

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT OF

DUPLIN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

KENANSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004

OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR

LESLIE W. MERRITT, JR., CPA, CFP

STATE AUDITOR

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AUDIT REPORT OF

DUPLIN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN

KENANSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2004

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LINDA W. HADDEN, BOARD CHAIRMAN

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

TONYA STEWART, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Office of the State Auditor



2 S. Salisbury Street 20601 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-0601 Telephone: (919) 807-7500 Fax: (919) 807-7647 Internet http://www.ncauditor.net

AUDITOR'S TRANSMITTAL

The Honorable Michael F. Easley, Governor The General Assembly of North Carolina Board of Directors, Duplin County Partnership for Children

This report presents the results of our financial statement audit of the Duplin County Partnership for Children (Duplin Partnership) for the year ended June 30, 2004. Our audit was made by authority of Article 5A of Chapter 147 of the *North Carolina General Statutes*.

The accounts and operations of the Duplin Partnership were subject to audit procedures as we considered necessary for us to report on the accompanying financial statements and supplementary information. The audit procedures were conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

The audit of the Duplin Partnership was made in conjunction with the Early Childhood Initiatives (Smart Start) program authorized by General Statutes 143B-168.10-.16. These statutes created The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. and required the implementation of local demonstration projects (local partnerships). The Duplin Partnership is one of these local partnerships. As such, the Duplin Partnership is a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and is required by General Statute 143B-168.14(b) to have a financial and compliance audit conducted by the Office of the State Auditor.

The purpose of this report is to present the results of our audit on the accompanying financial statements. A summary of our reporting objectives and audit results are:

1. Objective - To express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements.

Results - The accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the amounts and disclosures made in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting, a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

AUDITOR'S TRANSMITTAL (CONCLUDED)

2. Objective - To present significant deficiencies, if any, in internal control over financial reporting which could adversely affect the Duplin Partnership's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data in the financial statements and present instances of noncompliance or other matters, if any, with laws, regulations, contracts, or grant agreements.

Results - Our tests disclosed no material weaknesses in the internal control over financial reporting and no instances of noncompliance or other matters that require disclosure herein under *Government Auditing Standards*.

North Carolina General Statutes require the State Auditor to make audit reports available to the public. Copies of audit reports issued by the Office of the State Auditor may be obtained through one of the options listed in the back of this report.

Leslie W. Merritt, Jr., CPA, CFP

State Auditor

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Board of Directors Duplin County Partnership for Children Kenansville, North Carolina

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis of the Duplin County Partnership for Children (Duplin Partnership) as of June 30, 2004, and the related Statement of Functional Expenditures – Modified Cash Basis for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Duplin Partnership's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the accompanying financial statements were prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets of the Duplin County Partnership for Children as of June 30, 2004, and the results of its operations arising from modified cash basis transactions for the year then ended, on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated May 13, 2005, on our consideration of the Duplin Partnership's internal control over financial reporting and our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONCLUDED)

results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* and should be considered in assessing the results of our audit.

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Duplin County Partnership for Children's basic financial statements. The information in Schedules 1, 3, 4, and 5 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. These Schedules have been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The information in Schedule 2 has not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we express no opinion on Schedule 2.

Leslie W. Merritt, Jr., CPA, CFP

Leslie W. Merritt, Jr.

State Auditor

May 13, 2005

Duplin County Partnership for Children Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis For the Year Ended June 30, 2004

Exhibit A

	Unrestricted Funds			Te	emporarily		
	5	Smart Start Fund		Other Funds		Restricted Funds	Total Funds
Receipts: State Awards (less refunds of \$18,896) Federal Awards Private Contributions Interest and Investment Earnings Sales Tax Refunds Other Receipts	\$	798,355	\$	12,000 29,859 12,630 95 4,802 176	\$	0	\$ 810,355 29,859 12,630 95 4,802 176
Total Receipts		798,355		59,562			 857,917
Net Assets Released from Restrictions: Satisfaction of Program Restrictions				89		(89)	
Expenditures:		798,355		59,651		(89)	 857,917
Programs: Child Care and Education Affordability Child Care and Education Quality Family Support Health and Safety Support: Management and General Program Coordination Program Evaluation Other: Refund of Prior Year Grant Sales Tax Paid Programs: Child Care and Education Affordability Total Expenditures		186,564 277,497 23,795 100,482 123,571 41,905 43,205		540 31,100 10,089 285 12,641 100 6,809			187,104 308,597 33,884 100,767 136,212 41,905 43,205 100 6,809
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Excess of Receipts Over Expenditures Net Assets at Beginning of Year		1,336 18,896		(1,913) 5,204		(89) 50,265	 (666) 74,365
Net Assets at End of Year	\$	20,232	\$	3,291	\$	50,176	\$ 73,699
Net Assets Consisted of: Cash and Cash Equivalents Refunds Due From Contractors Less: Funds Held for Others	\$	19,790 1,354 21,144 912	\$	3,291	\$	50,176	\$ 73,257 1,354 74,611 912
	\$	20,232	\$	3,291	\$	50,176	\$ 73,699

