

2016 State of the County Health Report - Rutherford County



The following SOTCH Scorecard was created and submitted by March 10, 2017 in order to meet the requirements for the **Rutherford County** annual State of the County's Health (SOTCH) Report.

Clear Impact Scorecard™ is a strategy and performance management software that is accessible through a web browser and designed to support collaboration both inside and outside organizations. WNC Healthy Impact is using Clear Impact Scorecard™ to support the development of electronic CHIPs, SOTCH Reports and Hospital Implementation Strategy scorecards in communities across the region.

Scorecard helps communities organize their community health improvement efforts:

- Develop and communicate shared vision
- Define clear measures of progress
- Share data internally or with partners
- Simplify the way you collect, monitor and report data on your results

The **2015 Community Health Assessment** priority areas are:

- **Tobacco Use**
- **Chronic Disease & Healthy Living**
- **Substance Abuse**

The following resources were used/reviewed in order to complete the SOTCH:

- [2017 County Health Data Book](#)
- Rutherford County Year End Report
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- State Center for Health Statistics

Priority 1- Tobacco Use

| R | Tobacco Free Lifestyles | Time Period | Actual Value | Target Value | Current Trend | Baseline % Change |
|---|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
|---|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|

Progress Made in Last Year

The following progress was made in 2016 on Tobacco in Rutherford County:

- \$10,000 was placed in digital ads to promote Quitline NC in strategic media used by target populations.
- Promotion of Quit Line (1-800-QuitNow), tobacco cessation and harmful effects of e-cigarette use.
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is working with local Multi-unit Housing Communities to adopt new laws that prohibit smoking inside HUD properties. The Tobacco Team is working to support a smooth adoption of the new HUD policies at the Forest City Housing Authority.
- Two Rutherford County Clinicians are receiving the Duke Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training to deliver one on one tobacco interventions in clinics serving uninsured and underserved populations.
- Although ICC has not yet adopted a Tobacco Free (TF) policy, all members of the ICC Board of Directors received a packet of information outlining the benefits and methods for adopting a TF policy on this local campus. Following the receipt of these informational packets, the President of ICC called RPMHD's Assistant Health Director to inquire about that process. We expect forward movement on a TF policy at ICC in 2017.
- A New Tobacco Team is forming through Rutherford Health Council, RPMHD, NC Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch and interested community partners. The Team approach will increase capacity to reduce current smokers and prevent youth initiation through policy changes and smoking cessation interventions in clinical settings.

- In partnership with RHI Legacy Foundation, Rutherford Regional hosted their annual camp, Camp Wheezknot, on August 20, 2016, which this year was expanded to include parent education about asthma, and asthma triggers including tobacco use and second hand smoke exposure.
- To help community members better understand the link between tobacco, marijuana and e-cigarette use among youth, Marjorie Vestal, Public Health Consultant with the Rutherford-Polk-McDowell Health District, hosted a Triangulum in September 2016. The Triangulum was offered to local Middle School and High School staff especially Health and Physical Education teachers, counselors, nurses and School Resource Officers to better prepare them to deliver relevant lessons and interventions designed to reduce the likelihood that youth will start using tobacco or THC in aerosols (AKA Vapes) such as e-cigarettes. Approximately 50 individuals attended this event.
- As a result of a health fair held at Turner Construction Co., 18 employees enrolled in smoking cessation classes provided by Rutherford Regional Health System.
- The majority of our health promotion work is done at health fairs, food distribution sites, workplaces, schools and other venues where there is contact with the public. Brochures, posters and health literature are distributed.
- In 2016 the Rutherford Health Dept. attended 9 different health fairs.



| | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| P | Media Campaign/Quit-line Promotion | Time Period | Actual Value | Target Value | Current Trend | Baseline % Change |
| | | | | | | |

Partners

The partners for this strategy include:

