



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Social Services

JOSH STEIN • Governor
DEVDUTTA SANGVAI • Secretary
CARLA WEST • Division Director, Human Services
DREW PLEDGER • Chairman, Social Services Commission

Meeting Minutes
Social Services Commission Quarterly Meeting
June 11, 2025

I. Call to Order

1. Chairman Pledger called the Social Services quarterly meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Meeting was in person and virtual using Go-To-Webinar.
2. Chairman Pledger read the ethic statement/conflicts of interest statement; being that there were none, Paris Penny proceeded to call the roll.
3. Social Services Commission roll call:
 - a. **Commissioners in attendance and constituting a quorum were:** Chairman Drew Pledger, Brandie Walser, Jeanne Lindquist, Margie Christopher, Willa Wyatt, Tanisha James, Robert Simmons, Rebecca Andrews, Wixie Stephens, Samantha Branch, and Ernestine Taylor
 - b. **Commissioners absent:** Rebecca Andrews, Kelsey Crowe, and Cindy Locklear
 - c. **DHHS Staff Present:** Paris Penny (DSS), Danielle Upchurch (DSS), Tammy Shook (DSS), Tracy Turner (DSS), Misty Piekaar-McWilliams (DAS), Divya Venkatagansen (DAS), and Jay Pontier (NC FAST)
 - d. **DOJ Staff Present:** Adrian Dellinger, Tom Campbell, Lauren Layton (Intern) and Cassidy Patterson (Intern)
 - e. **Others:** Francisco Villagrana (NCGA), Teresa Troup
4. Chairman Drew Pledger provided introductions and opening remarks.
5. Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to move and approve the meeting minutes from March 12, 2025. Motion seconded by Commissioner Wixie Stephens and carried without dissent.

II. New Business

1. Appointments to county boards of social services to fill the seats. Applications voted upon as follows:
 - a. Congressional District 1:
 - i. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to reappoint James Lee to Bertie County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.
 - ii. Motion by Commissioner Samantha Branch to move to appoint Tina Brown to Martin County Department of Social Services Board.

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Motion seconded by Commissioner Willa Wyatt and carried without dissent. Ms. Chambers is a county commissioner.

b. Congressional District 4:

iii. Motion by Commissioner Robert Simmons to move to appoint William O Fleming to Orange County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.

c. Congressional District 10:

iv. Motion by Commissioner Margie Christopher to move to appoint Jane Hinson to Iredell County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist and carried without dissent.

d. Congressional District 11:

v. Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to move to appoint Kenneth Jones to Henderson County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.

vi. Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to move to appoint Augusta Gladding to Madison County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.

vii. Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to move to appoint Lemel Page to Transylvania County Department of Social Services Board. Motion seconded by Commissioner Robert Simmons and carried without dissent.

2. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approval all 29 rules found in 10A NCAC 10, Subsidized Child Care as necessary and can be posted for public comment. Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 10 are necessary, and Commissioner Tanisha James seconded and carried without dissent.
3. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approve all 208 rules found in 10A NCAC 71, Adult and Family Support as necessary and can be posted for public comment. Commissioner Willa Wyatt made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 71 are necessary, and Commissioner Ernestine Taylor seconded and carried without dissent.
4. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approve all 16 rules found in 10A NCAC 70A, Protective Services, as necessary and can be posted for public comment. Commissioner Robert Simmons made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 70A are necessary, and Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist seconded and carried without dissent.
5. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approve all 6 rules found in 10A NCAC 70B, Foster Care Services, as necessary and can be posted for public comment. Commissioner Robert Simmons made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 70B are necessary, and

- Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist seconded and carried without dissent.
6. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approve all 3 rules found in 10A NCAC 70C, Interstate Laws, as necessary and can be posted for public comment. Commissioner Robert Simmons made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 70C are necessary, and Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist seconded and carried without dissent.
 7. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approve all 39 rules found in 10A NCAC 70E, Licensing of Family Foster Homes, as necessary and can be posted for public comment. Commissioner Robert Simmons made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 70E are necessary, and Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist seconded and carried without dissent.
 8. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approve all 10 rules found in 10A NCAC 70F, Child Placing Agencies and Residential Maternity Homes, as necessary and can be posted for public comment. Commissioner Robert Simmons made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 70F are necessary, and Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist seconded and carried without dissent.
 9. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approve all 16 rules found in 10A NCAC 70G, Child Placing Agencies: Foster Care, as necessary and can be posted for public comment. Commissioner Robert Simmons made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 70G are necessary, and Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist seconded and carried without dissent.
 10. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approve all 14 rules found in 10A NCAC 70H, Child Placing Agencies: Adoption, as necessary and can be posted for public comment. Commissioner Robert Simmons made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 70H are necessary, and Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist seconded and carried without dissent.
 11. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approve all 58 rules found in 10A NCAC 70I, Minimum Licensing Standards for Residential Child-Care, as necessary and can be posted for public comment. Commissioner Wixie Stephens made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 70I are necessary, and Commissioner Samantha Branch seconded and carried without dissent.
 12. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approve all 12 rules found in 10A NCAC 70J, Minimum Licensing Standards for Specialized Residential Child Care Programs, as necessary and can be posted for public comment. Commissioner Robert Simmons made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 70J are necessary, and Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist seconded and carried without dissent.
 13. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approve all 29 rules found in 10A NCAC 70K, Residential Maternity Homes, as necessary and can be posted for public comment. Commissioner Robert Simmons made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 70K are necessary,

and Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist seconded and carried without dissent.

14. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approve all 3 rules found in 10A NCAC 70L, Waiver Procedures, Denial, Suspension, Revocation and Appeal Procedures as necessary and can be posted for public comment.

Commissioner Robert Simmons made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 70L are necessary, and Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist seconded and carried without dissent.

15. Paris Penny requested the Commission to make a motion to approve posting the draft TANF State Plan FY2026-28 for the 45-day public comment period and public hearing. Commissioner Willa Wyatt made a motion to make an initial determination that the rules located in 10A NCAC 70K are necessary, and Commissioner Jeanne Lindquist seconded and carried without dissent.

16. Regional Director Update

Unfortunately, Ben Rose could not join us today. He emailed a status update on activities within the regional director's space for the Social Services Commission that I'd like to share today.

- The Regional Directors continue to provide active guidance, continuous quality improvement, and support to County Directors of Social Services through regional meetings and one-on-one meetings/contacts.
- Regional Directors are actively engaged in a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) Peer Pod pilot with Public Knowledge, which will bring all county facing regional support positions together to plan CQI services and performance management and supervision strategies. This will be piloted within two regions to start (Region 1 and Region 6)
- Regional Directors continue to support counties within corrective actions and technical assistance, focused on the Director's needs within that county and supporting overall improvements in outcomes.
- Regional Directors are actively engaged in the Child and Family Services Review and Program Improvement Plan (PIP), supporting the PIP implementation zones to operationalize the soon to be approved program improvement plan.
- Regional Directors continue to support the launch of the Child and Family Specialty Plan for permanency planning that will allow children in custody to have access to specialized health and behavioral health services through a private plan and vendor. We are consistently meeting with the contract vendor (Healthy Blue) and supporting the counties in preparation for launch.
- Regional Directors have also been integral in Path NC rollout, visiting counties and supporting Directors in the group 1 rollout.
- Regional Directors, NCACDSS, and Paris Penny also helped to coordinate and provide direct training on April 29, 2025, to DSS directors regarding emergency management services and response during a disaster. In addition, regional directors continue to plan additional disaster related training for DSS Directors in the upcoming months.
- Ben also shared the team is excited to continue to build the collaboration and partnership with DHHS programs to support improved and better services in

the county DSS. We continue to strive to become more data driven and proactive in addressing services and promoting the concept of the CQI process to address root causes and strategies. We look forward to our continued work and partnership with the Social Services Commission.

III. Presentations

Presentations are posted to the Social Services Commission website.

1. A presentation about the Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR), Program Improvement Plan (PIP) and Child and Family Services Review (CFSR) was presented by Tammy Shook.
2. A presentation about All Ages, All Stages for NC was presented by Divya Venkataganesan.

IV. Staff Comments

Applicants for the third congressional district would need to be covered by other commissioners. Bob Simmons and Jeanne Lindquist will help vet applicants in the third congressional district.

V. Commission Comments

VI. Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Willa Wyatt to adjourn the quarterly meeting at 11:35 a.m. Motion seconded by Commissioner Samantha Branch and carried without dissent.

The next quarterly meeting is September 10, 2025.