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*Ed Powell, County Attorney  
Lisa Hughes, County Manager  
Tanya Gentry, Clerk to the Board*

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT December 16, 2022**

### ***Surry Yadkin Works***

We are very excited to participate in the Surry Yadkin Works program again next semester. It looks like we will have 5 students from the Early College working with us. One will be in Veteran Services, one in Central Permitting, two in Emergency Services and one in Administration. Whitney Harris is the coordinator for Yadkin County and Elkin and is doing a great job!

### ***Fire Chiefs***

We had a great meeting with the Fire Chiefs Wednesday night. Dylan Zachary, the new Telecommunications Director along with Sheriff Smitherman and Chief Deputy Justin Collins attended the meeting to address some of the concerns the fire departments have had with communications. There was a lot of discussion and decisions agreed upon by all that will help both sides of communications (those dispatching and those dispatched). There was also some discussion about the change in NCGS that require background checks and fingerprinting of all new members. I have been told that some of the requirements may change when the General Assembly goes back into session in January. I would like to arrange for them to have the fingerprints done at the Sheriff's Office and sent it. Currently, there is a \$15 fee in our Fee Schedule for this and I know there is a cost for the Sheriff's Office to do this, but I would like to see if we can assist the Fire Departments with this expense.

### ***Child Care Commission***

The NC Child Care Commission met this past Monday and allowed me to speak during Public Comment about our group's petition for changes to the Rules. The petition we submitted is in Exhibit A and was submitted on behalf of the County, local industries, the schools, etc. The Commission will discuss our request at its February 6, 2023 meeting which will be held in person in Raleigh. Sandi Scannelli with the Shallow Ford Foundation and Carolyn Choplin with Smart Start will represent our group before the Commission.

*VIPER Tower*

We are looking at other properties in the East Bend area as alternatives to the Elementary School property. We recognize that this is part of the primary area of the Town and that it would be better to have it in a less dense area with more screening.









each Center would be scheduled at different times to allow only one Center utilizing the Outdoor Learning space at one time and maintain the appropriate staff/child ratios. Therefore, we would propose adding the following to (d) which already allows centers to share playground space:

*“Upon the Division’s receipt of a written request, a center located on the same premise as a multiplex / unit license facility, can share playground space if meeting staff/child ratios for the children who are in care.*

**Child Care Rule .0713 – Staff/Child Ratios.** Each of the Centers in the Flex Plex will have 25 or fewer children. We would like to request a change in the grouping of children together and combine the 3 to 4 year-olds and 4 to 5 year-olds to form the **3 to 5 age** grouping and **maintain it at the 15/1 child/staff ratio** rather than increasing the 4 to 5 years to the 20/1 ratio as currently provided in Rule .0713. Therefore, we would propose adding the following:

*(f) The staff/child ratios and group sizes for a child care center with a licensed capacity of no more than 25 children are as follows:*

<i>Age of children</i>	<i>No. of Children</i>	<i>No. Staff</i>	<i>Max Group Size</i>	<i>Min. No. Staff</i>
<i>0 to 12 months</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>12-24 months</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>2 to 3 years</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>3 to 5 years</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>5 years and up</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>1</i>

**Child Care Rule .0703: General Statutory Requirements.** Child Care Rules and North Carolina General Statutes specify the requirements for Teacher’s Aides, Teachers and Lead Teachers and Administrators of Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes. **Child Care Rule .0703** addresses the General Statutory Requirements for lead teachers and child care administrators and required documentation. Item (e) addresses a **special provision for child care centers in an occupied residence** allowing the person responsible for **administering the child care program and planning** to also **meet the requirements of the lead teacher** in Rules .0710. To assist with staff efficiencies, as well as programmatic efficiencies, we would request this **same provision be applied to Child Care Centers with no more than 25 children by adding to Child Care Rule .0703**

*(e1) In a child care center with a licensed capacity of no more than 25 children, the person who has responsibility for the programs and planning daily activities*

***for a group of children shall meet lead teacher requirements and may serve as administrator.***

It is our goal that each Child Care Center in the Flex-Plex meet the **Enhanced Standards** as set forth in **Section .2800** in the Child Care Rules. Being that we have **requested a change in Rule .0703 allowing a lead teacher to serve as the administrator** in a child care center with a licensed capacity of no more than 25 children, it is important that this same change be made in Section .2819 (e). This Section establishes **different educational requirements** for the lead teacher who also has the responsibilities of an administrator for centers in a residence. So, we would **request that there be an (e1) added** which states, “ **In a child care center with a licensed capacity of no more than 25 children, if an individual has the responsibility for both administering the child care program and for planning and implementing the daily activities of a group of children, the educational requirements for lead teacher in Rule .2820 of this Section shall apply. All other teachers shall follow the education requirements for teachers in this Section.**”

These are the primary barriers that we saw in the Rules that would prevent other options, such as the Flex-Plex from occurring. We need to be creative in meeting child care needs, while maintaining the safety of our children. We don't have all of the answers, but a few ideas that may help this crisis that providers and families are going through. North Carolina has great Rules and Regulations for traditional child care centers and family child care homes, but we need more alternatives to meet the child care demands across the State. By working together and having conversations, we can all make a difference in the lives of children and their families.

Please let us know what other information you would like or if you would like to have a conversation about our ideas.

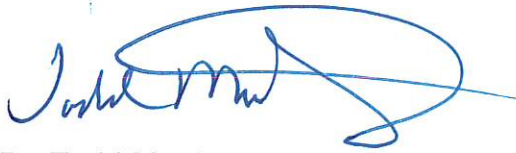


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President and CEO  
Shallow Ford Foundation



Carolyn Choplin  
Executive Director  
Smart Start of Yadkin County





Dr. Todd Martin  
Superintendent  
Yadkin County Schools



Bobby Todd  
Director  
Yadkin County Chamber of Commerce



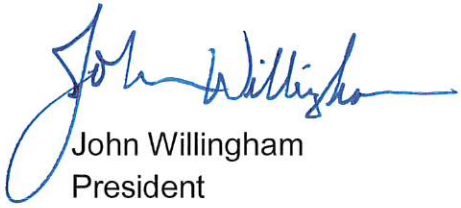
Kevin Austin  
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