



THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES HELD THEIR REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING ON TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025, AT 9:30 A.M. AT THE GOVERNMENT CENTER, 1255 FRANKLIN ST. ROCKY MOUNT VA

THOSE PRESENT: Sharon Tudor, Chairperson, Rocky Mount District Representative
B.W. Wright, Blackwater District Representative
Bill Gruchow, Union Hall District Representative
Dave Thorp, Snow Creek District Representative
Barry Ferguson, Boone District Representative
Mike Carter, BOS Member

THOSE ABSENT: Leslie Holden, Vice Chair, Blue Ridge District Representative
Dave Metzger, Gills Creek District Representative

OTHERS PRESENT: Anita "Toni" Turner, Director
Ashley Rutter, Assistant Director, Benefits Unit
Jessica Davis, Assistant Director, Services Unit
Kathy Walker, Administrative Coordinator II

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY SHARON TUDOR, BOARD CHAIR

Invocation was given by Mike Carter, Board of Supervisors Member

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Barry Ferguson, Boone District Representative

BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION

Sharon Tudor, Chairperson, and Anita "Toni" Turner, Director, recognized B.W. Wright for representing the Blackwater District from 2017-2025. Sharon Tudor read the Resolution of Appreciation and presented it to B.W. Sharon expressed her appreciation to B.W. for always being an active member of the Board and how much he would be missed. Anita "Toni" Turner also presented B.W. with a plaque and thanked him for his time serving on the FCDSS Board.



Department of Social Services
Rocky Mount, Virginia

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RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

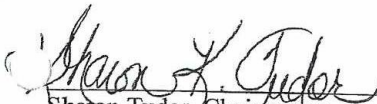
WHEREAS, B.W. Wright, representing the Blackwater District, serving as a board member from 2017 to 2025; and

WHEREAS, B.W. Wright, has exemplified and promoted excellence within the Franklin County Board of Social Services; and

WHEREAS, B.W. Wright, has encouraged the use of all available resources provided to advance the Franklin County Department of Social Services and their staff as high performers and accuracy driven; and

WHEREAS, B.W. Wright, has advocated for the commitment of excellence of our agency to our community to provide best in class benefits and resources for our families and County; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Franklin County Department of Social Services Board hereby expresses its deepest gratitude and appreciation to B.W. Wright, Blackwater District Representative, for his exceptional service and thoughtful contribution to the welfare of our families, the Agency, and of our great County.


Sharon Tudor, Chairperson




Anita "Toni" Turner, MSW Director II

CONSENT AGENDA

-Accounts Payable Listing & Approval of May 27, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes.

-SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES FOR BENEFITS, ADMINSTRATIVE AND SERVICES STAFF

Anita "Toni" Turner, Director, reports at this time there are there are 6 vacancies. Services has 5 vacancies, Benefits has 0 vacancies, and Admin has 1 vacancy. It is recommended that we only pay OT for management approved Emergency work in the Services Division and for mandated OT for the required sitting with displaced youth in our agency. After reviewing the budget and because we are in the last months of the 24/25 fiscal year budget and only having vacancy savings to cover for the mentioned two types of overtime pay, it is recommended to allow overtime pay out in June for only those reasons.

(RESOLUTION # 01-06-2025)

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Franklin County Board of Social Services to approve the aforementioned Consent Agenda items, as presented.

MOTION BY: Dave Thorp

SECONDED BY: Barry Ferguson

VOTING ON THE MOTION WAS AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Thorp, Ferguson, Carter, Wright, Gruchow and Tudor

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Holden and Metzger

DEPARTMENT UPDATE: FRANKLIN COUNTY RECOVERY COURT

Melody Pendleton, MSW, FSS IV, and Franklin County Recovery Court DSS Representative, presented to the Board the County's Family Recovery Court program that is offered for parents who are struggling with substance use. This program is an evidenced based court intervention program that is offered to those who have involvement with Franklin County Department of Social Services as well as either having a child protective order filed or have had their children removed and placed into foster care as a result of substance use allegations. This program offers a five-phase program course that includes intensive outpatient substance use therapy, strengthening families parenting program, equine assisted therapy and other treatment recommendations based on need. Franklin County Department of Social Services partners with Piedmont Community Services and the Juvenile Domestic Relations District Court along with several other community agencies to provide a multidisciplinary wraparound of treatment and support for the children and families of the Franklin County community.