- Lead Agency: RPMHD Role: Project Coordinator
- Target population representative: Health Department Clients, WIC Staff and Maternity Clinicians, general population, Spanish speaking clients and staff from Health Department will test messages in Spanish. Role: Market test media messages, Promote Quitline, Access Quitline Coaching for Cessation.
- NC Tobacco and Control Branch will provide Technical Assistance. Partners: Moffit Media will place digital ads and monitor success rates, provide reports to RPMHD.
- Rutherford Health Council will promote campaign
- Rutherford Regional Hospital will promote campaign and provide cessation resources, participate in Quitline referrals wherever appropriate. Role: Promote Quitline. Refer smokers for cessation resources to quit tobacco use.

| | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
| P | Media Campaign/Quit-line Promotion | Time Period | Actual Value | Target Value | Current Trend | Baseline % Change |
| | | | | | | |

Implementation of the 5As Brief Cessation Counseling

Partners

The partners for this strategy include:

- Lead Agency: RPMHD Role: Provide 5As Training to Staff and to patients who are pregnant.
- Target population representative: Behavioral Health Clients and Staff represent the intended population of current smokers. Role: Program guidance and participation in referring smokers to cessation resources.
- Rutherford Regional Hospital will provide cessation resources.
- Rutherford Health Council will provide program promotion and implementation.
- NC Tobacco and Control Branch will provide technical assistance and assistance with training as needed. Role: Program Support and Promotion to Partners, Program implementation to intended audience.

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------|
| P | Triangulum Seminar – Training on Electronic Nicotine and THC Delivery Systems (ENDS) | Time | Actual | Target | Current | Baseline |
| | | Period | Value | Value | Trend | % Change |

Partners

The partners for this strategy include:

- Lead Agency: RPMHD Role: Project Coordinator
- Target population representative: Rutherford School Administrators, Educators, school nurses, SROs, Counselors, ultimately MS and HS students. Role: Attend Seminar, use new curriculum to deliver Tobacco Prevention Education to MS and HS students.
- NC Tobacco and Control Branch will provide training
- RHA Prevention Services will delivery best practices and curriculum updates for Tobacco Prevention Education.
- Community Engagement Team (CET) will promote Seminar to partners.
- Rutherford Schools will provide space and give Teachers time to attend Seminar.
- Rutherford Sheriff’s Department will provide SRO to attend Seminar and apply new information when working with students.
- Pavillon Treatment Center will present “Current Trends in Drug Use” during lunch hour at Seminar. Role: Attend and Promote Seminar. Extend new research on ENDS to appropriate intended audiences. Use new curriculum and related information to prevent use of e-cigarettes and other harmful substances among youth and adults.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------|
| P | 100% Tobacco-Free Schools | Time | Actual | Target | Current | Baseline |
| | | Period | Value | Value | Trend | % Change |

Partners

The partners for Tobacco Free Schools include:

- Lead Agency: RPMHD Role: Convener/Implementer New partner X Established partner
- Target population representative: School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) represents children and families. Role: Program guidance and support
- Rutherford County Schools will enforce 100% TF Schools
- Tobacco and Control Branch will provide guidance
- Asthma Coalition will provide program support
- Health Council program support Partner: WNC Healthy Impact Role: Evaluation support

Priority 2-Chronic Disease and Healthy Living

| | | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|----------|
| R | Healthy People at a Healthy Weight | Time | Actual | Target | Current | Baseline |
| | | Period | Value | Value | Trend | % Change |

Why It Matters?

Priority 2 – Chronic Disease & Healthy Living was selected because diabetes rates are above 10% and overweight and obesity rates are high. Rutherford County has high rates of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, obesity and tobacco related illnesses. Healthy lifestyles include physical activity and good nutrition and are encouraged to reduce the risk of chronic disease. Key Informants feel chronic disease work is still very relevant and there is much work to be done in nutrition education. A strong committee is already in place to address Chronic Disease through the Rutherford Health Council. This committee is well organized and motivated to continue its impactful work to increase improve chronic disease.

