

**7. STATUS REPORT
SMART BEGINNINGS – WESTERN TIDEWATER**

Supervisor Felts requested that we set aside 15 to 20 minutes for an update from Smart Beginnings, Western Tidewater. It's my understanding that Mayor Councill and Don Robertson (Isle of Wight County) will be on hand to introduce the new Executive Director, Ellen Couch.

Ms. Couch has an Educational Specialist Degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of Virginia. Since 2005, she has served as the leader of early intervention services with Isle of Wight County Schools. Prior to that, she served as director of the former Grandma's House day care center in Smithfield, and was an adjunct professor at the Smithfield Campus of Paul D. Camp Community College. She was also a third grade teacher at Carrollton Elementary School and a reading instructor for Isle of Wight County.

As you recall, Smart Beginnings – Western Tidewater was established in the spring of 2007 with blended funding from the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation, the Obici Healthcare Foundation and the localities of the City of Franklin, Southampton County and Isle of Wight County. It has formed partnerships with business and government leaders, school systems, local service agencies, early child care and education providers, parents and community partners, in an attempt to ensure that all children are ready for school.

NO ACTION REQUIRED