

FORSYTH COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: APRIL 25, 2016 AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2016 AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
MONTH IN FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
(FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES)**

COUNTY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION OR COMMENTS:

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION:

See attached

ATTACHMENTS: yes no

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: April 20, 2016
COUNTY MANAGER

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2016
AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN
FORSYTH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
(FORSYTH COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES)**

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month is acknowledged throughout the United States annually in April; and

WHEREAS, Child Abuse Prevention Month provides an opportunity to raise awareness and educate the community on the various ways to support families and prevent abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, children are vital to our State's success, prosperity, and quality of life, and are our most valuable assets; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 National Child Abuse Theme is "*Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect-Educate.Guide.Protect*"; and

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect is a community problem affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community, and

WHEREAS, finding solutions to adverse reactions for children decreases the likelihood of substance abuse, heart disease, obesity, and future child maltreatment; and

WHEREAS, in Forsyth County 1,879 children were referred for child abuse, neglect, and dependency in fiscal year 2015 and 52% of those children represented the age group of 0-5; and

WHEREAS, the estimated annual cost of child abuse and neglect for North Carolina is \$2,057,467,000; and

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect can be prevented by making sure every family and caregiver have the support they need to raise their children in a healthy environment; and

WHEREAS, the majority of child abuse and neglect cases originate from situations and conditions that are preventable; and with the help of an engaged and supportive community, such as partnerships among citizens, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement, and the business community, child maltreatment can be eradicated by effective child abuse prevention strategies; and

WHEREAS, Forsyth County is proud to have a comprehensive Child Abuse and Neglect protocol that streamlines community assets and partners to address child maltreatment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Forsyth County hereby recognizes April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Forsyth County and encourages all citizens, community agencies, faith based groups, and medical facilities to join with the Forsyth County Department of Social Services to increase their participation in the Department's efforts to prevent child maltreatment and strengthen the communities in which we live.

Adopted this 25th day of April 2016.