutrition Services Program.

REGULAR FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES PROGRAM - The regular ongoing Food and Nutrition Services Program has program rules to handle small disasters that affect a few individuals. Individuals, who have lost food during a natural disaster, can request replacement benefits to replace their food loss. This is outlined in Section 6000.4 of the Food and Nutrition Services manual. This does not require any declaration by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or the state office.

MODIFIED FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES PROGRAM - This is the most common response and is utilized for small to medium size natural disasters. The regular Food and Nutrition Services Program is run with modifications. The state must request waivers of Food and Nutrition Services Program rules for the affected areas. The most common program waivers include but are not limited to: waiver of gross income limits, net income limits only are utilized; applicants declaration of income and expenses will be taken unless questionable; non-liquid resources are excluded; out-of-pocket expenses for repairs, temporary lodging, etc., are allowable deductions; Employment and Training requirements are waived; and hot food is allowable purchases during the benefit period. The number and extent of waivers granted vary from disaster to disaster and are contingent upon number of individuals affected and the size of the disaster. Depending on the size of the disaster, the regular program may be run at the same time as the modified. In larger disasters, USDA will allow the state to run the modified program only during the designated application taking period.

DISASTER FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICES PROGRAM - This response is to handle large natural disasters that affect a large number of individuals and as such is rarely utilized. The only eligibility requirements for this program are: residency; must plan on purchasing food during the benefit period; must have experienced an adverse effect such as loss of food, lost income, damage to home or business etc. Identity must also be verified. Only Disaster Food and Nutrition Services Program applications are taken during the application taking period. The regular Food and Nutrition Services Program is suspended during that time frame.

In order to run a Modified or Disaster Food and Nutrition Services Program, state officials must request approval from USDA. USDA can approve or deny in whole or in part the plan including which counties are eligible to run these programs. The decision and declaration to operate either of these programs is separate and apart from Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) purposes and not meet USDA's guidelines for the Modified or Disaster Food and Nutrition Services Program. The reverse may also be true. The Modified or Disaster Programs are usually implemented 7-10 days post disaster. Prior to implementation of these programs, commodities may be distributed and mass feeding sites are usually operated. Both programs also require a fraud plan, and a review of a sample of approved cases. Each program also requires daily reporting to USDA of the number of applications taken, approved or denied, as well as the amount of benefits authorized and the average allotment size. Most of these reports are automatically produced by the Food and Nutrition Services Information System (FSIS), however, in smaller disasters, some manual reporting may be necessary.

Note: The Modified or Disaster Food and Nutrition Services Programs are not implemented until grocery stores are operating. Therefore electricity must be restored to a least some areas of the county in order for these programs to be approved. As such it is anticipated clients will be able to access their benefits through their EBT cards. The A/ES<C staff maintains control over the supply of Disaster EBT cards which can be mobilized to counties during a Disaster Food and Nutrition Services Program.

CHILD WELFARE RESPONSE TO A NATURAL DISASTER

The Child Welfare Section at the Division of Social Services will respond to any natural disaster by responding to requests for assistance by providing local County Departments of Social Services the most current information available on the families that they serve. Local county Departments of Social Services have developed disaster plans that meet their individual needs, however the Division is committed to providing to individual counties assistance in retrieving information that will assist them in locating families that are currently receiving child welfare services and / or benefits through the Work first Program, should county data systems be inaccessible.

North Carolina is a county administered system and in child welfare as mentioned previously, each county has their own plan. They have developed processes to respond to reports of abuse and neglect, how to identify their foster children and planning with their foster parents. As the Foster Care Licensing authority, the Division ensures evacuation plans with our foster care facilities.

The Division of Social Services is committed to responding to individual county needs as identified through consultation and technical assistance. As defined in our comprehensive plan, all service areas are addressed on a continuous basis dependent upon need.

The Division of Social Services maintains several automated systems that are used to provide historical and statistical data during the provision of child welfare services. Information from these systems will be accessible to counties upon request should their paper or computer systems be destroyed.

The Division maintains a Central Registry for Child Abuse and Neglect as well as child fatalities. The Central Registry for Child Abuse and Neglect and fatalities data would be able to provide historical data on families that have received services and the specific details surrounding their involvement with child protective services and CPS in home services. In addition the Daily Report of Services System and the Services Information System would be able to provide counties a listing of children that may be involved with child protective services but who were not yet determined to be abused or neglected and identified to the Central Registry by name, and by the individual social worker name. Not only will this assist counties in locating the families they serve, this will also allow counties to maintain contact with their social workers.

The Division of Social Services also maintains foster home licensure information in the Foster Care Facility Licensing System that may assist County Departments of Social Services in the event that they lose access to either their computer or paper records of foster parent information. Placement information on each child is maintained in the Child Placement and Payment System and the Records Management System. Should a disaster occur, these data sources could be used to assist counties in locating and maintaining contact with foster children for whom they are responsible and with the foster parents and other caregivers that provide care for these children. The Division of Social Services also maintains automated systems that maintain current and historical employment activity (EPIS), cash benefits and special assistance benefits (EIS) that would be made available to counties in the event of a disaster.

Responding to the needs of unaccompanied minors. Unaccompanied minors include children separated from caregivers and/or children whose caregiver(s) are incapacitated and unable to perform basic parental functions (i.e. feed, clothe, shelter and protect child(ren)).

