

Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Developmental Disabilities Tuition Forgiveness

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Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Developmental Disabilities Tuition Forgiveness

Background and Rationale

Why Is This Needed?

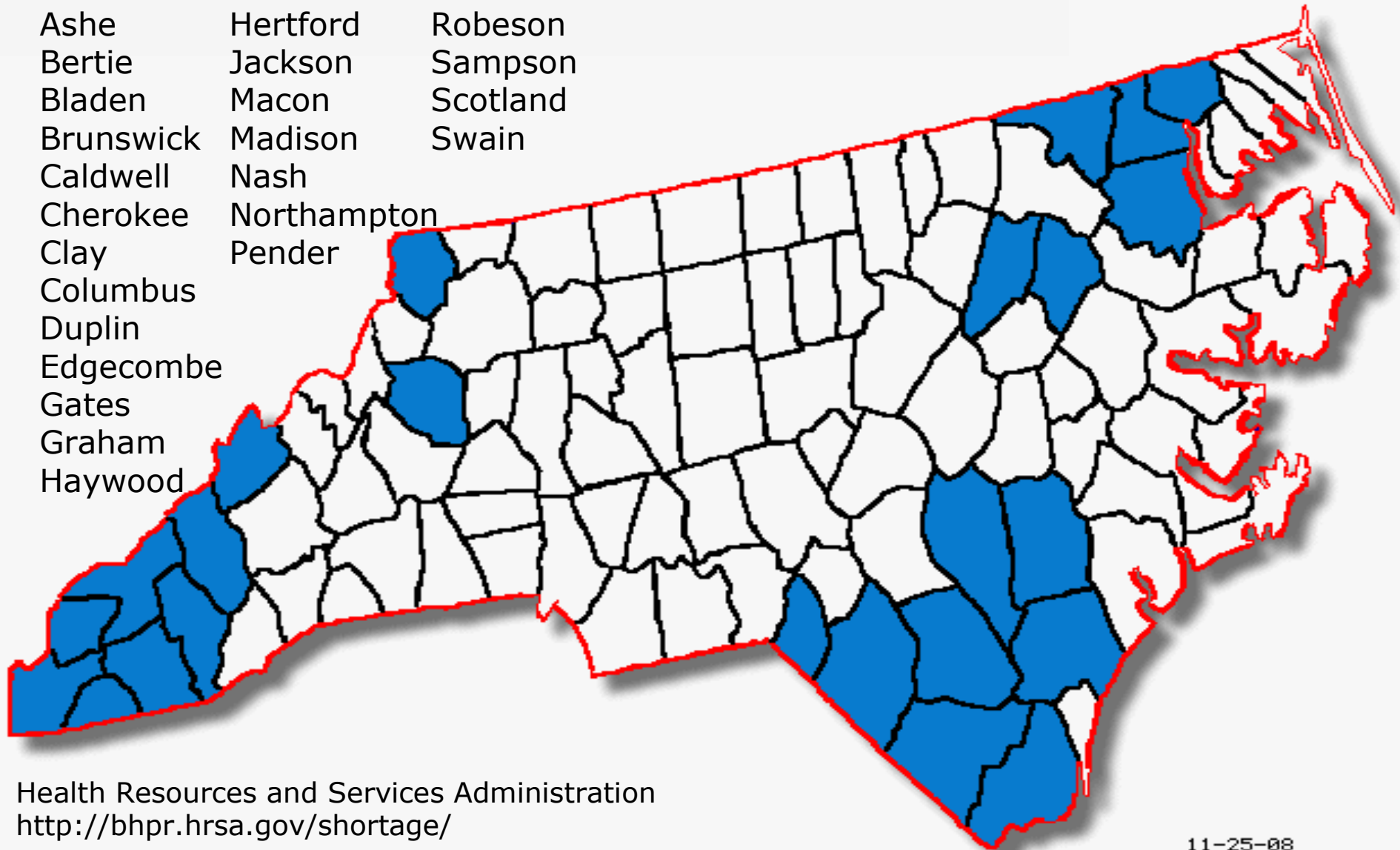
- NC has tremendous workforce challenges in mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services
 - Inadequate number of qualified professional providers
 - Inadequate number of qualified supervisory staff
 - Professionals trained in cutting edge evidence-based practices are needed

Where is The Need Greatest?