The recent survey data clearly indicates that chronic disease, overweight and obesity are among the problems facing adults and children in Rutherford County.

An increased level of physical activity among children and adults reduces the risk of many chronic diseases including diabetes, heart disease, stroke and obesity. Strategies and improvements are focused on increasing physical activity among low-income families and children especially those living in rural areas that are currently “activity deserts”.

The Rutherford Polk McDowell Health Department and the Rutherford Health Council have been working to expand opportunities to increase physical activity through the built environment. These efforts include healthy food access, community gardens, “walkability” and bikeability”, new playgrounds and community plans to improve recreation areas.

In an effort to reduce chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, Chronic Disease and Healthy Living has been a priority area for Rutherford County for several years. In 2012, Healthy Eating and Active Living was one of three chosen health priorities. Related activities and interventions been launched by a subcommittee called ‘Chronic Disease.’

A commitment to offer health screenings is on-going through collaborative efforts with Rutherford Regional Hospital, RPMHD and the Rutherford Health Council.

Through the efforts of the Outdoor Coalition and Rutherford Recreation Department, there are now more places to be active in Rutherford County and more awareness of how to access those places. Improvements to local food systems and markets continue to take place, making fresh local produce more available and more affordable.



Specific Populations At-Risk

Males are more likely than females to get the recommended amount of physical activity. Income and education are also related to physical activity level. For example, people with the least income are the least likely to get the recommended level.

Children are more likely to suffer from poverty and food insecurity than adults. Latino families are at a greater risk for poverty and food insecurity because they may not be able to qualify for federal safety net programs due to mixed status in the household.

Progress Made in Last Year

The following progress was made in 2016 on Chronic Disease and Healthy Living in Rutherford County.

- **Forest City – Pedestrian Plan Completed**

Forest City Pedestrian Plan Top Priority: Thermal Belt Rail Trail. *The current Thermal Belt Rail Trail extends from the Oak Springs Road in the community of Gilkey to Oakland Road in Spindale. It is nearly 8 miles long. The Trail is between 6-8 feet wide and includes a newly paved 1.8 mile section in Spindale.*

Extension of the rail trail into Forest City was the number one request of respondents to the Pedestrian Planning Public Input Survey. This is the game changer project for Forest City's greenway vision. Continuing the pavement into Forest City would start a new era of community-to-community connected greenways. (Source: Pg. 41, Forest City Pedestrian Plan: "Heart & Sole, A Plan for People Who Walk in Forest City," December 2015).

- **Rutherfordton Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan**

- In 2016 Safe Kids program provided helmets to 760 3rd grade students in Rutherford County Schools.
- Outdoor Coalition – Promotion and more
- 5-2-1 Almost None Program was promoted beginning in September of 2016 through the use of a billboard, bookmarks, buttons and flyers that were handed out to children and adults, and yard signs placed outside of different community partner buildings.
- Health Screenings and education provided at food distribution sites.
- WIC program at the Health Department hosted a taste testing on March 18, 2016 where they prepared healthy food samples using WIC foods. In addition, they distributed nutrition education materials and healthy recipes.
- Senior Games at the Senior Center: We had 136 total participants and 92 participants in the sporting events, and of these, 34 were first-time participants. Nine seniors represented Rutherford County in the NC State Senior Games in September. Three seniors were first place winners in their division.

A sidewalk and crosswalk on Railroad Avenue in Rutherfordton is complete and R-S Middle School students are now safer when they cross the road, thank to collaboration between the Towns of Spindale and Rutherfordton and the NC Department of Transportation. (Source: The Daily Courier, December 15, 2016).