Issue notification of suspended and resumed placement of children through Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC) in disaster affected areas.

The Division of Information and Resource Management (DIRM) has implemented a separate complex disaster plan to safeguard the confidential information generated by local County Departments of Social Services.

During a disaster of such magnitude that would disable a local County Department of Social Services from accessing critical information, information from the automated tracking systems will be promulgated so that county Departments of Social Services can locate and provide mandated services to ensure the safety, permanence, well-being and self sufficiency of the families and children that they serve.

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

IMPLEMENTATION

Each Section Chief has been given a copy of the SERT Plan to review and share with section members.

MANAGEMENT

The team that was initially assembled to develop the SERT Plan will continue to meet regularly. The team will meet quarterly to discuss the overall progress and testing of section plans. This team discusses and resolves issues that may not have been identified or may have been duplicated, as well as any problems that and solutions regarding section plans that are of interest to the team as a whole.

The SERT Plan will be updated as needed. The updates will be based on team member changes, review of section plans, and needed adjustments stemming from contingency plan testing.

APPENDIX 1

DSS Executive Management Team

Name	Contact Numbers	Email Address
Wayne Black, Director		Wayne.Black@dhhs.nc.gov
Angela Green,		Angela.Green@dhhs.nc.gov
Executive Assistant		
Carlotta Dixon, Chief		Carlotta.Dixon@dhhs.nc.gov
Program Compliance and Contracts		
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Budget Office		
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Child Welfare Services Section		
Hank Bowers, Chief		Hank.Bowers@dhhs.nc.gov
Performance Management		
Robin Register, Asst. Chief		Robin.Register@dhhs.nc.gov
Performance Management		
David Locklear, Chief		David.Locklear@dhhs.nc.gov
Economic and Family Services		
Betsy Moore, Asst. Chief		Betsy.E.Moore@dhhs.nc.gov
Economic and Family Services		
Judy McArn, Chief		Judy.Mcarn@dhhs.nc.gov
Child Support Services		
James McQueen, Asst. Chief		James.McQueen@dhhs.nc.gov
Child Support Services		
Freeman Denton, Acting Director		Freeman.Denton@dhhs.nc.gov
Office of Economic Opportunity		
Glenda Ellerbee, Director		Glenda.Ellerbee@dhhs.nc.gov
Office of Human Resources		

APPENDIX 2

DIRECTORY OF NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL SERVICES Last Updated: July 27, 2017

- O1. Alamance County DSS Ms. Susan Osborne, Director 336-229-2910 319 North Graham Hopedale Road, Suite C Burlington, NC 27217 Tel. #336-570-6532 Fax # Admin. 336-570-6538 Courier Number: 17-42-05
- 03. Alleghany County DSS Ms. Lisa Osborne, Director Post Office Box 247 182 Doctor Street Sparta, NC 28675 Tel. #336-372-2411 Fax #336-372-2635 Courier Number: 15-97-06
- 05. Ashe County DSS Mr. Randy Revis, Acting Director (336) 546-5719 150 Government Circle, Suite 1400 Jefferson, NC 28640 Tel. #336-846-5719 Fax #336-846-5779 Courier Number: 15-66-04
- 07. Beaufort County DSS Ms. Sonya Toman, Director (252) 940-6036 Post Office Box 1358 632 West 5th Street Washington, NC 27889 Tel. #252-975-5500 Fax #252-975-5555 Courier Number: 16-08-01

- 02. Alexander County DSS Ms. Patricia Baker, Director 604 7th Street, SW Taylorsville, NC 28681 Tel. #828-632-1080, Ext. 326 Fax #828-632-1092 Courier Number: 15-83-09
- 04. Anson County DSS Ms. Lula Jackson, Director 118 North Washington Street Wadesboro, NC 28170 Tel. #704-694-9351 Fax #704-694-1608 Courier Number: 03-82-19
- 06. Avery County DSS Ms. Barbara M. Jones, Director Post Office Box 309 175 Linville Street Newland, NC 28657 Tel. #828-733-8248 Fax #828-733-8245 Courier Number: 12-40-11
- 08. Bertie County DSS Ms. Cindy Perry, Director Post Office Box 627 1006 Wayland Street Windsor, NC 27983 Tel. #252-794-5320 Fax #252-794-5344 Courier Number: 10-93-18

- 09. Bladen County DSS Ms. Vickie K. Smith, Director 910-862-6858 Post Office Box 369 208 McKay Street Elizabethtown, NC 28337 Tel. #910-862-6800 Fax #910-862-6801 Courier Number: 04-26-17
- Buncombe County DSS Ms. Amanda Stone, Director 828-250-5588 Post Office Box 7408 40 Coxe Avenue Asheville, NC 28802 Tel. #828-250-5500 Fax #828-250-5945 Courier Number: 12-50-02
- Cabarrus County DSS Mr. William "Ben" Rose, Director (704) 920-1552
 1303 South Cannon Boulevard Kannapolis, NC 28083 Tel. #(704) 920-1400
 Fax #704-920-1401
 Courier Number: 05-09-02
- 15. Camden County DSS Mr. Craig Patterson, Director Post Office Box 70 117 North Highway 343 Camden, NC 27921 Tel. #252-331-4787 Fax #252-355-1009 Courier Number: 10-41-10

