SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

P.O. BOX 669 Newton, North Carolina 28658-0669 (828) 695-5600 www.catawbacountync.gov/dss

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Oct. 29, 2013

CONTACT: Margaret Allen, Catawba County Social Services Public Information Officer, mallen@catawbacountync.gov, 828-695-6583

CATAWBA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES NAMES NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

HICKORY -- Karen C. Harrington recently joined Catawba County Social Services as assistant director -- Family and Children's Services, according to an announcement by John Eller, Social Services director.

Harrington has 25 years of progressive responsibility in providing and managing child welfare and clinical social work services. She is a licensed clinical social worker and received her bachelor of social work degree from Minot State University. She earned her master of social work degree from the University of Illinois where her thesis work involved the Development and Intensity of Stress Symptoms in Individual Practitioner Versus Team Model of Service Provision in Child Welfare.

Harrington has broad expertise in risk assessment and child safety, family preservation, mental health/clinical support services, and foster care/adoption. She also has experience with program/budget development, outcome development, strategic planning, accreditation standards, process improvement, and clinical supervision, including leadership of multiple and varied child welfare programs.

Over the course of her career, Harrington served in a variety of capacities including caseworker, clinician, program supervisor and administrator. She has developed and presented various training modules including social work ethics, legal issues in child welfare, mental health and team building and leadership. She currently serves as a peer reviewer for the Council on Accreditation, a child and family service and behavioral healthcare accrediting organization.

Harrington served as a vice president for the Children's Home Association in Illinois, where she was employed for 20 years. Services included assessment, counseling, psychiatric interventions, case management, nursing services, and linkage to community resources and educational coordination for youth age birth to 21 who had been removed from their home due to abuse or neglect.

She also oversaw Family Preservation Services, System of Care, Family Based Intervention, Primary Teen Pregnancy Prevention Services, Teen REACH and Leaders of Tomorrow. In addition, she supervised the Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services, Homeless Youth, and Crisis Intervention programs, and managed

teams focused on reducing risk of further abuse/neglect and ensuring child safety in their own home whenever possible.

For the past four years she taught core social work application and policy classes to aspiring social workers at North Central University in Minneapolis, Minn. She has also taught at Illinois Central College in Peoria, Ill.

# # #