

Foster Care Services

Lee County NC

Department of Social Services

Objective of the Foster Care Unit:

1. Is to monitor the welfare, safety and permanence of children in the Agency's custody.
2. To establish licensed foster homes and/or adoptive resources for children in need of temporary or permanent homes.
3. To assist parents in building strengths and developing protective capacities to meet minimum care standards for their children.

Foster Care Social Workers:

The Foster Care Unit comprises of three Social Worker III that is charged with monitoring the safety of children in the foster care system, developing Out of Home Service Agreements with parents, monitoring the family progress and report progress or lack of to the court system.

The Foster Care Social Worker (FCSW) monitors all aspects of the case to assure that all court ordered services are referred and monitored. FCSW work with parents to overcome barriers to the accessing or committing to services in the community. FCSW stays in contact with all members of the team to assure that information is communicated timely and issues are addressed in ways that benefit Safety and well-being of children.

Licensing Social Worker:

The Licensing Social Worker monitors licensed foster homes, outreach in the community for more foster homes, and tracks placement of children in DSS custody. The Licensing Social Worker Trains perspective foster homes so they are better equipped to deal with the complex needs of families. The Licensing worker completes all state required paperwork for licensed foster homes, meets with each licensed or perspective foster home to assure that state standards are met and upheld.

The Licensing Social Worker also maintains our LINKS program by working with Foster Care Social Workers, Resource families of youth 13 to 21 that are or have been in the foster care system after the age of 13. Under the LINKS Program, the Licensing worker maintains a case file with all required documentation. The Licensing worker maintains the funds in the LINKS and the Special LINKS and request allocations according to program policy. The Licensing worker maintains Casey Life Skill Survey on all the children. Foster Care Social Worker and the Licensing Social Worker share responsibilities for children in this age group.

Adoption Social Worker:

The Adoption Social Worker conducts home studies, completes adoption paperwork and monitors children in care after Termination of Parental Rights. The Adoption Social Worker does Private Adoptions, Stepparent Adoptions, as well as the adoptions of children in Lee County Department of Social Service (DSS) custody.

The Adoption Social Worker works with NC Kids and other state and community resources to find permanent homes for children with the goal of Adoption, Guardianship with a court appointed caregiver or Another Planned Living Arrangement. The Adoption Social Worker assist children in preparation of the permanent plan. The Adoption Social Worker screens perspective adoptive families to be sure the home will meet the needs of the child and that the child will fit with the families expectations.

Other duties handled by the unit:

Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (the uniformed Law enacted by all 50 states)

Lee County DSS works with North Carolina ICPC office to assure that children that enter Lee County are protected and served while in North Carolina. The Licensing Social Worker and the Adoption Social Worker hold a caseload of ICPC cases. They monitor the home prior to placement and monitor the placement once the child is in North Carolina with the interstate agreement. There are quarterly reports that are submitted to the NC ICPC office noting the safety, wellbeing and permanency wish of the child and family. Recommendations are made through the ICPC office to the sending state ICPC office to assure that the needs of the family are being met.

Other County requests

With a written request from other NC Counties, The Licensing and Adoption Social Worker will work cases with children bring placed in Lee County by another North Carolina county. They also complete home study request from other county DSS offices.