*"WHERE
TREATMENT AND
ACCOUNTABILITY
MEET JUSTICE"*

FRANKLIN COUNTY FAMILY RECOVERY COURT

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WHAT IS RECOVERY COURT

- Recovery Court is a multidisciplinary program designed and devoted to cases of child abuse and neglect that involve substance use by the child's parent's or other caregivers.
- Evidenced Based Treatment Program
- It's a voluntary 12 to 18 month substance use program

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GOALS & OBJECTIVES

To protect the safety and welfare of children while giving caregivers the tools they need to become competent, responsible caregivers and productive citizens.



Tools are meant to effectively help caregivers to recover from substance use in a timely way by guiding them along the journey of recovery and to teach them to safely parent their children, thereby reducing further incidents of abuse and neglect.



The treatment goal is for the caregiver to take charge of their recovery, develop a recovery plan to address triggers and relapse prevention and to successfully graduate the program.



Reduce recidivism, substance use/related court workloads, increase personal, familial and societal accountability among those who suffer from substance use and are involved with the justice system.



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DRUG COURT VS. RECOVERY COURT WHY DOES LANGUAGE MATTER?

- Language is powerful!
- Stigma can occur and have a negative association with a person or a group of people if we are not using person first language.
- So, what is person first language?
 - The national council defines it as a language that emphasizes the person rather than the diagnosis, which helps remove the stigma.
- Why does it matter?
 - Stigmatizing language can cause stereotyping and fear of people with SUD's that could lead to discrimination against a person struggling with substance use. As a result, this may cause the person to feel shame and that reduces their willingness to seek treatment.

SAY THIS ...	NOT THAT ...	BECAUSE ...
Substance use, substance use disorder, substance use challenge, unhealthy substance use, risky use	Substance abuse, drug habit	The word "abuse" holds connotations of criminal activity — think child abuse, domestic abuse. Therefore, calling it substance abuse further criminalizes a treatable health condition. Calling substance use a drug habit implies that a person is choosing to use substances and undermines that a SUD is a serious health condition.
Person with a substance (alcohol, opioids, stimulants) use disorder or challenge	Addict, junkie, user, alcoholic, drunk	Person-first language demonstrates the individual has a health condition. The other terms add negative associations and perpetuate stigma.
Person in recovery, person in long-term recovery	Former addict	Person-first language demonstrates the individual has a health condition. The other terms add negative associations and perpetuate stigma.
Use of a substance (alcohol, opioids, stimulants) Person with a substance (alcohol, opioid, stimulant) use disorder Person who is using a substance (alcohol, opioids, stimulants)	Drug of choice	An individual does not choose to have a substance use disorder or live with a substance use challenge. Therefore, implying a choice in the matter undermines that a SUD is a serious health condition.
Positive/negative drug screen	Dirty/clean drug screen	Screens for other medical conditions are not referred to as "dirty" or "clean," and using such language stigmatizes substance use and SUDs. Clinically accurate terms can be used to describe if a drug screen was positive or negative for substances.
Malformed recovery	Stayed clean	Recovery is a process of change to improve health. Using the term "clean" does not acknowledge the person and implies the person did not get "dirty," which carries negative connotations.

STATEWIDE SUBSTANCE USE AND DRUG RELATED ARRESTS STATISTICS

- According to the VASP in 2023 drug arrests increased (18.0 %) with the largest increase in the Under 18, followed by the 65 and over age group (54.9% and 44.3%). Arrestees may have been arrested with more than one drug.
- Across the state there were over 35,000 drug/narcotics and equipment violations reported by contributing agencies.
- Of the different criminal activity possessing/concealing had the highest number coming in at 26,042 with distributing and selling at 6,559.

