



Annual Report

Chatham County Community Child
Protection & Fatality Prevention Combined
Team

What does the CCPT-CFPT do?

- Review active child welfare cases to determine gaps or deficiencies in the community's resources that affect child wellbeing
- Review all child fatalities (under age 18)
- Examine policies and procedures of state and local agencies

Mandated CFPT Members

- o Jennie Kristiansen, Director, CCDSS, Co-Chair of combined team
- o Mike Zelek, Director, Chatham County Health Department, Co-Chair of combined team
- o Kayley Taber, Assistant District Attorney
- o Marcella Trageser, Assistant District Attorney
- o Tracy Fowler, Director of Student Services, Chatham County Schools
- o Thomas Droke, Chatham County Board of Social Services
- o Nickie Siler, Guardian ad Litem Supervisor, Guardian ad Litem Program District 15-B
- o Dr. Susan Pitts, Pediatrician, Piedmont Health, Moncure Health Clinic
- o Lora Rinaldi, Chatham County Sheriff's Office
- o Scott Meulendyke, Chatham County Sheriff's Office
- o Rodney West, Chatham County Sheriff's Office
- o Della Richardson, Telamon Headstart
- o Natasha Elliott, Central Piedmont Community Action
- o Cim Brailer, CCDSS
- o Caitlin Howison, CCDSS
- o Theresa Buchanan, CFPT Coordinator, CCPHD

Citizens at Large

The Board of County Commissioners may appoint a maximum of five additional members to represent various county agencies or the community at large to serve on any local team.

- o Anne Chapman, Coordinator, Chatham County Victim Services
- o Carissa Brown, Center Director, Daymark Recovery Services
- o Shirille Lee, Communities in Schools Chatham County
- o Deborah Flowers, UNC Beacon Program, Moore County Child Advocacy Center
- o Courtney Crawford Pope, El Futuro

Case Review Goals

- o Develop understanding of complexities and challenges families involved with child welfare are facing
- o Identifying gaps in service provision
- o Making recommendations for system change

Child Welfare Case Review Selection

- o Selection based on complicated nature of the problems
- o Social workers looking for feedback regarding improving outcomes
- o Most cases had prior CPS history

Child Welfare Review Findings

- o Serious substance use, domestic violence, and medical neglect were primary reasons for removal
- o All nine children placed with kin or family
- o Permanent plans were guardianship or adoption

Child Welfare Review Recommendations

- More effective “fast tracking” of Interstate Placement agreements so that children can be move across state lines to be with family
- Supports for families who have newly immigrated and are Spanish speaking
- Improved access for uninsured or underinsured parents who have significant behavioral health needs

Other Activities

- o Review of Child Fatality Intensive Review Process
- o Review of legislative changes regarding the reporting of abuse and neglect
- o Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic
- o Presentation on Safe Kids Chatham

Child Fatalities

- Review of 5 child fatalities in Chatham County
- Two fatalities were determined to be unpreventable.
- Circumstances in three cases were determined to be preventable

General Themes

- o Safe sleep has been seen in case reviews over past several years
- o Traffic accidents are another common cause of preventable death among children
 - o Safe Kids Chatham presented to CCPT-CFPT on car seat safety
- o COVID-19 presented unique challenges and team will continue to assess impacts on Chatham's youngest residents

2020 Successes

- o Trauma-Informed Communities Grant
- o Groundwater Event
- o District Permanency Collaboratives
- o Foster Parent Recruitment
- o EMBRACE Organizational Equity Assessment
- o COVID-19 Response Efforts & Initiatives

2021 Opportunities

- o Family Treatment Court
- o Family First Prevention Services Act
- o Education for primary and secondary caregivers on safe sleep
- o System alignment



Questions?