

County Department of Social Services
Person County Department of Social Services

Submitted By Antoinetta Cash Royster, MSW

Title Human Services Evaluator

Address 
355-B South Madison Boulevard
Roxboro, NC 27573
United States

Phone Number (336) 322-8626

Email aroyster@personcounty.net

Project Title Substance Abuse: A Contributing Factor to Child Maltreatment

Category Profiles in Community Collaboration
(Please select one)

Project Description and Summary

What did you do?

Describe your program or project. What did you do? What is the history behind the program/project? What did you hope to accomplish? What was your timeline? Your budget? How did you identify your objectives? How well did you use available resources?

Due to the influx of children our county had in foster care, we took a snapshot of data from all the children in DSS custody from February, 2016 through March, 2016. We wanted to look at how substance abuse in the community contributed to the increasing number of children we had in our custody. We looked at the types of child maltreatment, ages of the children, caretaker's drug of choice, and our agency's drug testing budget and actual costs over three years. Information was gathered from social

workers, state data programs and our agency's annual reports. All of the information needed to complete this project was readily available within the agency; therefore, no budget was needed.

Project Success and Impact

What was the outcome?

Was your program/project a success? What was the impact? How did you measure the impact? How widespread is the impact of your program/project? How were you able to overcome obstacles and challenges? Did your program/project meet your established objectives?

We found that out of all the children who were in DSS custody, 54 (61%) of them were in foster care due to substance abuse by their caretakers and approximately 60% of those children were between the ages of 0–5. We also found that our drug testing budget had increased by approximately 64% over three years. This information was provided to the community in an infographic during our county's first Substance Abuse Summit in September, 2016. Since that time, this information and other substance abuse data from different timeframes has been requested by or provided to our county manager's office, drug court judge and other agencies to be used for budgets, grant proposals, and other resource needs in the community. Our agency's staff has been influential in the county's substance abuse committee that has grown since the first summit. Shedding light on how substance abuse affects families and children as well as our community has caused an increase substance abuse awareness in the community. Monthly substance abuse committee meetings are held with community partners and rotate among agencies involved. Our staff and other committee members have presented this information along with other substance abuse information to local churches and civic groups. We will be hosting our first meeting with all community faith leaders at a local church in August, 2017 and our second summit in September, 2017 where we will provide another infographic for children in care between the months of February and March, 2017. There were no challenges or obstacles as everyone involved with this project were eager to know the outcome and readily provided what was needed. This project achieved more than only looking at the impact of substance abuse on our increasing foster care caseloads. It provided the community with a

snapshot of how substance abuse affects children and families particularly those involved in our county's child welfare system.
