



## SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE: April 17, 2012**

**CONTACT:** Margaret Allen, Catawba County Social Services Public Information Officer, [mallen@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:mallen@catawbacountync.gov), 828-695-6583

### WILLIAM POINDEXTER NOMINATED FOR AWARD

HICKORY -- William "Billy" Poindexter, a social worker at Catawba County Social Services, has been nominated for an Award for Excellence from the College of Humanities at N.C. State University, where he is a trainer and coordinator for the Center for Family and Community Engagement.

This nomination was based on his role as a trainer of professionals in many fields in the use of Child and Family Teams.

These teams bring together family members and others who support families involved with child protective services. The meetings include trained facilitators who mediate issues between families and CPS to enhance partnership, motivation and child safety. Poindexter facilitates Child and Family Teams, provides training for other facilitators, and measures outcomes for success.

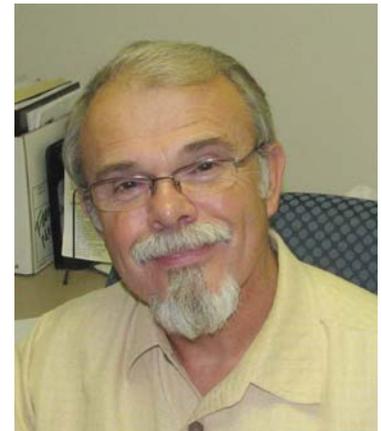
"I believe in what I train because I have seen it work," he said. "I do what I train, and I train what I do every day."

In 2011, Poindexter published a book titled "A Place for Voices: A Handbook for Family-Centered Practice." It offers practical advice for leading Child and Family Teams.

In addition to his role as a trainer, Poindexter has been instrumental in the continued growth and development of the Technical Assistance and Learning Support (TALS) program of the Center for Family and Community Engagement. This program is designed to provide real time, tailored, transfer of learning opportunities with professionals who are working to improve their daily practices with families, youth and children.

Some comments by his co-workers include the following:

Kara Allen-Eckard, family and youth partner training coordinator, said: "Billy Poindexter is a wonderfully talented and extremely committed employee. As our primary trainer for Child and Family Teams in the



western part of the state, Billy has dedicated himself to understanding and responding to the unique needs of our western counties. He has employed humor, creativity, compassion and practicality in sharing how to support principled social work practice in times of tightening resources. In addition, as coordinator of our Technical Assistance and Learning Support program (TALS), Billy connects with all 100 counties to provide training that meets the specific needs of the requesting county."

Dr. Joan Pennell, center director, said: "William (Billy) Poindexter has had a stellar year in advancing family engagement. Within North Carolina, he is viewed as a trusted guide on the how's and why's of bringing families and their workers to the table to make child welfare decisions. When faced by particularly challenging situations, workers turn to Billy to draw on his practical tips, encouraging words, and gentle reminders that people should have a say over their affairs."

###