- ❑ There is a chronic mal-distribution of mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities providers across the state
 - ❑ Rural areas are the most vulnerable
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NC has 24 counties considered Federal Mental Health Provider Shortage Areas

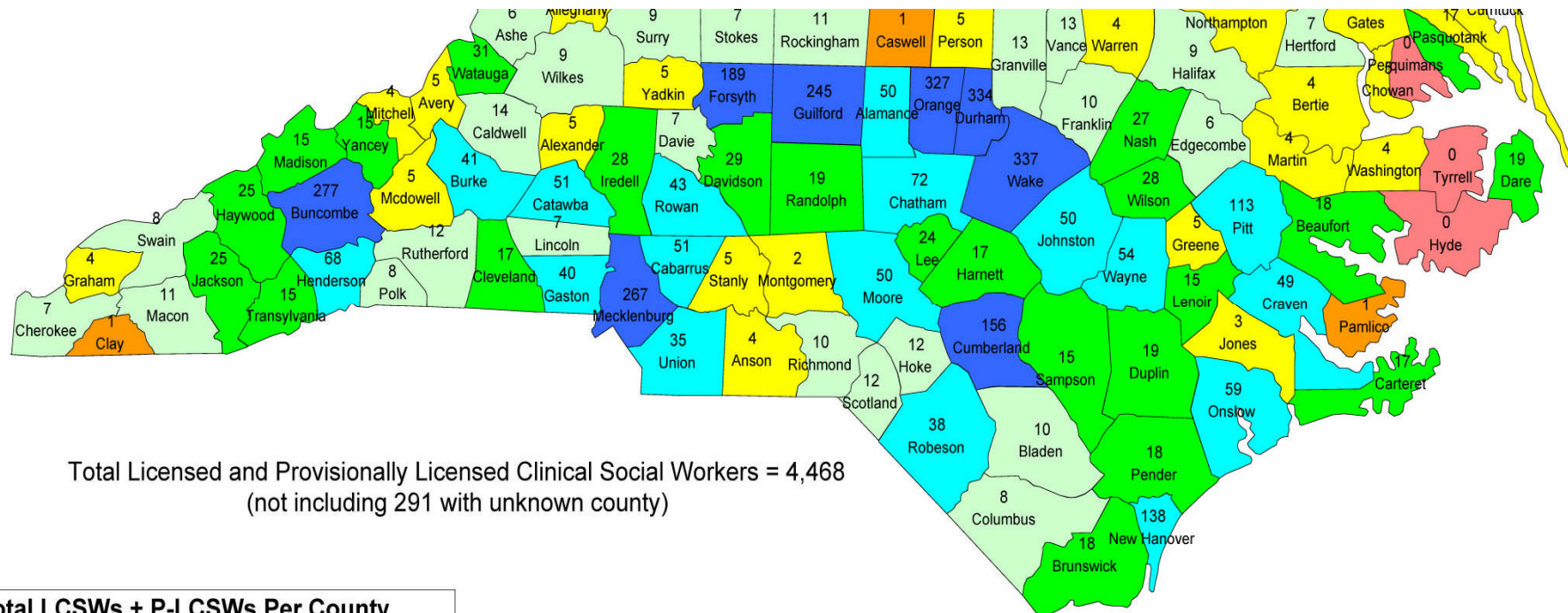
Ashe	Hertford	Robeson
Bertie	Jackson	Sampson
Bladen	Macon	Scotland
Brunswick	Madison	Swain
Caldwell	Nash	
Cherokee	Northampton	
Clay	Pender	
Columbus		
Duplin		
Edgecombe		
Gates		
Graham		
Haywood		



Health Resources and Services Administration
<http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>

11-25-08

Looking at Number of Licensed and Provisionally Licensed Social Workers in NC



Data Source: North Carolina Social Work Certification and Licensure Board, 2/15/07.

Map prepared by NC DMH/DD/SAS, Quality Management Team

Blue colors = top quartile, Green colors = middle two quartiles, Yellow & Orange & Red = bottom quartile

How Can Social Workers Address This Need?

- Experience and focus: Social workers provide the majority of mental health services to consumers in the United States (Brekke, Ell, & Palinkas, 2007)
 - Capability: Licensed clinical social workers can provide both clinical services and supervision
 - Mandate: Social workers have an ethical mandate to address issues of social injustice and serve vulnerable populations
 - Educational Capacity: Schools of social work have the research-grounded knowledge base, the resources, and the capacity to train a strong workforce in mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services
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How to Get Trained Social Work Professionals into Underserved Areas of NC?

- ❑ Connect social workers with rural areas while still students
- ❑ Provide specialized training on working in rural areas, cutting-edge mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services
- ❑ Incentivize via tuition forgiveness and/or financial assistance

