Re: Work First Meetings

Dear County Director of Social Services:

Attention: Work First Supervisors

We have been requested by county staff to provide forums for discussion of issues surrounding the Work First Program. These meetings will provide county and State staff an opportunity to identify areas of concern and possible solutions, provide consistent statewide training on high priority areas, and allow for all to have a better understanding of the overall Work First Program. It is our intent that these meetings cover cash benefits, employment services, and optional services under the Work First Program.

The first of these meetings has been scheduled during the month of February 2002. The topics reviewed will be appropriate for supervisors and lead workers, as well as line staff. Due to seating limitations, the number attending from each county will be limited. Our goal is to facilitate these meetings twice a year.

Please plan to attend this important meeting as we discuss ways to improve our administration of the Work First Program. We will be conducting three meetings across the State so that as many counties as possible will be able to participate. Each meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and adjourn at 3:00 p.m.

The meetings are scheduled as follows: (Directions are attached.)

East

Martin Community College

February 21, 2002
Williamston, NC
Central February 19, 2002
Cumberland County DSS Fayetteville, NC
Alamance, Anson, Bladen, Brunswick, Caswell, Chatham, Columbus, Cumberland, Davidson,
Duplin, Durham, Forsyth, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Johnston, Lee, Montgomery,
Moore, New Hanover, Orange, Pender, Person, Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham,
Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Wake, and Wayne Counties.

West February 26, 2002
Western Piedmont Community College Morganton, NC
Alexander, Alleghany, Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee,
Clay, Cleveland, Davie, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, Jackson, Lincoln,
Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Mitchell, Polk, Rowan, Rutherford, Surry, Swain,
Transylvania, Union, Watauga, Wilkes, Yadkin, and Yancey Counties.

In order to properly plan for these meetings, please complete the attached form indicating the
number of individuals who will attend from your county. Please provide your response no later
than February 13, 2002. The mailing address and fax number is shown on the form. Depending
on the response received and space availability, we may be able to accommodate requests from
counties who would like to attend a location other than the one shown above.

Lunch will not be available for purchase at these meetings, as several restaurants are located
within close proximity. Information concerning these restaurants will be made available at the
meeting.

We look forward to your county’s participation in this meeting and, should you have questions or
concerns, please contact Gale Bullard at gale.bullard@ncmail.net or by phone at 919-733-7831.
In addition, you may contact your Work First Representative.

   Sincerely,

   Wilbert R. Morris, Chief
   Economic Independence Section

WM/GB/bh
Attachments
EI-6-2002