- 10. Brunswick County DSS Mr. Carthy Lytch, Director Post Office Box 219 60 Government Road Bolivia, NC 28422-0219 Tel. #910-253-2077 Director's #910-253-2080 Fax #910-253-2071 Courier Number: 04-20-19
- 12. Burke County DSS Dorraine Hernandez, Director 828-439-2003 Post Office Box Drawer 549 700 East Parker Road Morganton, NC 28680-0549 Tel. #828-439-2000 Fax #828-439-2137 Courier Number: 15-01-06
- 14. Caldwell County DSS Mr. Will Wakefield, Director 2345 Morganton Blvd SW, Suite A Lenoir, NC 28645 Tel. #828-426-8200 Fax #828-426-8398 Courier Number: 15-24-17
- 16. Carteret County DSS David Atkinson, Director Post Office Box 779 210 Craven Street Beaufort, NC 28516 Tel. #252-728-3181 Fax #252-728-3631 Courier Number: 11-14-24

- 17. Caswell County DSS Ms. Dianne Moorefield, Director 336-694-2037 Post Office Box 1538 175 East Church Street Yanceyville, NC 27379 Tel. #336-694-4141 Fax #336-694-1816 Courier Number: 02-51-14
- Chatham County DSS Ms. Jennie Kristiansen, Director (919) 642-6917 Post Office Box 489 102 Camp Drive Pittsboro, NC 27312 Tel. #919-542-2759 Fax #919-542-6355 Courier Number: 13-25-02
- 21. Chowan County DSS Ms. Letecia Loadhold, Director 100 W. Freemason Circle Edenton, NC 27932 Tel. # 252-482-7441 Fax # 252-482-7041 Courier Number: 10-62-13
- 23. Cleveland County DSS Ms. Karen D. Ellis, Director 704-487-0661, Ext. 755 PO Drawer 9006, Shelby NC 28151-9006 130 South Post Road Shelby, NC 28150 Tel. #704-487-0661 Fax #704-484-1051 Courier Number: 06-52-03

- Catawba County DSS Mr. John Eller, Director 828-695-5603 Post Office Box 669 Newton, NC 28658 3030 11th Avenue Drive, SE Hickory, NC 28602 Tel. #828-695-5600 Fax #828-695-2497 Courier Number: 09-70-03
- 20. Cherokee County DSS Ms. Cindy Palmer, Director 4800 W US Highway 64 Murphy, NC 28906 Tel. #828-837-7455 Fax #828-837-9789 Courier Number: 08-52-03
- 22. Clay County DSS Mrs. Deborah G. Mauney, Director Post Office Box 147 119 Courthouse Dr. Hayesville, NC 28904 Tel. #828-389-6301 Fax #828-389-6427 Courier Number: 08-51-07
- 24. Columbus County DSS Mr. Algernon McKenzie, Director 901-641-3178 PO Box 397 40 Government Complex Road Whiteville, NC 28472-0397 Tel. #910-642-2800 Fax #910-641-3970 Courier Number: 04-21-23

Page 19

- 25. Craven County DSS Mr. Kent Flowers, Jr., Director 2818 Neuse Boulevard Post Office Box 12039 New Bern, NC 28561-2039 Tel. #252-636-4900 Fax #252-636-4946 Courier Number: 16-66-02
- 27. Currituck County DSS Ms. Kathlyn Romm, Director 2793 Caratoke Highway Post Office Box 99 Currituck, NC 27929 Tel. #252-232-3083 Fax #252-232-2167 Courier Number: 10-68-01
- 29. Davidson County DSS Mr. Dale Moorefield, Director 336-242-2562 Post Office Box 788 Lexington, NC 27293 913 Greensboro Street Tel. # Lex. 366-242-2500 Fax # Lex. 366-249-7588 Courier Number: 13-50-26
- 31. Duplin County DSS Mrs. Nanette Outlaw, Director 423 North Main Street Post Office Box 969 Kenansville, NC 28349 Tel. #910-296-2200 Fax #910-296-2323 Courier Number: 11-20-16

- 26. Cumberland County DSS Ms. Brenda Jackson, Director (910) 677-2035 1225 Ramsey Street Post Office Box 2429 Fayetteville, NC 283021 Tel. #910-323-1540 Fax # 910-677-2801 Courier Number: 14-62-41
- 28. Dare County DSS Mr. Chuck Lycett, Director Post Office Box 669 107 Exeter Street Manteo, NC 27954 Tel. #252-475-5500 Fax # 252-473-9824 Courier Number: 16-30-05
- 30. Davie County DSS Ms. Tracie Murphy, Director 228 Hospital St Post Office Box 517 Mocksville, NC 27028 Tel. # 336-753-6250 Fax # 336-751-1639 Courier Number: 09-40-12
- 32. Durham County DSS Ms. Catherine Williamson-Hardy, Interim Director 414 East Main Street Post Office Box 810 Durham, NC 27702-0810 Tel. #919-560-8000 Fax #919-560-8102 Courier Number: 17-24-13

33. Edgecombe County DSS Marva G. Scott, Director (252) 641-7882
122 E. James Street PO Box 370 Tarboro, NC 27886 Tel. #252-641-7611 Fax #252-641-7980