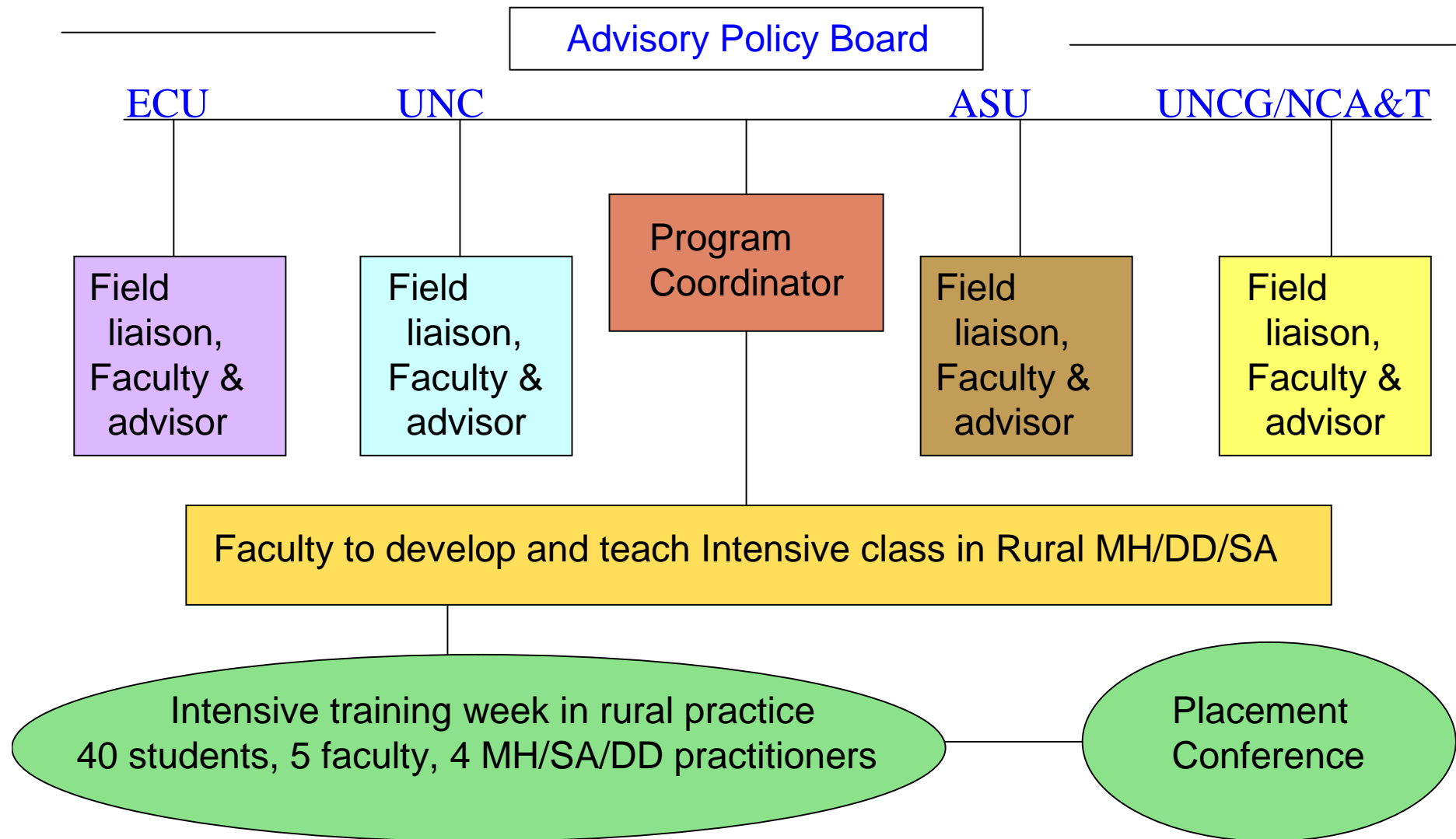
Practitioners in Mental Health/Substance Abuse/Developmental Disabilities Serving in Rural Areas – **What do they need to know?**

- ❑ Understand intervention, operations and complexity of the MH/SA/DD delivery system in North Carolina.
- ❑ Develop skills in evidence and research-based best practices for service delivery in underserved rural areas of North Carolina.
- ❑ Ability to effect interdisciplinary services that address the most serious and critical MH/SA/DD issues in underserved contexts with positive outcomes.
- ❑ Develop knowledge and skills of the currently approved and accepted service definitions as well as emerging practice methodologies most relevant to rural practice.
- ❑ Develop and provide specialized content for the MSW degree including enhanced service packages and the understanding of the important issues for rural practice including: interdisciplinary practice, psychotropic drugs, stigma, issues of cultural, racial, and ethnic difference, and reduction in resources.

Summary of Program Components

- ❑ Identify 4 MSW programs across North Carolina (UNC, ASU, ECU, UNCG/NCA&T).
- ❑ Identify a program coordinator
- ❑ Identify 10 second year MSW students at each site who are interested in mental health, developmental disability & substance abuse practice in underserved areas of NC.
- ❑ Identify a part-time (60%) faculty member at each site who will serve as the field liaison and advisor for the 10 students in MH/SS/DD and who will also develop and teach specialized rural practice content in MH/SA/DD and implement the full program curriculum.
- ❑ Identify underserved rural MH/SA/DD providers to serve on the Advisory Policy Board to review and advise regarding curriculum, program goals, progress, and outcomes.

Model of Supporting MH/SA/DD Practice in Underserved Areas of NC



Proposed Budget

- Student tuition and stipend - \$440,000
 - 40 students x \$11,000 (10 each site)
- Faculty = \$160,000
 - 4 part-time (60%) faculty @ \$40,000 each
- Program Coordinator - \$42,500
- 40% Support staff = \$18,000
- Intensive training week = \$27,000
- Placement Event = \$7,500
- Advisory Board meetings = \$2,500
- Supplies, phone, fax = \$2,500
- **Total Annual Cost = \$700,000**