- **3/19/16 - Bicycle Rodeo to educate community youth on cycling safety at Spindale Elementary School**
- **Rutherford Elementary and R-S Middle Schools Participated in Walk to School Day October 5, 2016**

Partners included Spindale Police Department, Spindale Fire Department, Isothermal Planning and Development Commission, Safe Kids Rutherford County, and Rutherford County Health Department's Active Routes to School Program hosted a bicycle safety skills clinic for the surrounding community.

Rutherfordton Elementary, 494 participating

R S Middle School, 20 participating

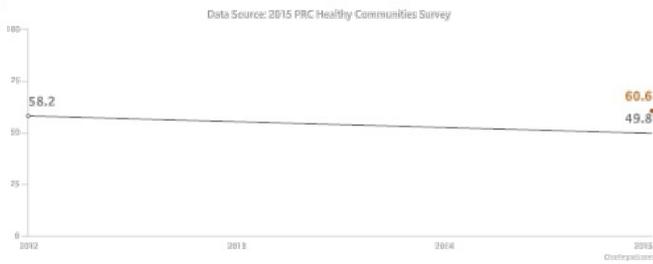
- Healthy Living Programs including:

Youth programs (participation in parentheses): Color me Healthy Preschool (76); CATCH Kids Club K-5 (65); Kids and Chefs Day Camp (12); Speedway to Healthy 4th grade - (1959)

Adult programs: Living Healthy with Diabetes self-management program (9); Living Healthy with Chronic Disease self-management program (6); Cook Smart Eat Smart cooking school (11); Cooking with Herbs workshop (53); Better food better Health for Latino Families (8); Take control Chronic Disease Prevention (18); Food demonstration at the Farmer's Market (60).

Hot Topic Seminar series in 2016. Topics are related to agriculture and food: Public viewing of the movie farmland (45); GMO's Organics, Certifications, Labeling (11).

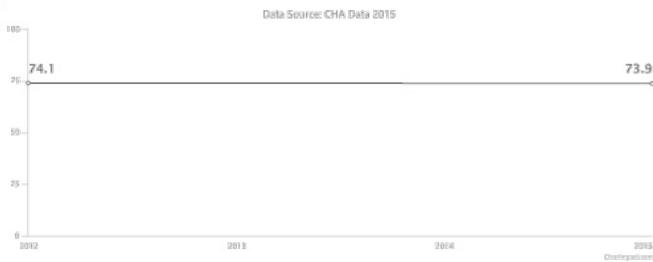
| | | | | | | |
|---|------|-------|-------|---|------|---|
|  Percentage of Rutherford County Adults Meeting Recommended Physical Activity requirements (150 min/week) | 2015 | 49.8% | 60.6% |  1 | -14% |  |
|---|------|-------|-------|---|------|---|



2012 58.2% — → 0 0% →

I Percentage of Overweight and Obese Adults - Rutherford County

2015 73.9% — ↘ 1 0% →



2012 74.1% — → 0 0% →

P Expand Rail Trails to Forest City

Time Period Actual Value Target Value Current Trend Baseline % Change

Partners

The partners for this strategy include:

- Lead Agency: Rutherford Outdoor Coalition (ROC) Role: Convener/Implementer
- Target population representative: Outdoor Coalition Role: Program guidance New partner X Established partner
- Rutherford Railroad Development Corporation will donate land.
- RPMHD program support through RBA evaluations, promotions and awareness Partner: Rutherford Health Council promote programs
- RHI Legacy Foundation provide staff and funding support
- WNC Healthy Impact provide support with evaluations.
- Role of all partners: Promote access to trails, and Increase capacity and public participation

P Build Active Living Communities

Time Period Actual Value Target Value Current Trend Baseline % Change

Partners

The partners for this evidence-based strategy include:

- Lead Agency: RPMHD Safe Routes to Schools Program Role: Convener/Implementer
- Target population representative: Active Routes to Schools, School staff, parents, children. Role: Program guidance
- Safe Kids provide program support for events
- Active Routes to Schools program support for events and environmental changes
- Outdoor Coalition promote program, provide volunteers.
- Cooperative Extension provide promotions and classes for children and families
- WNC Healthy Impact provide support for program evaluations.
- Role of all partners: Organize and promote community events and spaces to be active

P Offer evidence-based clinical preventive screening, counseling and treatment guidelines.