> Rocky Mount Office 301 South. Fairview Road Rocky Mount, NC 27801 Tel. #252-985-4101 Fax #252-985-1615 Courier Number: 07-50-03& 07-65-01(RM)

- 35. Franklin County DSS Ms. Nicki Perry, Director (919) 496-8118
 107 Industrial Drive Post Office Box 669
 Louisburg, NC 27549
 Tel. #919 496-8118
 Fax #919 496-8137
 Courier Number: 07-06-04
- 37. Gates County DSS Ms. Ann Holley, Director Post Office Box 185 200 Court Street Gatesville, NC 27938 Tel. #252-357-0075 Fax #252-357-2132 Courier Number: 10-21-08
- 39. Granville County DSS Mr. Louis W. Bechtel, Director Post Office Box 966 102 Lanier Street Oxford, NC 27565 Tel. #919-693-1511 Fax #919-603-5090 Courier Number: 17-05-01

34. Forsyth County DSS Ms. Debra Donahue, Director 741 North Highland Avenue Winston-Salem, NC 27101 Tel. #336-703-3800 Fax #336-727-2850 Courier Number: 13-07-01

- 36. Gaston County DSS Ms. Angela Karchmer, Director (704) 862-6640
 330 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way Gastonia, NC 28052 Tel. #704-862-7500
 Fax #704-862-7885
 Courier Number: 06-54-17
- 38. Graham County DSS Mr. Butch Sanders, Director 196 Knight Street Post Office Box 1150 Robbinsville, NC 28771 Tel. #828-479-7911 Fax #828-479-7928 Courier Number: 08-40-02
- 40. Greene County DSS Ms. Angela Ellis, Director 227 Kingold Boulevard, Suite A Snow Hill, NC 28580 Tel. #252-747-5932 Fax #252-747-8654 Courier Number: 01-81-06

- 41. Guilford County DSS Ms. Heather Skeens, Director (336) 641-3053 Post Office Box 3388 1203 Maple Street (27405) Greensboro, NC 27402-3388 Tel. #336-641-3000 Fax # 336-641-5647 Courier Number: 02-15-38
- 43. Harnett County DSS Mr. Paul Polinski, Director (910) 814-6560 311 Cornelius Harnett Boulevard Lillington, NC 27546 Tel. #910-893-7500 Fax #910-893-6604 Courier Number: 14-73-02
- 45. Henderson County DSS Mr. Jerrie McFalls, Interim Director (828) 694-6308
 1200 Spartanburg Highway, Suite 300 Hendersonville, NC 28792 Tel. #828-697-5500 Fax #828-697-4544 Courier Number: 06-92-03
- 47. Hoke County DSS Ms. Della Sweat, Director (910) 878-1920
 314 S. Magnolia Street Post Office Box 340
 Raeford, NC 28376
 Tel. #910-875-8725
 Fax #910-875-1068
 Courier Number: 14-80-12

- 42. Halifax County DSS Ms. Norma Merriman, Director (252) 536-6444 4421 Hwy 301 Post Office Box 767 Halifax, NC 27839 Tel. #252-536-2511 Fax #252-536-6539 Courier Number: 07-42-01
- 44. Haywood County DSS Mr. Stoney Blevins, Director 157 Paragon Parkway, Suite 300 Clyde, NC 28721 Tel. #828-452-6620 Fax #828-452-6686 Courier Number: 08-14-12
- 46. Hertford County DSS Ms. Brenda Brown, Director 704 King Street Post Office Box 218 Winton, NC 27986 Tel. #252-358-7830 Fax # Winton Office 252-358-0597 Ahoskie Office 252-332-4710 Courier Number: 10-13-09
- 48. Hyde County DSS Ms. Laurie Potter, Director (252) 926-4199 35015 US Hwy 264 Post Office Box 100 Engelhard, NC 27824 Tel. #252-926-4476 Fax #252-926-3711 Courier Number: 16-40-05

- 49. Iredell County DSS Ms. Yvette Smith, Director (704) 878-5000 Post Office Box 1146 Statesville, NC 28687 549 Eastside Drive Statesville, NC 28625 Tel. #704-873-5631 Fax #704-878-5419 Courier Number: 09-34-01
- 51. Johnston County DSS Ms. Tina Corbett, Director (919) 989-5301 Post Office Box 911 714 North Street Smithfield, NC 27577 Tel. #919 989-5300 Fax #919-989-5324 Courier Number: 01-64-33
- 53. Lee County DSS Ms. Brenda Potts, Director 530 Carthage Street Post Office Box 1066 Sanford, NC 27330 Tel. #919-718-4690 Fax #919-718-4634 Courier Number: 14-42-05
- 55. Lincoln County DSS Ms. Susan L. McCracken, Director 1136 East Main Street Post Office Box 130 Lincolnton, NC 28093-0130 Tel. #704-732-0738 Fax #704-736-8727 Courier Number: 09-02-07

