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News Release

Matens Named Executive Director of Human Services

May 30, 2013, MONROE, NC – Union County Manager Cindy Coto is pleased to announce the appointment of Richard Matens to the position of executive director of Human Services for Union County. Matens will be the first executive director to oversee the consolidated Human Services divisions consisting of Social Services, Public Health, Veterans' Services, and Transportation and Senior Nutrition.

“Union County is fortunate to have Mr. Matens joining our team as executive director of Human Services,” said Coto. “Mr. Matens has a results-oriented style and will be an active leader by ‘setting the direction’ for the Human Services agency with his optimistic ‘can-do’ attitude and outstanding interpersonal and communication skills.”

Matens comes to Union County from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine where he served as the administrative director for the Center to Eliminate Cardiovascular Health Disparities since October 2010.

His experience includes positions in California, Arizona, Louisiana, Alabama and Maryland, providing management for a range of services including those addressing HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, prenatal care, health professional shortages, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, poverty, and a spectrum of other community health and human service topics.

Matens specializes in the development, administration and evaluation of public health and human service programs targeting traditionally under-served populations. Utilizing over 22 years of experience, he has worked with programs ranging from small community-based initiatives to government endeavors that focus on statewide and regional concerns to university-based research programs with national ramifications. He has also managed the development of more than \$145 million of successful grant applications to state, federal and private funding sources.

“Union County is providing a unique opportunity to be on the cutting edge of human service delivery,” Matens said. “The merging of Public Health, Social Services, Veterans' Services, Transportation and Senior Nutrition under one umbrella will facilitate a comprehensive approach to addressing the human service needs of the county.”

Matens holds a bachelor's degree from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas and a master's degree from Notre Dame Seminary and School of Theology in New Orleans, La.

“I cannot wait to work with the extremely talented team here in Union County,” Matens said. “I have been so impressed with Ms. Coto's management team as well as the department's personnel whom I have met so far. It is indeed an exciting time to be here in the county.”

Matens is married to Dana Lee Matens and has two children, Emily, 22, and James, 17. He will begin work on June 3.

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