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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pittsylvania County DSS

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Pittsylvania County hires Social Services Director

CHATHAM – Effective January 2, 2019, Christopher Spain will become the new Director of Social Services for Pittsylvania County. Mr. Spain was chosen for his extensive background in Social Services and his desire to work on the local level where services are directly provided to those in need. Before coming to Pittsylvania County, Mr. Spain worked as the Director of Prevention and Public Policy for Families Forward Virginia and with the Virginia Department of Social Services as the Child Protective Services Program Manager. Mr. Spain has also served as Director of Social Services in Nottoway County and Highland County. Prior to becoming a Social Services employee, Mr. Spain was an Investigator with the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office.

According to the local Department of Social Services Board's Personnel Committee Chairman Joey Bray, Mr. Spain was selected from a field of highly qualified applicants for the position. Mr. Bray said, "We are excited about the fulfillment of this important position. It is with much anticipation that with the leadership of Mr. Spain coupled with a capable Department of Social Services staff and collaborative multi-agency cooperation, the citizenry of Pittsylvania County will be well served."

Mr. Spain expressed excitement and gratitude upon accepting the position as Local Director. Mr. Spain said that he is committed to the citizens of Pittsylvania County and to ensuring a Social Services team that is responsive to their needs. Accountability, transparency, and communication in an open, high functioning system are among my top

priorities to build strong relationships with the community and to ensure a stable work environment within the agency, Spain said. Mr. Spain has been a part of moving systems at the state and local level, and believes that community engagement is vital to any organization's success.

Mr. Spain holds a Masters in Public Administration Degree from UNC-Pembroke and a Bachelors Degree from Bluefield College.

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