Time Period Actual Value Target Value Current Trend Baseline % Change

Partners

The partners for this evidence-based strategy include:

- Lead Agency: RPMHD Role: Clinicians, Convener and Program
- Target population representative: Health Department Clients Role: Program and marketing guidance
- Rutherford Health Council will promote programs and serve as a convener of all partners.
- RPMHD Clinics and local clinics will implement program
- Rutherford Regional Hospital System will implement program.
- RHI Legacy Foundation will offer program support and coordinate with Food Distribution Centers, and Gilkey Community Center,
- WNC Healthy Impact will provide evaluation assistance
- Role of all partners: Offer evidence-based clinical preventive screening, counseling and treatment guidelines, provide evaluation training

Priority 3-Substance Abuse

| R | Substance abuse-free community | Time Period | Actual Value | Target Value | Current Trend | Baseline % Change |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|

Why It Matters?

Priority 3 – Substance Abuse was chosen as a health priority because it continues to be a problem in Rutherford. There is strong leadership through the United Way and a Drug Free Communities Program to continue to work through community collaborative partnerships to reduce the burden of substance abuse. Because a strong leading partner is in place, addressing substance abuse seems very feasible and impactful.

Substance abuse refers to a set of related conditions associated with the consumption of mind and behavior-altering substances that have negative behavioral and health outcomes. Social attitudes and political and legal responses to the consumption of alcohol and illicit drugs make substance abuse one of the most complex public health issues.

The importance of increasing prevention efforts and improving access to treatment for substance abuse cannot be overstated.

Specific Populations At-Risk

Specific populations that are at risk include children and youth. Adults aged 20-39 are at a higher risk for opioid overdose death.

The Healthy NC 2020 Focus Area to which this priority and related result are aligned is Substance Abuse.

Progress Made in Last Year

The following progress was made in 2016 on Substance Abuse in Rutherford County.

- In partnership with Smoky Mountain Center, Community Engagement Team (CET) hosted a Trauma and Resiliency training on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 from 10am to 11:30am.
- Promotion of Medicine Take Back events including Operation Drop on April 30, 2016 from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Ingles in Forest City and Lake Lure, Ellenboro Fire Department and Food Lion in Rutherfordton.
- Through funding from Project Lazarus, the Substance Abuse Sub-committee worked with other agencies and pharmacies to distribute Detera, a personal Medication Disposal Units where you pour your medicines in and add hot tap water and it turns into gel that deactivates the medications.
- The Substance Abuse Sub-committee hosted a training on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders on May 17, 2016 with presenter Amy Hendricks, Coordinator NC Fetal Alcohol Prevention Program.
- School linked education to prevent underage drinking
- A training on Effective Opioid Prescribing was held on September 26, 2017 at Isothermal Community College. At the end of the training, the participant would be able to:
 - Discuss three steps to effective collaboration to eliminate barriers to care
 - Discuss the benefit of using group meetings to create a support network
 - Define the components of a successful community based prescription opioid overdose prevention program
 - Align prescribing practices by using opioid risk assessment tools in provider practices.

- Along with many community partners and community youth, the Community Engagement team put together a new underage drinking prevention commercial, which aired on WLOS and was also placed on social media.
- Rack cards were produced and distributed, which feature the "Be My Parent, Not My Bartender" billboard on one side and on the other a description of the criminal and civil penalties for providing alcohol to someone under age/allowing underage drinking in your home or on your property. The cards were produced by CET with the help of District Attorney Ted Bell and his staff and with the help of the marketing and graphic design team at Rutherford Regional Medical.

