

Commissioners,

We look forward to the upcoming FY 2020-21 Budget Retreat. The retreat will be held at the Human Services Building in Conference Rooms A, B and C on Tuesday, February 25, 2020. A link to the draft agenda and other pre-meeting materials are below.

As shared during the November Planning Retreat and recent discussions, the meeting will start with Michael Goodman of The Academy for Systems Change, giving an update on Systems Thinking. He will also facilitate a group exercise with the Board. Based on your feedback, there was interest to work on topic(s) during the group exercise that were directly or indirectly related to poverty. The below questions were developed and have been vetted by Mr. Goodman for the group exercise. Let us know if changes are required to the draft focus questions. We will send data related to the various topics in a subsequent email.

1. "Why, despite of the county's investment and focus in health and well-being for all, have we not been able to reduce the significant differences in infant mortality rates by race and ethnicity in the county?"
2. "Why despite all of our investments made, have we not been able to make a significant impact on connecting jobs to some of our residents?"
3. "Why, despite the county's various programs, are we seeing the trends we're seeing in hunger and food insecurity?"

The second part of the day will allow for updates on tax, finance and the overall budget outlook. Staff will showcase recent technology enhancements and share a brief update on the recent opioid settlement negotiations. In addition, DSS staff will give a policy update on Medicaid programs that require additional funds. The remaining time will allow the Board to give staff direction of funding priorities as we plan to develop the County Manager's Recommended Budget.

There are several links to pre-meeting materials consistent with data seen during previous retreats. Although we will not discuss all of the information, the resource materials will be helpful as we plan for next week's discussions.

Please let me know if you require additional information.

Regards,

Wendell

---

[Draft FY 2020-21 BOCC Budget Retreat Agenda](#)

[Durham County Operating Budget Guiding Principles](#)

[Michael Goodman Applied Systems Thinking - Agenda](#)

[Durham County Economic and Demographic Trends](#)

[FY 2019-20 Durham County Budget - 2nd Quarter Report](#)

[2019 NCACC County Map Book](#)

[BOCC Strategic Planning November 2019 Retreat](#)