

Cherokee County's social services agency Director, Amanda McGee is strongly committed to supporting her workforce to be able to provide high level, quality services to children and families in the community. Last fall, upon seeing that a significant number of her staff team were needing required training, she contacted the Division of Social Services (DSS) Staff Development Team Program Manager requesting and advocating for her staff's learning needs. As a county, Cherokee had a large number of staff needing mandatory cultural diversity training and administrators wanted to provide their staff the opportunity to receive some diversity specific practice support related to questions and their community engagement. Upon learning of these needs, the center made plans for a training team to go to Cherokee county and deliver to their staff a cultural diversity training which is mandatory for all North Carolina social workers. After some coordination and work to meet scheduling needs of both the county and the training program, a March 2023 date was secured to hold an event at the agency.



A two member training team arrived in Cherokee County in early March, and over the course of the three day event, had an opportunity to provide learning support and engage with 17 invested, open, and courageous social workers. Through the course of the activities, lecture, and discussions participants demonstrated a desire and willingness to deepen their

understanding of the importance of cultural diversity when serving their communities, and as colleagues seeking an inclusive work environment. Upon completion of the training, social workers shared with the training team, and each other, appreciation for the opportunity to engage and connect with one another in a safe learning environment. Both participants and trainers were positively impacted as a result of this event. The center looks forward to future opportunities to send a training team to Murphy, and support the learning needs of their staff with additional training workshops.



Thank you to all of the social workers who were present for the event for making this a successful training! Your energy, focus, and presence were greatly appreciated.

The Center would like to share additional thanks to :

Crystalle Williams- NCDSS Program Manager over Staff Development

Amanda McGee - Director of Social Services, Cherokee County

Julie Thompson - Administrative Support, Training

Tracy Jones - Social Work Program Manager

For helping to make this event possible!

A little bit about Cherokee County...



Cherokee County Department of Social Services (DSS) is located in scenic Murphy, NC, in the southwestern part of North Carolina. Cherokee County is bordered on the west by Tennessee, and on the south by Georgia. The Cherokee Nation (on the Qualla Boundary) is also located in counties adjacent to Cherokee (Graham, Swain, Jackson). Cherokee County Social Services provides a number of services to the over 29,000 residents in the county. Their mission, as noted on their website ([Cherokee County Social Services](#)) is to "to serve the citizens of Cherokee County efficiently and effectively with compassionate and positive attitudes in order to enable these citizens to realize the need to strive for self-sufficiency which in turn fosters a more positive self-image, thus improving their quality of life."