I Percent of Residents Who Have Consumed Alcohol in the Past Month - Rutherford County **2015** **32.7%** **-** **→ 0** **0%** **→**



P Substance Abuse Prevention Programs

Time Period Actual Value Target Value Current Trend Baseline % Change

Partners

The partners for this evidence-based strategy include:

- Substance Abuse Subcommittee
 - An ongoing committee who provides a lot of community education and awareness to youth and other organizations a like in our community.
- Rutherford County Schools with Rutherford County Sherriff's Department
 - An ongoing partnership where the school includes the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E) program in their curriculum and exposes students to the realities of substance abuse and the risks and dangers.
- Rutherford Health Council
 - Ongoing partnership where information, events, initiatives and trainings related to substance abuse is shared at the Health Council meetings. All partners at the table help support and promote their work.

New and Emerging Issue & Initiatives

R Monitor New and Emerging Issues

Time Period Actual Value Target Value Current Trend Baseline % Change

Narrative

These are the new or emerging issues in our community that were not identified as priorities in our 2015 CHA.

- New leadership at Rutherford Health Council with a paid half-time Executive Director. The Rutherford Health Council will now have staff to work on moving health priorities areas forward through a collective impact approach.
- An increased need for Behavioral Health/Mental Health services for county residents has been identified.
- According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, unemployment in Rutherford County has decreased from 7.1 in December 2015 to 6.2 as of December 2016.
- The Party Rock Fire began November 5, 2016 on Chimney Rock State Park land about 1 mile north of Lake Lure and was finally 100% contained on November 29, 2016. A total of 7,142 acres were burned including both NC State Park property and private property. The Visitor's Center at Chimney Rock State Park has reopened but the climbing area on Rumbling Bald Mountain is closed until further notice.
- The population of Rutherford County is expected to decrease by 0.9% between 2020-2030 (Source: NC Office of Management and Budget – ProjecMons).
- Suicide Prevention has become more of an area of focus as rates in Rutherford County were at an alarming 15%

while the state's average was 12.1% between 2009-2011 (per the State Center for Health Statistics)Source: State Center for Health Statistics, North Carolina

| Rank | LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH FOR RUTHERFORD# | % |
|------|---|----------|
| 1 | Diseases of heart | 19521.9 |
| 2 | Cancer | 17719.9 |
| 3 | Chronic respiratory diseases | 73 8.2 |
| 4 | Cerebrovascular diseases | 66 7.4 |
| 5 | All other unintentional injuries | 42 4.7 |
| 6 | Alzheimer's disease | 33 3.7 |
| 7 | Diabetes mellitus | 26 2.9 |
| 8 | Intentional self-harm (suicide) | 18 2.0 |
| | Total Deaths -- All Causes | 889100.0 |

R Keep Track of New Initiatives & Community Changes

Time Period Actual Value Target Value Current Trend Baseline % Change

Narrative

The following are new initiatives or changes in our community in 2016.

