Durham County Department of Social Services
Director's Report for the Board of Social Services

Date: October 2026
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Highlighted Updates

Federal/State Highlights:

- Food and Nutrition Services program regulations subject to the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 require the state to conduct Management Evaluation Reviews in each county. The frequency of the review is based on the FNS caseload size and a tentative schedule for the 2026-2027 Federal Fiscal Year has been sent out to counties.

- Rate Reduction Notification effective October 1, 2026 As of October 1, 2026, the federal reimbursement rate for Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) administrative costs is 25%, reduced from 50%. The change is required by H.R. 1, Public Law 119-21, section 10106, and cannot be waived. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Administration, confirmed the change in a letter to all state agencies dated September 28, 2026, which can be accessed via this link: https://www.ncdhhs.gov/efs-fnsep-18-2026/download?attachment

- The Energy Program will once again complete Auto LIEAP payments for the priority group this year. The priority group includes:
  - Households with an individual aged 60 or older who received LIEAP during Fiscal Year 2025–2026, or
  - Households with a disabled individual receiving services through the Division of Aging who also received LIEAP during Fiscal Year 2025–2026 and
  - The household is currently receiving Food and Nutrition Services.
- NC Medicaid has updated Medicaid policy for Notice and Hearings Process in MA-2420, and MA-3430. The following change notices have been posted in the NC-DHHS Policies and Manual website:

- Aged, Blind, and Disabled Medicaid Change Notice: 12-26, Notice and Hearings Process
- Family and Children's Medicaid Change Notice: 08-26, Notice and Hearings Process

Local Highlights/Challenges/Concerns:

Director Clapp attended Partnering to Educate the Community Meeting which includes representation from Public Health, El Centro, Duke and Lincoln on September 24th, 2026

Director Clapp met with the GAL in our bi-monthly meeting on September 25th, 2026.

Director Clapp attended NCACDSS Legislative Priorities Meeting on September 28th, 2026.

Director Clapp hosted a lunch for the new Durham DSS Leadership Academy staff on September 29th, 2026.

Director Clapp hosted the Director's Choice Staff of the Year Award on September 29th, 2026.

Director Clapp shadowed a staff in the Aging and Adult Guardianship Program and accompanied her on a visit on September 30th, 2026.

Director Clapp attended the Durham Benefits meeting on October 2nd, 2026.

Director Clapp and AD Faircloth attended the Durham County BOCC Work Session on October 5th, 2026, and presented on the changes to Medicaid and SNAP due to H.R.1.

Director Clapp and DSS Finance Team met with Durham County Budget team for our new quarterly meeting on October 6th, 2026.

Director Clapp attended the NCACDSS Board meeting on October 8th, 2026.

Director Clapp presented at the PDAC Board Meeting on changes to Medicaid due to H.R.1. on October 13th, 2026.

Director Clapp attended the Fatherhood meeting with Fairfax County, VA on October 14th, 2026.

Concerns or Highlights:

Statewide FNS Error Rate

Medicaid Changes

Vacancies in CFS

Path NC