- 50. Jackson County DSS Ms. Jennifer Abshire, Director (828) 587-2038 15 Griffin Street Sylva, NC 28779 Tel. #828-586-5546 Fax #828-586-6270 Courier Number: 08-23-17
- 52. Jones County DSS Mr. Wes Stewart, Director 118 Highway 58 North Post Office Box 250 Trenton, NC 28585 Tel. #252-448-2581 Fax #252-488-5651 Courier Number: 11-18-10
- 54. Lenoir County DSS Ms. Susan E. Moore, Director (252) 559-6361 130 West King Street, Kinston, NC 28501 Post Office Box 6 Kinston, NC 28502-0006 Tel. #252-559-6400 Fax #252-559-6381 Courier Number: 01-22-20
- 56. Macon County DSS Mr. Patrick Betancourt, Director (828) 349-2130 Lakeside Government Complex 1832 Lakeside Drive Franklin, NC 28734 Tel. #828-349-2124 Fax #828-349-2401 Courier Number: 08-49-03

- 57. Madison County DSS Ms. Connie Harris, Director Post Office Box 219 5707 U.S. Highway 25/70, Unit D Marshall, NC 28753 Tel. #828-649-2711 Fax #828 649-3687 Courier Number: 12-20-07
- 59. McDowell County DSS Ms. Lisa Sprouse, Director 145 East Court Street Post Office Box 338 Marion, NC 28752 Tel. #828-652-3355, Ext. 117 Fax #828-652-9167 Courier Number: 12-93-20
- 61. Mitchell County DSS Ms. Paula Holtsclaw, Director 347 Long View Drive Bakersville, NC 28705-0365 102 East Spring Street Tel. #828-688-2175 Fax #828-688-4940 Courier Number: 12-72-07
- 63. Moore County DSS Mr. John L. Benton, Director 1036 Carriage Oaks Drive Post Office Box 938 Carthage, NC 28327 Tel. #910-947-7367 Fax #910-947-1618 Courier Number: 03-41-08
- 65. New Hanover County DSS Michelle Winstead, Interim Director (910) 798-3712 1650 Greenfield Street Post Office Drawer 1559 Wilmington, NC 28402 Tel. #910-798-3400 Fax #910-798-3627 Courier Number: 04-10-16

- 58. Martin County DSS
 Ms. Susan Davenport, Director (252) 789-4402
 305 East Main Street
 Post Office Box 809
 Williamston, NC 27892
 Tel. #252-789-4400
 Fax #252-789-4409
 Courier Number: 10-84-30
- 60. Mecklenburg County DSS Ms. Peggy Eagan, Director (704) 336-3000 Fax (704) 353-1325 301 Billingsley Road Post Office Box 220999 Charlotte, NC 28222 Courier Number: 05-14-12
- 62. Montgomery County DSS Mrs. Dorothy B. "Dottie" Robinson, Director 102 E. Spring Street Post Office Drawer N Troy, NC 27371 Tel. #910-576-6531 Fax #910-576-5016 Courier Number: 03-96-15
- 64. Nash County DSS Ms. Donna Boone, Director (252) 459-9876 120 West Washington Street Post Office Drawer 819 Nashville, NC 27856 Tel. #252-459-9818 Fax #252-459-9833 Courier Number: 07-72-11
- 66. Northampton County DSS Ms. Shelia Evans, Director 9467 NC 305 Highway Post Office Box 157 Jackson, NC 27845 Tel. #252-534-5811 Fax #252-534-0061 Courier Number: 10-03-12

- 67. Onslow County DSS Ms. Heidi Baur, Director 1915 Onslow Drive Extension Post Office Box 1379 Jacksonville, NC 28541 Tel. #910-455-4145 Fax #910 219-4983 Courier Number: 11-08-20
- 69. Pamlico County Human Services Center Ms. Deborah S. Green, Director 828 Alliance Main St. Bayboro, NC 28515 Tel. #252-745-4086 Fax #252-745-73-84 Courier Number: 16-50-11
- Pender County DSS Ds. Carolyn Moser, Director (910) 259-1376
 810 South Walker Street Post Office Drawer 1207
 Burgaw, NC 28425
 Tel. #910-259-1240
 Fax #910-259-1418
 Courier Number: 04-69-11
- Person County DSS Mr. Carlton B. Paylor Sr., Director (336) 503-1131 Post Office Box 770 355B S. Madison Blvd Roxboro, NC 27573 Tel. #336-599-8361 Fax #336-597-9339 Courier Number: 02-33-17
- 75. Polk County DSS Ms. Lou Parton, Director 231 Wolverine Trail. Mill Spring, NC 28756 Tel. #828-894-2100 Fax #828-894-6326 Courier Number: 06-74-02

- 68. Orange County DSS Ms. Nancy Coston, Director (919) 245-2802
 113 Mayo St. PO Box 8181
 Hillsborough, NC 27278
 Tel. #919-245-2800
 Fax #919-644-3005
 Courier Number: 17-50-11
- 70. Pasquotank County DSS Melissa Stokely, Director 709 Roanoke Avenue Elizabeth City, NC 27909 Tel. #252-338-2126 Fax #252-338-7512 Courier Number: 10-32-01
- Perquimans County DSS Ms. Susan M. Chaney, Director Post Office Box 107 103 Charles Street Hertford, NC 27944 Tel. #252-426-7373 Fax #252-426-1240 Courier Number: 10-53-09
- 74. Pitt County DSS Mr. Jan Y. Elliott, Director (252) 902-1064 1717 West Fifth Street Greenville, NC 27834 Tel. #252-902-1110 Fax #252-413-1299 Courier Number: 01-48-44
- 76. Randolph County DSS Ms. Beth Duncan, Director
 1512 North Fayetteville Street P.O. Box 3239 Asheboro, NC 27204-3239 Tel. #336-683-8000 Fax #336-683-8131 Courier Number: 13-67-01

