



Social Services

Social Services Board

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

September is National Kinship Care Month. **Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) reaffirms** North Carolina's commitment to ensuring that children remain connected to their families and communities whenever possible. Kinship caregivers—relatives and close family friends—play a vital role in providing stability and continuity for children when they cannot safely remain at home.

Governor Josh Stein signed a proclamation recognizing Kinship Care Month, reaffirming our statewide dedication to a *kin-first culture*—an approach in child welfare that prioritizes placement, support, legal permanency, and relational permanency with kin—both relative and nonrelative—whenever safely possible. Research consistently shows that children placed with kin experience greater stability, stronger identity development, fewer placement disruptions, and improved long-term outcomes.

In recognition of Kinship Care Month, the Department hosted a celebration honoring participants in the county's Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) on September 14th. The GAP program continues to prevent children from entering foster care and assisting families with preserving connections.

CPS Intake & Collaborative Services

- **Resource Parent Recruitment Activities**
 - Upcoming Recruitment events:
 - 6 events were held in the month of August
 - NTDC class current dates: 8/18/26-9/24/26
 - 6 participants expected to graduate
 - Licensing Unit goal of licensing/retention of 70 Resource Homes for FY26-27
- **Fatherhood Engagement Coordinator:**

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- Interviews were held and a candidate was selected. Selection packet to be routed up for approval.

CPS Investigations & Assessments

Family Assessments	81
Investigations	45
Screen Outs	61
Total Reports	187

CPS In-Home & Prevention Services

Homebuilders: 1 referral to Homebuilders, there was no availability

Foundations for Families Clinic: 0 (We have not had any new cases that fit criteria for the program)

# Open Cases	21
# of Children Served	41
# of Cases Closed	9
# of Cases Received	2
# of Children Residing with Their Parents	27
# of Children in TSPs	4
# of Children in Court Approved Placements	5
# of Children in Other placements	0

Parenting Education

6 Parenting Education Referrals, which includes 2 requests for 1:1 service

Total participants: 18

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Online: 7 (Thursday class)

In Person: 5 (Tuesday class)

1 on1 class: 6 (individual meetings)

Supervised Family Time (Visitations):

Community Social Services Assistants (CSSAs) provided transportation for and/or supervised ninety-nine (99) family time sessions. CSSAs provided transportation for twelve (12) unsupervised family time sessions.

*Three families are receiving supervised family time on Saturdays, and we have availability for more!

Child Placement & Permanency Services (Foster Care)

As of August 31st there were **181** children in custody of the Department.

# of Children in Home with Parents	5
# of Children with Unlicensed Relatives	52
# of Children with Licensed Relatives	7
# of Children with Non-Relatives Per Court Order	8
# of Children in Traditional Foster Homes	48
# of Children in Therapeutic Foster Homes	34
# of Children in Group Homes or Facilities	21
# of Children in Jail or Detention	5
# Children on Runaway	1

Safe Babies Court-11 families are participating.

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Children Exiting Foster Care

Reunification	1
Guardianship with Relative	3
Guardianship with Caretaker	0
Custody with Court Approved Caretaker	1
Custody with Non-Removal Parent	0
Adoption	0
Aged Out of Care	0

Program Outcome Measures (HB630) – August 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:

August 2026 – **99.43%**

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

August 2026 – **98.27%**

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 noncompliance.

Collaborations/Partnerships:

Deputy Director and Assistant Director participated in the Local Child Fatality Team on August 27th. The team consists of multidisciplinary members from the community who review child fatalities, identify gaps in systems, and recommend prevention strategies.

Safe Babies Site Implementation meeting was held on August 28th. Meetings are held monthly to support and sustain Safe Babies court.

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Vacancies Across the Division:

5-Social Work Supervisors

16-Child Welfare Social Workers

1-Social Worker III

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