



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: February 7, 2023

Consent Agenda

Department: Health and Human Services

Presenter(s): John Hudson, Budget

Contact(s): Stoney Blevins, Health and Human Services Director
Rebecca Smith, Social Work Division Director

Subject: START Program Funding

Brief Summary: In 2018, the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA or Family First) was passed. One of the foundational goals of the law is to keep more children safely at home by providing high-quality prevention services to families. It also allows states extend reimbursement to cover certain services related to preventing foster care placements, including expanding and enhancing family-centered interventions that improve outcomes for children and families affected by substance use disorder.

Starting October 2022, the State will begin reimbursing for such services, currently up to \$110,509, including those provided through the Sobriety Treatment and Recovery Teams (START) program. The START program is an intensive child-welfare based intervention that alligns with FFPSA goals and serves high risk families with parental substance use and young children. Since 2017, Buncombe County HHS has been implementing the START program. With the recent federal legislative changes, the State will now reimburse for a portion of contracted services to support this program.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Approve budget amendment

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation: County Manager recommends as presented