



News Release

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Keating Named County Child Support Director

FAYETTEVILLE – Harry Austin Keating has been appointed the first director of Cumberland County’s new Child Support Department. Keating, who has more than 25 years of child support enforcement experience, started his new job May 24. The county is taking over responsibility for child support enforcement from the state on July 1, and Keating is overseeing the transition.

Prior to accepting the new county director’s position, Keating was employed by the state of North Carolina as the Social Services Program Manager for the Cumberland and Harnett County Child Support Enforcement office for three years. He is very familiar with child support enforcement in Cumberland County, having served as a child support agent for seven years (1987-1994) and as the supervisor of the state-operated county office from 2003 to 2007.

Keating earned his bachelor’s degree in sociology from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and worked for the Robeson County Department of Social Services as an eligibility specialist and then a child support agent from 1983 to 1987.

“Mr. Keating has a high level of knowledge and experience in the area of child support enforcement, and we are confident in his ability to lead the county’s Child Support Department,” said Cumberland County Manager James Martin. Keating is a member of the North Carolina Child Support Council.

Martin said he and Deputy County Manager Juanita Pilgrim based the appointment on observation and interaction with Keating over a seven-month period as various county departments and court officials worked together in preparation for the transition of Child Support Enforcement from a state-operated agency to a county department.

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