



# Social Services

### Social Services Board

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### Maggie Clapp

DSS Director

To: Maggie Clapp, Director  
Bila Louima, Deputy Director  
From: Shontelle A. Smith, Assistant Director  
Child and Family Services Division  
Date: April 15, 2026

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. This year’s theme is Positive Childhoods Start with Us! Our CPS Investigations/Assessments and CPS In-Home & Prevention sections have planned a month of activities to bring awareness to the county’s citizens and community partners that Child Abuse Prevention is something that we all must take an active role in.

On Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> we participated in [Wear Blue Day](#), a day set aside to wear the color associated with child abuse prevention.

The week of April 11<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> is designated as the week of the Young Child. Opiates use and abuse has plagued our community and has resulted in child death and maltreatment. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, we provided community awareness about the impact of substance use on families. Providing educational information, discussing the risks associated with opiate use in the presence of children, and shared available resources for prevention. We also partnered with local substance abuse treatment centers to share resources for those currently impacted by substance use/abuse.

### CPS Investigations/Assessments:

Family Assessments	96
Investigations	49
New Allegations on Open Cases	43
Screen Outs	59

### CPS Intake & Collaboration:

- **Resource Parent Recruitment Activities**
  - The current NTDC (National Training and Development Curriculum) training class has ten participants scheduled to graduate in May, representing potential new resource families for Durham County.
  - Staff participated in one recruitment event during the month of March to increase community awareness of the need for foster parents and to connect

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with individuals interested in learning more about becoming licensed resource parents.

- **Fatherhood Initiative:**

- Child & Family Services continues to develop a Fatherhood Initiative focused on increasing engagement and support for fathers involved with the child welfare system. A community survey, distributed via flyer with a QR code, is collecting input on fathers' needs and will remain open through April 30th.
- In May, staff will review survey responses to inform initiative priorities and planning. A Fatherhood Initiative launch event is being planned for June to engage fathers, share resources, and strengthen community connections.
- Staff also continue efforts to increase father engagement in CFT meetings to ensure inclusion in case planning and decision-making.

**CPS In-Home & Prevention Services:**

Homebuilders: We currently have two families engaged in this preventative program.

Foundations for Families Clinic: One family has been referred to the clinic.

# Open Cases	39
# of Children Served	77
# of Cases Closed	14
# of Cases Received	5
# of Children Residing with Their Parents	59
# of Children in TSPs	8
# of Children in Court Approved Placements	10

**Supervised Family Time (Visitations):**

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Ninety-nine (99) children were transported to supervise family time with their parents during month (this number also includes children involved with CPS In-Home). Three children were transported and dropped off for unsupervised family time.

\*Three families are receiving supervised family time on Saturdays.

### Child Placement and Permanency Services (Permanency Planning/Foster Care):

As of April 10<sup>th</sup>, **186** children are in custody of the Department.

# of Children in Home of Parents	2
# of Children with Unlicensed Relatives	36
# of Children with Licensed Relatives	2
# of Children with Non-relatives per Court Order	10

### Program Outcome Measures (HB630) – March 2026

(Note: some outcome measures are \*monthly and some \*SFY which will be cohort data.

#### **\*CWS 3 – Monthly Case Work Home Visits (Foster Care) – State Goal 95%**

Of the number of children in foster care for a full month who had at least one visit:

**March 2026 – 95.03%**

Of the number of children in foster care for a full month who had a visit in the home:

**March 2026 – 98.84%**

NOTE: This measure is based on the requirement in section 422(b)(17) of the Social Security Act that requires that states ensure that their children in foster care are visited by a case worker monthly. The federal government monitors states annually on performance. The performance standard is that 95% of children who are in care for a full month must receive a visit that month and of all the visits that occur in the home 90% must occur in the child's residence.

\*North Carolina has adopted the 95% visitation standard for HB630 County Performance Measures. While the home visit component is not part of the HB630 Measure, the federal government evaluates statewide performance with penalties for

### Community Partners/Collaborations:

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, Child and Family Services met with Durham Public Schools to maintain and strengthen our partnership; during this meeting we discussed the increase in truancy reports. Last month, the referral for the prevention program was shared to ensure school social workers and school administrators continue to be aware of the prevention program for elementary age students.

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On April 9<sup>th</sup>, we also met with Department of Juvenile Justice to discuss specific cases and ensure the correct staff from the Department are present in juvenile court when requested by the judge.

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, CPS In-Home Supervisors met with Duke Representatives regarding referrals for Foundations for Families Clinic; numbers continue to be low based on families choosing not to engage in the one-time clinic visit.

### **Challenges/Barriers:**

We continue to advocate for children with complex behavioral needs to receive the required level of treatment/placement to include Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) based on recommendations from their mental health providers. There are a limited number of PRTFs in North Carolina.

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