- 77. Richmond County DSS Mr. Robby Hall, Director (910) 997-8444
 125 Caroline Street Post Office Box 518 Rockingham, NC 28380 Tel. #910-997-8480 Fax #910-997-8447 Courier Number: 03-75-01
- 79. Rockingham County DSS Ms. Felissa Ferrell, Director 411 NC Hwy. 65 Wentworth, NC 27375 Post Office Box 61 Wentworth, NC 27375 Tel. #336-342-1394 Fax #336-634-1847 Courier Number: 02-28-07
- 81. Rutherford County DSS Mr. John Carroll, Director (828) 287-6165 Post Office Box 242 389 Fairground Road Spindale, NC 28160 Tel. #828-287-6199 Fax #828-287-6350 Courier Number: 06-64-12
- 83. Scotland County DSS Ms. April Snead, Director (910) 277-2525 x 3385 1405 West Boulevard Post Office Box 1647 Laurinburg, NC 28353 Tel. #910-277-2500 Fax #910-277-2402 Courier Number: 14-38-03
- 85. Stokes County DSS Stacey Elmes, Director 1010 Highway 8 & 89 North Post Office Box 30 Danbury, NC 27016 Tel. #336-593-2861 Fax #336-593-9362 Courier Number: 09-16-01

- 78. Robeson County DSS Ms .Becky Morrow, Director (910) 671-3711
 120 Glen Cowan Road Lumberton, NC 28360
 Tel. #910-671-3500
 Fax #910-671-3092
 Courier Number: 14-92-04
- 80. Rowan County DSS Ms. Donna Fayko, Director (704) 216-8422 1236 West Innes Street Salisbury, NC 28144 Tel. #704-216-8330 Fax #704-638-3041 Courier Number: 05-34-04
- 82. Sampson County DSS
 Ms. Sarah Bradshaw, Director
 360 County Complex Road
 Post Office Box 1105
 Clinton, NC 28328
 Tel. #910-592-7131
 Fax #910-592-4297
 Courier Number: 11-33-29
- 84. Stanly County DSS Tammy Schrenker, Director (704) 986-2005
 1000 North First Street, Suite 2 Albemarle, NC 28001
 Tel. #704-982-6100
 Fax #704-983-5818
 Courier Number: 03-23-02
- 86. Surry County DSS Kristy Preston, Director 118 Hamby Road Dobson, NC 27017 Tel. #336-401-8700 Fax #336-401-8750 Courier Number: 09-92-02

- 87. Swain County DSS
 Ms. Sheila Sutton, Interim Director
 80 Academy St.
 Post Office Box 610
 Bryson City, NC 28713
 Tel. #828-488-6921
 Fax #828-488-8271
 Courier Number: 08-30-10
- 89. Tyrrell County DSS Ms. Brandy Mann , InterimDirector 102 N. Road Street Post Office Box 599 Columbia, NC 27925 Tel. #252-796-3421 Fax # 252-796-1732 Courier Number: 16-20-02
- 91. Vance County DSS Ms. Bea Walker, Director 350 Ruin Creek Road Henderson, NC 27536 Tel. #252-492-5001 Fax #252-438-5997 Courier Number: 07-24-18
- 93. Warren County DSS Mr. Ryan Whitson, Director 307 North Main Street Warrenton, NC 27589 Tel. #252-257-5000 Fax #252-257-4656 Courier Number: 07-30-19

95. Watauga County DSS Mr. Tom Hughes, Director 132 Poplar Grove Road Connector, Suite C Boone, NC 28607 Tel. #828-265-8100 Fax #828-265-7638 Courier Number: 15-92-11

- 88. Transylvania County DSS Ms. Tracy Jones, Director 106 E. Morgan St. Brevard, NC 28712 Tel. #828-884-3174 Fax #828-884-3263 Courier Number: 06-02-12
- 90. Union County DSS Rae Alepa, Director (704) 296-4302
 1212 West Roosevelt Boulevard Monroe, NC 28110
 Post Office Box 489
 Monroe, NC 28111-0489
 Tel. #704-296-4300
 Fax #704-296-6151
 Courier Number: 03-07-01
- 92. Wake County DSS Ms. Linda Keely, Deputy Director (919) 212-7302 Fax (919) 212-7309 220 Swinburne Road Post Office Box 46833 Raleigh, NC 27620 Tel. #919-212-7000 Fax #919-212-7285 Courier Number: 51-91-00
- 94. Washington County DSS Mr. Clifton Hardison, Director 209 East Main Street Post Office Box 10 Plymouth, NC 27962 Tel. #252-793-4041 Fax #252-793-3195 Courier Number: 16-13-01
- 96. Wayne County DSS Ms. Debbie Jones, Director (919) 731-4119
 301 North Herman Street Goldsboro, NC 27530 Tel. #919-580-4034 Fax #919-731-1293 Courier Number: 01-15-33

