

CHATHAM
COUNTY
COMMUNITY
CHILD
PROTECTION &
FATALITY
PREVENTION
COMBINED
TEAM

CHATHAM
COUNTY BOARD
OF
COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 5, 2023

Annual Report CCPT (2022) CFPT (2022-23)

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) and develop strategies to prevent fatalities
- Examine policies and procedures of state and local agencies

Mandated Members

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

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

Kayley Taber, Assistant District Attorney

Marcella Trageser, Assistant District Attorney

Tracy Fowler, Director of Student Services, Chatham County Schools

Thomas Droke, Chatham County Board of Social Services

Nickie Siler, Guardian ad Litem Supervisor, Guardian ad Litem Program District 15-B

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

Rebecca Madden, Chatham County Sheriff's Office

Scott Meulendyke, Chatham County Sheriff's Office

Rodney West, Chatham County Sheriff's Office

Della Richardson, Telamon Headstart

Natasha Elliott, Central Piedmont Community Action

Laquitia Cozart, Vaya Health

Sarah Schaller, Vaya Health

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.

Anne Chapman, Coordinator, Chatham County Victim Services

Carissa Brown, Center Director, Daymark Recovery Services

Shirille Lee, Communities in Schools Chatham County

Deborah Flowers, UNC Beacon Program, Moore County Child Advocacy Center

Courtney Crawford Pope and Christa Atkinson (designee for Dr. Luke Smith), El Futuro

Other Attendees:

Nicole Roman, Guardian ad Litem backup

Alicia Doran, Public Health Social Worker, CCPHD

Theresa Buchanan, CFPT Coordinator, CCPHD

Cim Brailer and Caitlin Howison, CC DSS

Case Review Goals

- 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 Case Review Selection

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

Child Welfare Review Findings

- Children's physical and behavioral health needs including inpatient hospital admissions (for a physical health condition) were a contributing reason for removal
- Parental substance use, domestic violence, and medical neglect were other reasons for removal
- In four families, children were placed with kin or family.
- Lack of engagement in treatment, criminal justice system involvement and access to behavioral health treatment were complicating factors in reunification.

Child Welfare Review

Recommendations- Local

- Increased availability of behavioral health services in Spanish (especially after-hours options)
- Improved access to affordable housing
- Expand availability of parenting programs like those offered through the Family Treatment Program (including having availability for Spanish speaking parents).

Child Welfare Review

Recommendations- State Level

- Fast track solutions for children and youth with high level behavioral health needs who are staying in emergency rooms, DSS offices, hotels due to lack of appropriate care.
- Expand financial support of kinship care for children in foster care
- Expand the NC Child Treatment Program to Ensure access to high quality, evidenced based treatment for all children served by child welfare across NC.

Child Fatalities

- 6 child fatality reviews in Chatham County in FY23 (8 in FY22, 5 in FY21)
- Reviews take place at least a year after death
- 1 cases were determined to be unpreventable*
- Topics of concern included youth mental health, safe storage and traffic safety

*One meeting left in current fiscal year

General Themes

- Safe sleep has been seen in case reviews over past several years
- Youth mental health continues to be a growing concern
- Importance of safe storage

2022 Successes

- Family Treatment Court
- Vaya co-location at DSS
- Enhancing Family Time and Visitation
- Foster Care Recruitment and Retention

2022 Successes

- Focus on Equity, including EMBRACe project
- CCPHD Car Seat Safety Check Program
- SIDS Awareness Month campaign in October and educational materials
- Release of Chatham County Community Assessment and YRBS data; mental health and substance use deemed priorities
- Opioid Settlement funds hired Coordinator and prioritize Early Intervention

2023 Opportunities

- Medicaid Expansion
- Family First Prevention Services Act
- Community Wide Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Workshop
- Expanded Family Time and Visitation
- Opioid Settlement
- Potential alignment with other coalitions around priority issues

Questions?