Number of Reports of Drugs Seized by Drug Type	
Drug Type	2023 Count
Amphetamines/Methamphetamines	7,728
Marijuana	5,247
Other Narcotics	3,978
Cocaine (all forms except Crack)	3,842
Crack Cocaine	3,545
Other Drugs	3,397
Heroin	2,119
Unknown Type Drug*	2,062
Opium	558
Other Hallucinogens	541
Over 3 Drug Types	374
Other Depressants	370
Other Stimulants	243
PCP	113
LSD	64
Barbiturates	53
Hashish	40
Morphine	33

Chart from Virginia State
Police Crime in Virginia
2023 Report

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Franklin County
A Natural Setting for Opportunity

STATISTICAL
DATA FOR
FRANKLIN
COUNTY

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PIEDMONT COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Between Sept. 1, 2021 and August 31, 2024 there was a total of 511 residents in Franklin County that sought out treatment at Piedmont Community Services to include OBAT with their primary area of need as substance use.
- Between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2024 there was a total of 429 residents in Franklin County that sought out treatment at Piedmont Community Services that did not include OBAT services but listed their primary area of need as substance use.

Heroin	80
Marijuana or Hashish - Including THC & other cannabis sativa preparations	71
Methamphetamines	136
None	17
Not Applicable	3
Other Amphetamines - Including Benzadrine, Dexedrine, Preludin, etc.	2
Other Opiates/Synthetics Including codeine, Dilaudid, morphine, Demerol, etc.	87
Other Stimulants	3
(blank)	
Grand Total	511

Alcohol	81
Benzodiazepine - Including Diazepam, Flurazepam, etc.	1
Cocaine or Crack Cocaine	26
Heroin	51
Marijuana or Hashish - Including THC & other cannabis sativa preparations	64
Methamphetamines	116
None	14
Not Applicable	3
Other Amphetamines - Including Benzadrine, Dexedrine, Preludin, etc.	2
Other Opiates/Synthetics Including codeine, Dilaudid, morphine, Demerol, etc.	68
Other Stimulants	3
(blank)	
Grand Total	429

FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE STATISTICS ON NARCAN

- The Franklin County Sheriff's office provided some information related to the number of times the use of Narcan was logged by dispatch.
 - In 2023 there was reportedly a total of 15 Narcan uses logged. One of those uses was logged by the Rocky Mount Police Department.
 - In 2023, there was reportedly a total of 20 Narcan doses logged. Of those 20 doses there were two that were that were used from Rocky Mount Police Department.
 - In 2024 thus far there have been reportedly a total of 9 total Narcan uses logged. Of those nine there were three that were by Rocky Mount Police Department.
 - In 2024, there was reportedly a total of 12 doses of Narcan used. Of those twelve there were six that were by Rocky Mount Police Department.



Franklin County
Standing Watch

LOCAL J&DR COURT AND FRANKLIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