- 97. Wilkes County DSS Mr. John Blevins, Director (336) 651-7407 304 College Street Wilkesboro, NC 28697 Tel. #336-651-7400 or 336-651-7490 Fax #336-651-7568 Courier Number: 15-10-09
- 99. Yadkin County DSS Ms. Kim Harrell, Director Post Office Box 548 250 Willow Street Yadkinville, NC 27055 Tel. #336-679-4210 Fax #336-679-2664 Courier Number: 09-12-22
- 98. Wilson County DSS Mr. J. Glenn Osborne, Director 100 N.E Gold Street Post Office Box 459 Wilson, NC 27894-0459 Tel. #252-206-4000 Fax #252-237-1544 Courier Number: 01-54-01
- 100. Yancey County DSS Mr. Rick Tipton, Interim Director 320 Pensacola Road Post Office Box 67 Burnsville, NC 28714 Tel. #828-682-6148 Fax #828-682-6712 Courier Number: 12-45-03

APPENDIX 3

NCDSS SERT BRIEFING AGENDA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENTS

- 1. Counties (list counties or teams to be included)
- 2. Purpose of Call
 - Storm Update/SERT activities
 - Division Communication
 - Center Information Telephone
- 3. Communications Center Contacts
- 4. Communication Systems
 - E-mail by LISTSERV
 - Terminal messages by FSIS and EIS
 - Fax
 - Conference Call Schedule
- 5. State/County Disaster Plan
 - County Feedback on Disaster Status
 - Inter-County Staff Sharing
- 6. Disaster Food and Nutrition Services Plan
 - Benefits
 - Status of County Plans
 - Requested Information from Early Assessment
 - State Food and Nutrition Services Plan Distribution
 - Guidelines for Crowd Control and Security
 - Key Automation Issues
 - Public Information
 - Fraud Sample
- 7. Other Critical Issues

APPENDIX 4

DHHS SERT BRIEFING AGENDA

1. Status of Disaster Incident

- SERT Activities
- FEMA Activities
- Storm Impact (weather conditions, roads, utilities)

2. Mass Care

- Shelters Opened
- Feeding Issues

3. Public and Community Health Issues

- Food Safety
- Water Safety Issues
- Injury Prevention Issues

4. Communications and Public Information

- Communications Center Information/Status
- DHHS Team Convening Protocol
- Automation Issues
- Public Information and Press Release Activities

5. DHHS Facilities

• Damage Assessment/Recovery Efforts

6. Response and Recovery Programs

- Disaster Food and Nutrition Services Program
- Individual and Family Grant Program
- Community Relations
- Division of Aging Programs
- Mental Health Crisis Counseling
- FEMA Public Assistance Application Process

Other Issues

DEBRIEFING QUESTIONNAIRE

In order to assist us with the debriefing, each participant will be requested to fill out the following questionnaire.

1. Specific Actions

Please identify specific actions you performed prior to, during and/or following the current disaster. Indicate if the activity was related to response or to recovery efforts.

2. Positive Experiences

Please list the positive experiences and successful actions of the response or recovery efforts in which you were involved

3. Needs Improvement

Please list those areas in need of modification or improvement.

4. Long-Term Strategies

Please list any issues (policy decisions, organizational, resources, structures, etc.) that may require long-term strategies.

APPENDIX 5

PROPOSED CONFERENCE CALL PROTOCOL

- Purpose of Call
- Storm Update/SERT Activities
- Division Communication Center (Room 126) Insert Telephone Numbers
- Teams Involved Insert Team Numbers and Telephone Numbers
- Communication Center Contacts
- Terminal Messages
- State/County Disaster Plan
- Disaster Food and Nutrition Services Plan

Benefits Status of County Plans Requested Information for Early Assessment State Food and Nutrition Services Plan Distribution Guidelines for Crowd Control and Security Key Automation Issues Public Information Fraud Sample

• Proposed Schedule of Calls

APPENDIX 6

DISASTER RESPONSE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

Activation

When EOC notifies the DSS SERT Coordinator that activation of the EOC is imminent or has occurred, he/she informs the Director and the Executive Management Team. The Disaster Coordinator also informs the counties in potential harm's way and advises that they will be made aware if the Communications Center is activated. The Director of NC DSS or his/her designee is responsible for activating the Center.

Setting Up the Communications Center

Upon activation, the SERT Coordinator notifies Administrative Services to activate phones and notifies the LAN Administration to set-up the computer system. He/She contacts the Section Chiefs to alert them that the Center has been activated and to have their representative(s) report.

Operation of the Communications Center

The Deputy Director directs the Center's Operation. The Center is the locus for communicating with impacted counties. The hours of operation generally parallel the hours of EOC operation; however, when the Center is not operating (for example, late evening and overnight), the locus shifts to the DSS station at the EOC.

The Center deploys staff to impacted counties to assist with assessing the counties' needs and to serve as points of contact to provide the Center with requested information. The Center also operates a clearinghouse between the impacted counties needs and the personnel available for assisting. The personnel may include NC DSS State staff from the Disaster Registry or volunteer staff from non-impacted local DSS agencies. The Information Systems Support Section is responsible for maintaining the databases in the clearinghouse.

Deactivation

The Director or his/her designee determines when the Center is deactivated. At that time, the SERT Coordinator notifies Administrative Services, the LAN Administrator, and Section Chiefs that the Center is being deactivated.