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

Duplin County Partnership for Children Statement of Functional Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis For the Year Ended June 30, 2004

Exhibit B

	_	Total	Pe	ersonnel		ontracted Services		Supplies and Materials		Other Operating openditures	a	Fixed Charges and Other penditures		operty and quipment Outlay		Services/ Contracts/ Grants	Tr	ticipant aining enditures
Smart Start Fund:																		
Programs:																		
Child Care and Education Affordability	\$	186,564	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	186,564	\$	0
Child Care and Education Quality		277,497		115,947		1,783		2,279		19,788		11,427				126,142		131
Family Support		23,795		18,025		326		983		2,709		1,752						
Health and Safety		100,482														100,482		
		588,338		133,972		2,109		3,262		22,497		13,179				413,188		131
Support:												,						
Management and General		123,571		96,146		3,201		2,941		10,488		10,795						
Program Coordination		41,905		37,585		277		490		2,086		1,467						
Program Evaluation		43,205		37,997		355		479		1,852		2,253		269				
		208,681		171,728		3,833		3,910		14,426		14,515		269				
Total Smart Start Fund Expenditures	\$	797,019	\$	305,700	\$	5,942	\$	7,172	\$	36,923	\$	27,694	\$	269	\$	413,188	\$	131
Other Funds:																		
Programs:																		
Child Care and Education Affordability	\$	540	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	0	\$	540	\$	0
Child Care and Education Quality		31,100		28,977				766		292		1,065						
Family Support		10,089		8,865				294		435		495				205		
Health and Safety		285		37,842				4.000		727		4.500				285 825		
Support:		42,014		37,042				1,060		121		1,560	-			625		
Management and General		12,641		5,239		5,874				1,076		452						
Other: Refund of Prior Year Grant		400										100						
Sales Tax Paid		100 6,809						6,809				100						
Jaies Idx Falu		6,909						6,809				100						
Total Other Funds Expenditures	<u> </u>	61,564	\$	43,081	\$	5,874	\$	7,869	\$	1,803	\$	2,112	\$	0	\$	825	\$	0
Total Other Funds Expenditures	Ψ	01,004	Ψ	70,001	Ψ	0,014	Ψ	7,000	Ψ	1,000	Ψ	2,112	Ψ		Ψ	020	Ψ	

The accompanying notes to the financial statements are an integral part of this statement.

DUPLIN COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS JUNE 30, 2004

NOTE 1 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- **A. Organization and Purpose** The Duplin County Partnership for Children (Duplin Partnership) is a legally separate nonprofit organization incorporated on August 24, 1994. The Duplin Partnership was established to develop and provide, through public and private means, early childhood education and developmental services for children and families. The Duplin Partnership is tax-exempt as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- **B.** Basis of Presentation The accompanying financial statements present all funds for which the Duplin Partnership's Board of Directors is responsible. Pursuant to the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 117, Financial Statements of Not-For-Profit Organizations, the accompanying financial statements present information according to three classes of net assets: unrestricted net assets, temporarily restricted net assets, and permanently restricted net assets. As permitted by this Statement, temporarily restricted contributions received and expended in the same year are reported as unrestricted receipts rather than as temporarily restricted receipts.

Contributions that are temporarily restricted and not expended within the year received are reported as an increase in temporarily restricted net assets. When the restriction expires (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets as net assets released from restrictions.

The Duplin Partnership did not have any permanently restricted net assets at June 30, 2004.

C. Basis of Accounting - The accompanying financial statements were prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting. This basis differs from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America primarily because it recognizes long lived assets and other costs which benefit more than one period as expended in the year purchased; it recognizes revenue when received rather than when earned; and it recognizes expenditures when paid rather than when incurred.

However, unexpended advances to contractors that revert back to the State of North Carolina are recognized as a reduction to expenditures and an increase to net assets. In addition, amounts withheld from employee paychecks or other amounts received in an agency capacity are recorded as funds held for others.

