

NCACDSS Western Regional Meeting

November 6-7, 2025

Buncombe County HHS, 40 Coxe Ave., Asheville, NC

Agenda

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2025

9-12 pm Director's ONLY Session

- Welcome/ Connection – Cris Weatherford, Jackson County
- Updates from Executive Director – Sharnese Ransome
- CAP/Divestiture Conversation
 - Experiences, Lessons Learned, Recommendations
- Paying It Forward: Tackling Compression, Equity, and Starting Salaries in Local Government
 - Open discussion – recommendations and suggestions from counties and Dominick D'erasmo, NC OSHR Human Resources Manager
- Updates from DHHS Regional Directors (11:15-12:00)

9-12 pm Child Welfare

Facilitator: Laura Harrison, Caldwell County DSS

- From Onboarding to Ongoing: Growing Stronger Social Workers and Supervisors (9-12)
 - CQI: County Processes and Best Practices – Holly McNeill (9-10:30 am)
 - DHHS Training Updates – Tammy Shook (10:30 am – 11)
 - Training and Support for Supervisors – Allies4Outcomes (11-12)

9-12 pm Economic Services

Facilitator: Buncombe County

- HR 1– NC Medicaid
- Medicaid Policy & NC Fast Functionality
- Regional Training Solutions

9-12 pm Adult Services

Facilitator: Alleghany County

- OAASIS
- MDT Discussion/Updates
- Hospitalizations and lack of placement resources
- Incompetence vs. Severe and Persistent Mental Illness
- Unclaimed Bodies Open Discussion/County Best Practices

9-12 pm Fiscal/Budget

- See LBL Agenda

12-1:30 pm NETWORKING LUNCH ONSITE

1:30-4 pm JOINT Session- Open to all

- 1:30-2:15 LBL Updates – Caleb Hawkins, NC DHHS
- 2:15-3:15 PATH NC Discussion – Rob Morrell, NCDHHS/Jackson & Caldwell Counties
- 3:15-4:00 Recruitment/Retention/Workforce Support – Allies4Outcomes

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025

9-12 pm JOINT Session- Open to all

- HR1 – Jill Simmerman, Will Wakefield, and Gina Hamilton (9-10:15)
- Child & Family Specialty Plan – Kristy Kent, BCBS & Chameka Jackson, NC Medicaid (10-11)
- Funding to support the 27 Hurricane Helene-affected counties – Center for Child and Family Health; Positive Childhood Alliance; and Heather McAllister, NC DSS Section Chief Child and Family Services (11:15-12)