- New leadership at Rutherford Health Council with a paid half-time Executive Director. The Rutherford Health Council will now have staff to work on moving health priorities areas forward through a collective impact approach.
- In 2017 the Chronic Disease Subcommittee of the Health Council will teach 3rd graders in all Rutherford County Schools about 5-2-1-Almost none and the importance of healthy eating and active living.
- The Cooperative Extension will be providing the following programs in 2017: 1. Med Instead of Meds lunch & learn series focusing on the Mediterranean-style eating pattern; 2. Living Healthy with Chronic Pain self-management program
- The Rails-to-Trails corridor is expected to be extended 13.5 miles and will connect from Gilkey to Forest City.
- EMS launched a new Public Awareness Campaign regarding the use of Medical ID on the iPhone. Information was distributed through the county, chamber of commerce, schools, public safety and local doctors' offices.
- We received and awarded 65 sets of vouchers from the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program to eligible participants. These vouchers are for local produce at the Farmer's Market.
- We received \$445 for the purchase of fans from the Duke Energy Grant. We purchased a total of 31 fans in the summer, which were mostly distributed to the home delivered meal participants.
- Rutherford County DSS was one of ten counties selected to be part of the state audit of the Medicaid program as directed by Senate Bill 14, Session Law 2015-7. The purpose of the audit was to determine whether county departments of social services accurately and timely determine Medicaid eligibility for Medicaid applications, Medicaid re-enrollments, and presumptive Medicaid applications. Although the purpose of the audit was to evaluate state practices, we were pleased that of the ten counties Rutherford had the second highest accuracy and timeliness rates of the counties tested. Accuracy and timeliness rates ranged from 1.2% to 24.8% and 0.8% to 24.8% respectively.
- The agency received a \$100,000 annual grant for three years to develop a Community Response Program. This is an attempt by the state to improve child welfare through the use of prevention focused, evidence based programs, designed to identify, address and correct risk factors which if not resolved have a greater potential to develop into issues resulting in child abuse and neglect. Participant families are identified primarily through the CPS in-take screening process when a report is screened out, or through social workers who have closed cases but the families would benefit from being introduced to resources that could prevent future abuse and/or neglect and Child Protective Services intervention. The CRP is completely voluntary and based on a collaborative effort between the family, DSS, and community partners. The agency was selected to participate in Attachment and Biobehavioral Catch-Up (ABC) Learning Community. ABC is a brief intervention for caregivers of young children (ages 6-24

months) who have experienced early adversity, such as abuse, neglect, and disruptions in care; and funded by the Center for Child and Family Health. While this is not a new program, it is a new treatment approach that will enhance the CRP Program.

- Rutherford County Transit: Grocery service was also expanded to include free daily shuttles to Stainless Ministries, Walmart, Aldi's, J's Salvage and Save-A-Lot. Plus, Transit received a \$25,000 RHI Legacy Foundation Grant to assist in the transportation costs to pantries and medical appointments.
 - Rutherford County was fortunate to have some notable recognitions in 2016. First, the Town of Rutherfordton received the honor of "2016 NC Rural Small Town of the Year" award in North Carolina. Forest City won the "Number One Christmas Town Near Asheville" for the second year in a row by Romantic Asheville. Last but not least, Lake Lure/Chimney Rock received the "Best Lake/Mountain Town". Rutherford County is proud of all of our small towns.
 - In July 2016, the Able Bodied Adult Without Dependent Children (ABAWD) Program was implemented in Food and Nutrition Services. This policy had been suspended for several years due to the economic downturn. This effected many FNS consumers, as an ABAWD is subject to receiving FNS for a 3-month time limit within a 36-month period unless meeting ABAWD FNS work requirements or meeting an exemption from ABAWD requirements. We have partnered with the HRD Department at ICC and NC Works to offer monthly job search skills training for DSS consumers to help increase their employability. As part of a partnership between the NC Division of Social Services and the Community College System, Rutherford DSS has partnered with ICC to provide a training program for new and potential Income Maintenance Caseworkers. This is a two-phrase course that is consistent across the state. Students who successfully complete the program at ICC will be guaranteed an interview with Rutherford DSS; earn the transportable credential recognized across the state at all 100 NC DSS offices; gain core knowledge, skills and abilities for successful transition to working within the state NCFAS system; and be eligible to apply for Income Maintenance Casework positions throughout the state.
 - The Rutherford County Senior Center received a first-time grant of \$70,363 from the NCDOT which will allow the Senior Center to contract with Rutherford County Transit to provide transportation to seniors in Rutherford County to the Senior Center daily. We received \$50,000 from the RHI Legacy Foundation for Home Delivered Meals again for 2017. We also received \$12,000 from the Community Foundation of WNC People in Need Grant late in 2015. This grant allowed us to provide pre-packaged meals on the weekends during the winter months to the home delivered meals participants.
-