- **D.** Cash and Cash Equivalents This classification appears on the Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets Modified Cash Basis and includes all demand and savings accounts and certificate of deposits or short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less.
- **E. Refunds Due From Contractors** Refunds due from contractors represent the unexpended amount of advances to contractors at year end that are to be refunded back to the State. As recoveries are collected, the receivable balance is reduced. Payments to the State for the recovered advances are recorded as a reduction to the State awards balance.
- **F. Funds Held For Others** Funds held for others includes amounts received that are fiduciary in nature in which the Duplin Partnership acts in an agency capacity. For the year ended, the Duplin Partnership was holding amounts withheld from employee paychecks for IRS Section 125 cafeteria plan costs.
- **G. Property and Equipment** Under the modified cash basis of accounting, purchases of property and equipment are reported as expenditures in the year occurred. However, Duplin Partnership is required by contract regulation to track and maintain property and equipment items as presented in Schedule 4 of this report. The Duplin Partnership has a policy to track purchases of property and equipment items with an individual cost of \$500 or more and an estimated useful life greater than one year. Such items are valued at their original purchase price, which may be different from their valuation as of June 30, 2004. Donated items are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation.
- **H.** Compensated Absences As a result of the use of the modified cash basis of accounting, liabilities related to accrued compensated absences are not recorded in the financial statements. Expenditures related to compensated absences are recorded when paid. The amount of accrued compensated absences for accumulated, unpaid leave that would be due to employees upon termination is reported as a commitment in Note 9.
- I. Use of Estimates The preparation of financial statements in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting used by the Duplin Partnership requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect

certain reported amounts and disclosures (such as allocation of joint costs); accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates. It is management's belief that these estimates are reasonable and fair.

NOTE 2 - DEPOSITS

All funds of the Duplin Partnership are deposited with a commercial bank and insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to \$100,000. Deposits over this amount subjects the Duplin Partnership to a concentration of credit risk.

NOTE 3 - FUNDING FROM GRANT AWARDS

Smart Start Program - The Duplin Partnership's major source of revenue and support is from the State of North Carolina based on cost-reimbursement contracts with The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., (NCPC) for the Smart Start Program. A significant reduction in the level of funding from the State could have an adverse effect on the operations of the Duplin Partnership and represents a concentration of credit risk as to the generation of revenue.

Associated with these contracts, the Duplin Partnership is responsible for developing a comprehensive, collaborative, long-range plan of services to children and families for the service-delivery area. During the year, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) entered into contracts with and made payments to service providers selected by the Duplin Partnership. These service provider contracts are not reflected on the accompanying financial statements. However, a summary of the service provider contracts entered into by DHHS is presented on Schedule 2 accompanying the financial statements.

The Duplin Partnership was awarded and has received \$817,251 under a current year Smart Start contract with NCPC. The unexpended balance of this contract is subject to reversion to the State. The Duplin Partnership has returned \$19,780 of this contract to the State based on financial status reports submitted to NCPC subsequent to June 30, 2004.

The Duplin Partnership expects to receive continued funding through new Smart Start contracts with the State.

NOTE 4 - RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Service Provider Contracts with Board Member Organizations - The board members of the Duplin Partnership are representative of various organizations that benefit from actions taken by the Board. It is the policy of the Duplin Partnership that board members not be involved with decisions regarding organizations they represent. During the year, the Duplin Partnership entered into contracts with board member organizations for program activities as identified on Schedule 1 accompanying the financial statements. In addition, Schedule 2 identifies contracts entered into by DHHS with board member organizations for activities funded by the Duplin Partnership's Smart Start Allocation.

NOTE 5 - FUNCTIONAL EXPENDITURES

The costs of providing the various programs and activities have been summarized on a functional basis in the Statement of Receipts, Expenditures, and Net Assets – Modified Cash Basis. Also, the Statement of Functional Expenditures – Modified Cash Basis, provides detail of the functional costs by their natural classification. Following are the services associated with the functional categories presented in the accompanying financial statements and the methods utilized to allocate joint cost:

A. Program Functions

Child Care and Education Affordability - Used to account for service activities including public pre-K classes or child care transportation.

Child Care and Education Quality - Used to account for service activities including quality enhancement grants for upgrades, child care resource and referral, or professional development.

Family Support - Used to account for service activities associated with community outreach information and resources.

Health and Safety - Used to account for service activities including child care health consultants or special needs — early intervention services/special education.

