



A Future Oriented Source of Leadership

2026 NCACDSS ANNUAL MEETING

April 28th - New Director's Orientation

April 29-May 1st - Annual Meeting

Location: Crowne Plaza
1 Resort Drive Asheville NC

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
New Director's Orientation

Dress code: Professional Business Casual

10:00 am-11:00 am	Opening/Introduction/Welcome and Icebreaker
11:00-12:30 am	Kristi Nickodem <i>UNC School of Government</i> <i>Introduction to Relevant Laws for DSS Directors</i>
12:30-1:30 pm	ONSITE NETWORKING LUNCH with Sponsors
1:30-2:30 pm	Pyreddy Reddy <i>Chief Information Security Officer</i> <i>Privacy and Security Office</i> <i>NCDHHS</i>
2:30-2:45 pm	BREAK
2:45-3:30 pm	OSHR <i>Dominick Derasmo and Team.</i>
3:30-4:30	NCACDSS Overview <i>Karen Powell and LaVerne Bennett</i>
5:00 pm	Adjourn Dinner (on your own) Networking lobby and outdoor areas

WEDNESDAY, April 29, 2026

Dress code: Professional Business Casual

7:30-9:00	Breakfast Onsite for Directors and Sponsors
9:00 am	Opening/Introduction/Welcome <i>Ashley Lantz, President</i>
9:10-9:45 am	Icebreaker <i>Micah Ennis, 1st Vice President</i>
9:45-10:30 am	Sponsor Presentations <i>Vanguard Professional Staffing, Inc-Myra Powell</i> <i>Allies4Outcomes-Angela Pittman-Vanderweide</i> <i>Blue Cross NC-Lauren Lumsden</i> <i>YoungWilliams-Jeremy Smith</i> <i>NC Office of State Human Resources-Dominick Derasmo</i> <i>Deloitte Consulting LLP-Ethan Bailey</i> <i>Shelita Lee-United Healthcare</i>
10:30-10:40	Break
10:40-12:00	Recruitment and Retention <i>Julie Beasley, UNC School of Government</i> Focused on topics like dealing with burnout, emotional labor, and psychological safety.
12:00-1:00 pm	ONSITE NETWORKING LUNCH with Sponsors
1:00-4:00	NCACDSS Strategic Planning <i>Karen Powell</i> <i>Jamie Bazemore and Sherry Bradsher</i>
4:00-5:00	Directors Walk and Talk <i>Karen Powell</i> An informal opportunity to connect, share ideas, and recharge
5:00 pm	Adjourn Dinner (on your own) Networking lobby and outdoor areas

THURSDAY, April 30, 2026

7:30-9:00 am	BREAKFAST (onsite) Directors and Sponsors
9:00-10:00 am	<i>PATHNC (Bring your laptops)</i> <i>Peter West</i>
10:00-11:00 am	Disaster Planning <i>Kimberly Clement, Assistant Chief of Preparedness & Strategic Operations</i>
11:00-11:45 am	Preparation for Luncheon and Group Photo <i>Rich Gorberg</i>
12:00-1:30 pm	Awards Luncheon (on-site) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Lifetime Achievement Award</i>• <i>Director of the Year Award</i>• <i>Recognition of Regional Representatives and Committee Chairs</i> Note: Sponsors invited to attend—Make room for vendors at your table
1:30-2:00 pm	Room change over
2:00-3:00 pm	Allies 4 Outcomes Aligning For Impact: Building High Trust, High Performing Teams <i>Angela Pittman, CEO</i>
3:00-4:00 PM	Strategic Planning Wrap Up
4:00-5:00 pm	<i>Fun Relaxing Networking Time</i>
5:00 pm	Adjourn Dinner on your own

FRIDAY, May 1st, 2026

8:00-9:00 am	BREAKFAST (on-site)
9:00-10:15 am	<i>Regional Director Panel</i> Panel of Regional Directors to discuss resources, hot topics, information sharing and a Q&A session.
10:15-10:30 am	BREAK
10:30-11:45 am	Executive Board Meeting <i>Ashley Lantz, President</i>
11:45 am-12 noon	Wrap-Up and Adjourn