APPENDIX 7

GENERAL PUBLIC SHELTERS AND AMERICAN RED CROSS (ARC) RESPONSIBILITIES

General public shelters usually are in public buildings and usually meet ADA standards. However, these shelters have limitations and operate for those who are self-sufficient and need no outside professional assistance in performing activities of daily living, or for those who are accompanied by family members or other caregivers who assist with activities of daily living. For those individuals whose needs are beyond that available at public shelters, special care sheltering is available.

Public shelters, including special care shelters, are the responsibility of county government (NC General Statute 166-A) and the American Red Cross (ARC) (Congressional mandate). In those situations where county government opens public shelters and where agreements between ARC and the county social services department (DSS) exist for that purpose, the responsibility for Special Care Shelters normally rests with the county DSS.

General Public Shelters. General public shelters are selected with consideration of the proximity of the disaster to the facility the size of the shelter, available feeding facilities and other factors. Whenever possible, these shelters are also expected to provide reasonable accommodations (ramps, interpreters, restrooms, effective communication devices, etc.). Temporary accommodations that are in the best interest of the physically challenged (ramps, rails, etc.) may be arranged through the Red Cross Job Director, who has the authority to borrow, rent or construct such accommodations. However, additions of such modifications to permanent structures can only be done so with the written permission of the facility owner.

The American Red Cross (ARC). The ARC usually manages general public shelters. Evacuees to all public shelters are encouraged to bring sufficient sleeping and personal needs items to include medications with them when advance evacuation time is possible. In cases where the nature of the disaster is immediate, Red Cross may provide such items as cots, blankets, and other comfort accommodations when the shelter is determined to be open for a period longer than 36 hours and when such items are deemed necessary and appropriate. The initial availability of cots, blankets, etc. is dependent upon the local ARC's resources, local government resources or other agency stockpiles within that area. Following the incident when non-affected shelters are able to close, resources may be shifted to remaining open shelters. Resources may need to be diverted to special care shelters due to the condition of the Support Level I and II evacuees as opposed to the healthier evacuees in the general public shelters. Resources such as cots and blankets will be directed to the elderly and medical needs evacuees as a priority when such items are not in sufficient quantities to include all sheltered individuals.

The level of care needed for Support Levels I and II exceed the Red Cross medical protocols. The responsibility for care of these residents rest with the facilities that provide pre-shelter care or with the special care shelters. Medical staff for special care shelters normally will be provided by the county public health department. Red Cross will work with agencies, after meeting their own health care responsibilities, who are special needs care providers but ARC cannot be responsible for these persons. ARC will provide Disaster Health Services (DHS) personnel in all general public shelters. The DHS workers will be available for consultation with other medical personnel in the temporary infirmary section. The ARC will provide space and service within their shelters for the Support Level II individuals when special need shelters are not available or accessible and will make a determination regarding the need to retain or transfer those individuals when such action is in the best health interest of the person being sheltered.

Individuals who need special diets will be accommodated through the local hospitals and within the Mass Care function for Support Level III persons in regular shelters. Special dietary needs for persons staying in special needs shelters will be ordered and provided through the agency responsible for the shelter. ARC strives to meet special diet needs but may be limited in doing so during the first few days of a disaster if there has been widespread destruction. ARC will endeavor to assist after meeting their own mass care requirements or at such time that provisions cannot be made by the responsible agency due to disaster related causes.

A request for mass care assistance from ARC does not imply assumption of any financial responsibilities nor liabilities by the American Red Cross. All potential requests for assistance either as a primary or secondary source of mass care in special needs shelters should be agreed upon in writing between the potential service provider and the local American Red Cross unit in advance. Such agreements should outline the general scope of the request to include general nutritional parameters, additional personnel, and financial reimbursements if any, liability issues, responsibilities of the service provider to insure release of the ARC from any liability incurred in the consumption of those meals relative to medical dietary requirements and prescriptions.

ARC will bear the financial responsibility for those items that are part of the traditional ARC shelter response when such facilities are deemed "ARC shelters". Specialized medical equipment needed for special needs individuals is the responsibility of the individual or the special care shelter. Medical personnel who work in these special care units are not covered under ARC guidelines.

Pet Friendly Shelters. Can provide accommodations for pets in a nearby facility.

In Summary. It is important that the service delivery equivalent to the needs of the individual are in keeping with the highest health service available under the circumstances. While the ARC operates shelters general public shelters, it will always provide a place of safe haven and shelter to those in need regardless of their medical condition. It is hoped that this document will provide lead planning time to facilitate the best arrangement and charge those agencies and individuals with providing service through the course of the disaster an implied in NC General Statute 166-A.

As part of their Congressional mandate, ARC will strive to become an advocate to initiate those responsibilities. In cases where there is an absence of service or where local jurisdictions do not or cannot provide service or where the ARC determines that service delivery is inadequate or not to ARC standards, ARC will implement the necessary actions to provide the safest haven for those needing emergency shelter regardless of category.

The ARC will provide support to Support Level I and II shelters when possible and after ensuring that they have met their own disaster responsibilities. In such situations where there is a known deficiency in resources, funding or manpower, parties may negotiate with the ARC to ensure that the interest of the disaster client is best served. Such request will be part of the predisaster planning and such agreements must be in writing, and approved by the National ARC prior to the event. Request for mass care support from ARC does not imply assumption of any financial responsibilities or liabilities by the ARC.