



RANDOLPH COUNTY
Department of Social Services

Beth W. Duncan

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PRESS RELEASE

“April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.”

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, Randolph County Department of Social Services encourages all individuals and organizations to play a role in making Randolph County a better place for children and families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help promote children’s social and emotional well-being and prevent child maltreatment within families and communities.

Children all over North Carolina are the victims of abuse and neglect every day. In fiscal year 2014, Randolph County DSS investigated 1,139 reports of child abuse, neglect, and dependency. Investigations revealed that 453 children were victims of maltreatment...or more than one for every day of the year.

Research shows that when parents possess six protective factors, the risk for neglect and abuse diminish and optimal outcomes for children, youth, and families are promoted. The six protective factors are nurturing and attachment, knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development, parental resilience, social connections, concrete supports for parents, and social and emotional developmental well-being. Everyone’s participation is critical. Focusing on ways to build and promote the protective factors, in every interaction with children and families, is the best thing our community can do to prevent child maltreatment and promote optimal child development.

There are many forms of child abuse including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect. When prevention fails, reporting maltreatment becomes the next step. While DSS is the local agency charged by the state of NC to investigate reports of neglect or abuse; keeping our children safe is a shared responsibility. In North Carolina, all citizens are mandated, by law, to report suspected child abuse or neglect to their local DSS. In Randolph County, contact the Randolph County Child Abuse Hotline at (336) 683-8200.

For more information about child abuse prevention see: www.childwelfare.gov/ and for NC see the NC Department of Health and Human Services/Division of Social Services web site at: <http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dss/index.htm>.

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