



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 28, 2016

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

CATAWBA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR NAMED TO BOARD OF NC INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

HICKORY -- John Eller, Catawba County Social Services director, has been selected by the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine to the prestigious honor of membership.

Eller joins an elite list of only approximately 100 leaders from government, education, business and industry, legal professions, the hospital and health insurance industries, private philanthropy, public administration, the voluntary sector, and the public at large to receive this honor since the institute was chartered by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1983.

He will work with others to advance policies for a healthier state and provide balanced, nonpartisan information on issues of relevance to the health of North Carolina's population. The NCIOM convenes task forces of knowledgeable and interested individuals to study complex health issues facing the state in order to develop workable solutions to address these issues to improve health, health care access, and quality of health care in North Carolina.

Mick Berry, Catawba county manager, said, "We are pleased that John's expertise is recognized by health care leaders in the state and look forward to his influence on statewide health issues as well as the benefits his appointment will yield to the health of Catawba County's residents."

In North Carolina, county social services are responsible for administering Medicaid and inspecting assisted living facilities. They also are responsible for other programs that assist elderly and disabled persons. Catawba County Social Services also operates Family NET, which provides behavioral health care for the children and teens it serves.

Eller has served as director of Catawba County Social Services since 2008. He holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Appalachian State University and an MBA from the McColl School of Business at Queens University in Charlotte.

In 2014-2015, he served as president of the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services. In 2013, he was appointed by the governor to the North Carolina Human Resources Commission. From 2008 through 2010, Eller was appointed by the General Assembly to serve two terms on the North Carolina Joint Study Commission on Aging. He is also active on many other boards including: NC United Way, Western Piedmont Workforce Development Board, Catawba County Child Advocacy & Protection Center, Catawba County Community Child Protection & Fatality Prevention Team, Catawba County Partnership for Children, and the Executive Board of the National Association of County Human Services Administrators. Eller also serves on the board for the Federally Qualified Health Clinic that operates Catawba Family Care in Hickory, among other sites throughout the region.

The purpose of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine is to ensure that all aspects of complex health issues are examined and the results of these deliberations are made available to public and private sector officials with decision-making authority.

The institute coordinates and sponsors research, collection of information on major issues, the analysis of viable options, and the development of consensus within the membership of the institute and the various stakeholders with respect to particular issues on a range of solutions which are in the best interests of the public. Eller will serve in an advisory function at the request of the governor, General Assembly, and/or agencies of state government to assist in the formation of public policy on complex issues.

"We are pleased to welcome our new members and look forward to working with them to continue the mission of the institute," said Dr. Adam Zolotor, president and CEO of the NCIOM. "They will be seeking constructive solutions to statewide problems that impeded the improvement of health and efficient and effective delivery of health care for all North Carolina citizens." Visit www.nciom.org for more information.

###