B. Support Functions

Management and General - Expenditures that are not identifiable with a single program or fund-raising activity but are indispensable to the conduct of those activities and to an organization's existence, including expenditures for the overall direction of the organization, its general

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

board activities, business management, general recordkeeping, budgeting, and related purposes.

Program Coordination - Expenditures that are incurred to coordinate the policies, procedures, and daily practices of service delivery. Also, costs associated with monitoring in-house and direct service provider activities.

Program Evaluation - Expenditures that are incurred to monitor the performance of service providers as to the delivery of services and adherence to the specific terms and conditions of the contracts.

C. Allocation of Joint Costs

Expenditures benefiting more than one purpose were allocated as follows:

Salaries and Benefits - Direct allocation based on employee time reports.

Other Costs - Other costs including occupancy cost (rent, utilities and maintenance), supplies and materials, and communication costs (telephone and printing) were indirectly allocated based on estimates of utilization or utilization data.

NOTE 6 - OPERATING LEASE OBLIGATIONS

Future minimum lease payments under noncancelable operating leases consist of the following at June 30, 2004:

Fiscal Year	 Operating Leases					
2005 2006 2007	\$ 21,191 21,191 5,994					
Total Minimum Lease Payments	\$ 48,376					

Rental expense for all operating leases during the year was \$20,822.

NOTE 7 - PENSION PLAN

Retirement Plans - The Duplin Partnership has a SIMPLE - IRA Plan covering all full-time employees. Each full-time employee of the Duplin Partnership has an option to participate in the Plan. An Individual Retirement Account is provided to the employee through an outside financial institution. The Duplin Partnership contributed 3% of gross wages for the year ended

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

June 30, 2004. The Duplin Partnership does not own the accounts nor is liable for any other cost other than the required contribution. The Duplin Partnership contributed \$7,961 for pension benefits during the year.

NOTE 8 - RISK MANAGEMENT

The Duplin Partnership is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts, theft of, damage to, or destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; employees' health and life; and natural disasters. The Duplin Partnership manages these various risks of loss as follows:

Type of Loss	Method Managed	Risk of Loss Retained
Torts, errors and omissions, health and life	Purchased commercial insurance	None
Workers Compensation – Employee injuries	Purchased commercial insurance	None
Physical property loss and natural disasters	Purchased commercial insurance	None

Management believes such coverage is sufficient to preclude any significant losses to the Duplin Partnership. Settled claims have not exceeded this insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

NOTE 9 - COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Compensated Absences - As a result of the Duplin Partnership's use of the modified cash basis of accounting, accrued liabilities related to compensated absences (vacation only; sick leave does not vest) and any employer-related costs earned and unpaid, are not reflected in the financial statements. The compensated absences commitment for vacation leave at June 30, 2004, is \$9,460. No funds or reservation of net assets has been made for this commitment.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONCLUDED)

NOTE 10 - RESTRICTIONS ON NET ASSETS

A. Temporarily Restricted Net Assets - Temporarily restricted net assets at June 30, 2004, are available for the following purposes:

Purpose	 Amount		
Buckle Up Program Model Child Care Facility Smart Start Academy	\$ 26 50,000 150		
Smart Start / Readonly	\$ 50,176		

B. Net Assets Released From Donor Restrictions - Net assets were released from donor restrictions during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004, by incurring expenditures satisfying the restricted purposes as follows:

Purpose	A	mount
Bilingual Coordinator Project	\$	89

Duplin County Partnership for Children Schedule of Contract and Grant Expenditures - Modified Cash Basis For the Year Ended June 30, 2004

Schedule 1

	Smart Start Fund					Other Funds				
Organization Name		Amount Advanced		Refund Due		mount vanced		efund Due		
Duplin County Board of Education Duplin County Health Department Duplin County Transportation Department James Sprunt Community College Lou Anna's Child Care	* \$ * * *	239,065 49,335 44,454 4,503	\$	(221) (1,133)	\$	0 285 540	\$	0		
Sandcastles Child Care Starr Christian Academy Various Providers	*	3,872 3,241 70,072 414,542	\$	(1,354)	\$	825	\$	0		

^{*} These organizations are represented on the Partnership's Board as described in Note 4 - Service Provider Contracts with Board Member Organizations.

Duplin County Partnership for Children Schedule of State Level Service Provider Contracts For the Year Ended June 30, 2004

Schedule 2

Organization Name		DHHS Contracts
Child Care Services Association - WAGE\$ Program	\$	79,548
Duplin County Department of Social Services	*	665,106
	\$	744,654

^{*} These organizations are represented on the Partnership's Board as described in Note 4 - Service Provider Contracts with Board Member Organizations.

