


CHATHAM
COUNTY
COMMUNITY
CHILD
PROTECTION &
FATALITY
PREVENTION
COMBINED
TEAM

CHATHAM
COUNTY BOARD
OF
COMMISSIONERS
MAY 18, 2026



Annual Report CCPT & CFPT 2025

Child Fatality Prevention System Structure

- **State Office of Child Fatality Prevention:** coordinates whole system efforts, training, guidance, technical assistance to local teams
- **One Local Team:** reviews a selection of child fatalities (no longer required to review all deaths)
- **National Data System:** Allows for local teams to analyze data, generate aggregate reports, and use information to inform local efforts to prevent deaths
- **Escalated Reviews:** for fatalities with prior CPS involvement including a report, regardless of disposition

What does the Local Team do?

- Review active child welfare cases to determine gaps or deficiencies in the community's resources that affect child wellbeing
- Review child fatalities (under age 18) and develop strategies to prevent fatalities
- Examine policies and procedures of state and local agencies
- Determine how to spend CFPT funds from State (approximately \$1200/year for Chatham)

Mandated Members

Jennie Kristiansen, Director, CCDSS, Co-Chair of Local team

Mike Zelek, Director, CCPHD, Co-Chair of Local team

Memory Dossenbach, DSS Board Member

Lynn Kelly, Assistant District Attorney

Tracy Fowler, Senior Executive Director of Student Services and Support Programs, Chatham County Schools

Nicholas Victorino, Medical Examiner, UNC Healthcare

Nickie Siler, Guardian ad Litem Supervisor

Dr. Susan Pitts, Pediatrician, Piedmont Health, Moncure Health Clinic

Robert Miller, Chatham County Sheriff's Office

Marisol Mondragon, Telamon Head Start

Laura Sharpe, Vaya Health

Ad hoc Members

Noel Martin, Center Director, Daymark Recovery Services

Shirille Lee, Communities in Schools Chatham County

Heather St. Clair, Chatham County Partnership for Children

Other Attendees:

Nicole Roman, Guardian ad Litem District Administrator

Alicia Doran, Public Health Social Worker, CCPHD

Sabrina Davis, CFPT Coordinator, CCPHD

Cim Brailer and Caitlin Howison, CC DSS

Optional Child Welfare Case Reviews

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

Child Welfare Review Findings

- Reason for DSS custody: Physical abuse, parental substance use, domestic violence, improper supervision, improper medical care
- Placement with Kin: In 7 families where children were in custody, they were placed with kin or family; in one family, the child was in a residential treatment program
- Child needs: ongoing behavioral health treatment, educational support (IDD diagnoses), speech delays, services for exposure to domestic violence and dental care (parents had similar needs)
- Housing: 2 families had stable housing, 2 families had unstable housing, 3 were in residential treatment, 1 family had housing support from a family member
- Justice involvement: 7 of 8 families had parents with justice involvement including, possession with intent to sell methamphetamine, possession of a firearm by a felon, child abuse, breaking and entering, domestic violence; two families had history of parental incarceration

Child Fatalities

- 10 child fatality reviews in Chatham County in 2025 (9 in 2024)
- Reviews take place at least a year after death
- 7 cases were determined to be unpreventable
- Topics of concern included traffic safety, youth mental health, safe storage

2025 Successes

- Expanded car seat safety program leveraging County and CFPT funds
- Increased efforts to address youth mental health and suicide
- Leveraging Opioid Settlement funds Early Intervention Initiatives
- Consistent attendance, met as scheduled, adapted to align with new legislation
- The statewide Medicaid plan for children in foster care, called the Child and Families Specialty Plan (provided by Healthy Blue Care Together) went live on December 1, 2025
- Chatham County was approved as a “Developing” Child Advocacy Center by Child Advocacy Centers of NC

2026

Opportunities/Recommendations

- Continued expansion of community-based programming through Public Health
- Participation in new national CFPT data system (starting in 2026)
- PATH NC, the new version of a statewide child welfare technology system goes live on April 27
- Evaluating the feasibility of implementing professional foster parenting in partnership with a behavioral health non-profit.

Questions?