The information on this schedule provides a listing of service provider contracts entered into by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as described in Note 3 - Funding from Grant Awards.

Duplin County Partnership for Children Schedule of Federal and State Awards - Modified Cash Basis For the Year Ended June 30, 2004

Schedule 3

Federal/State Grantor/Pass-through Grantor/Program	Federal CFDA Number	Contract #	Receipts	Expenditures
Federal Awards: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Pass-through from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Child Development Child Care and Development Block Grant	93.575	5995	\$ 19,678	\$ 15,045
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Pass-through from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Child Development Pass-through from Child Care Directions, Inc.				10.000
Child Care and Development Block Grant Total Federal Awards	93.575	6240-B	10,181 29,859	13,806 28,851
State Awards: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Development Pass-through from the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. Early Childhood Initiatives Program (Prior Years) Early Childhood Initiatives Program (Current Year) Multi-County Accounting and Contracting Grant	*	Various N/A N/A	(18,896) 817,251 12,000	(452) 797,471 12,000
Total State Awards			810,355	809,019
Total Federal and State Awards			\$ 840,214	\$ 837,870

^{*} Programs with compliance requirements that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements.

Duplin County Partnership for Children Schedule of Property and Equipment - Modified Cash Basis For the Year Ended June 30, 2004

Schedule 4

Furniture and Noncomputer Equipment Computer Equipment/Printers Leasehold Improvements	\$ 38,822 30,154 2,000
Total Property and Equipment	\$ 70,976

Note: The information on this schedule provides a summary of property and equipment with acquisition or donated cost of \$500 or more which were held by the Partnership at year end. The valuations represent historical cost. On the modified basis of accounting, these items are expensed in the year of purchase.

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Cash	\$ 2,635
In-Kind Goods and Services	 29,015
	\$ 31,650
Match Provided at the Contractor Level:	
Cash In-Kind Goods and Services	\$ 95,636 43,402
	\$ 139,038

Note: This schedule is presented in accordance with the program match requirement as provided for by North Carolina Session Law 2003-284, Section 10.38(c). The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. and all local partnerships are required to match the total amount budgeted for the Smart Start Program in each fiscal year. The match is comprised of both cash and in-kind amounts. Only in-kind contributions that are verifiable, quantifiable, and related to the Smart Start Program can be applied to the in-kind match requirement, including volunteer services. The law allows for volunteer services to be valued for match purposes, a concept that deviates from generally accepted accounting principles. This schedule identifies those amounts allowable for this partnership in meeting the statewide match requirement.

Office of the State Auditor



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

Board of Directors Duplin County Partnership for Children Kenansville, North Carolina

We have audited the financial statements of the Duplin County Partnership for Children (Duplin Partnership) as of and for the year ended June 30, 2004, and have issued our report thereon dated May 13, 2005. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Duplin Partnership's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purposes of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements caused by error or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we noted other matters involving the internal control over financial reporting, which we have reported to management of the Duplin Partnership in a separate letter dated June 27, 2005.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS (CONCLUDED)

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Duplin Partnership's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the audit committee, management of the Duplin Partnership, The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., the Governor, and the General Assembly and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Leslie W. Merritt, Jr., CPA, CFP State Auditor

May 13, 2005

DISTRIBUTION OF AUDIT REPORT

In accordance with North Carolina General Statutes 147-64.5 and 147-64.6(c)(14), copies of this report have been distributed to the public officials listed below. Additional copies are provided to other legislators, state officials, the press, and the general public upon request.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Honorable Michael F. Easley Governor of North Carolina

The Honorable Beverly M. Perdue Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina

The Honorable Richard H. Moore

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper, III

Mr. Dovid T. McCov

State Rudget Officer

State Rudget Officer

Mr. David T. McCoy

Mr. Robert L. Powell

Ms. Carmen Hooker Odom

State Budget Officer

State Controller

Secretary, Departmen

Ms. Carmen Hooker Odom

Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services

Other Property of Property

Mr. Ashley Thrift Chairman, Board of Directors

The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.

Executive Director

The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

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Senator Charles W. Albertson
Senator Thomas M. Apodaca
Representative James B. Black, Co-Chair
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Representative Deborah K. Ross Representative Drew P. Saunders Representative Wilma M. Sherrill Representative Joe P. Tolson

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Other Legislative Officials

Mr. James D. Johnson Director, Fiscal Research Division

July 20, 2005

Ms. Karen Ponder

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