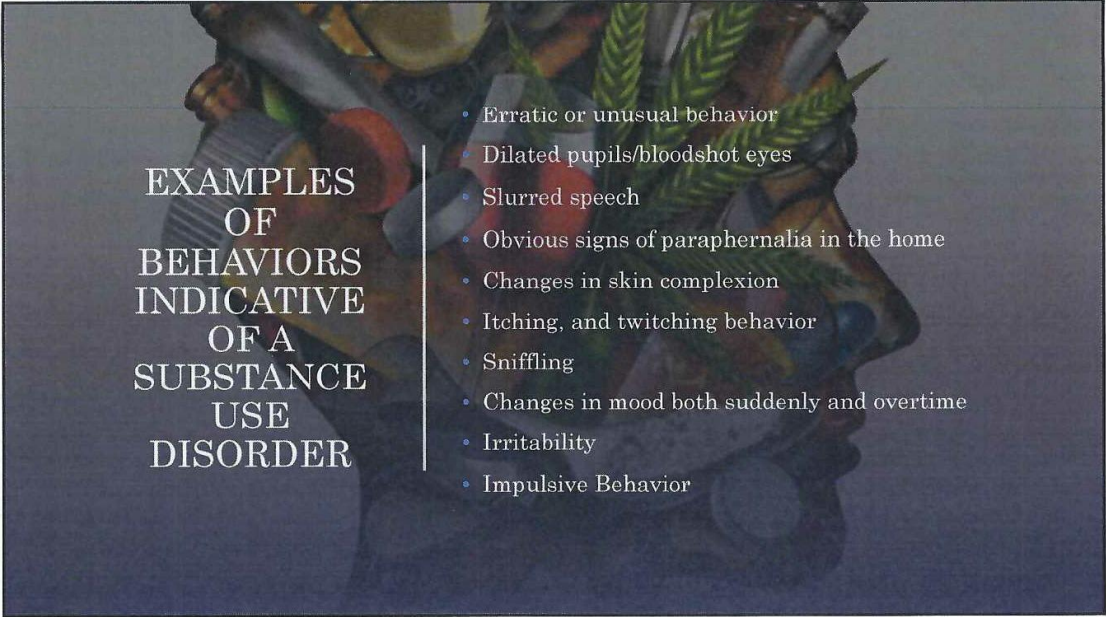
- From January 1, 2024, through September 30, 2024, the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court had 126 abuse and neglect petitions filed.
 - That is up 9 filings from the same period last year or 7.7% over last year.
- Franklin County DSS has seen the impact of caregiver substance use and the increase in children placed in Foster Care, as well as the number of families receiving In Home Services.
 - Currently the agency has 27 open referrals that have the substance use indicated box checked. Of those 27 referrals there are a combination of substance use type indicated.
 - Primarily what is being reported is methamphetamine, alcohol and some THC and Opiate use.
- Substance use has and continues to put such a strain on the county's resources and affected so many residents that the local county government has identified the need to make "significant inroads in reducing illicit drug use and addiction" as part of its 2023 Vision of their strategic plan update.

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SO, WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR THIS PROGRAM

- Any person who is actively using substances or by self report recently quit using substances and has an open CPS referral or In Home Services case with Franklin County Department of Social Services.
- Some of the presumptive requirements are
 - There is a Civil Petition for: abuse/neglect (CPO or ERO)
 - Individual is the primary caregiver of a child at risk of or has already been removed from the home and is known to have a substance use issue.
 - What is needed for a known substance use issue: positive screen for an illegal substance or alcohol, the client states they have struggle with abstaining from using substances and there have been behaviors observed conducive to a substance use disorder.

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EXAMPLES OF BEHAVIORS INDICATIVE OF A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

- Erratic or unusual behavior
- Dilated pupils/bloodshot eyes
- Slurred speech
- Obvious signs of paraphernalia in the home
- Changes in skin complexion
- Itching, and twitching behavior
- Sniffing
- Changes in mood both suddenly and overtime
- Irritability
- Impulsive Behavior

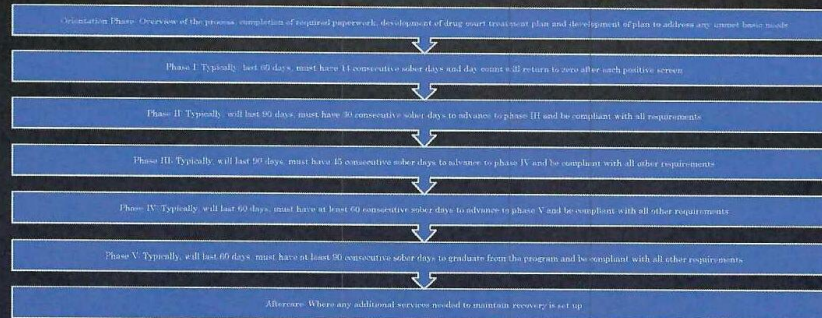
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REFERRAL PROCESS

- Family Recovery Court is a voluntary program
- There must be an active CPO or ERO on the docket
- If there is a CPS referral, in home case or child(ren) that were recently placed in foster care that substantiated substance use has been identified a referral should be made directly to DSS Recovery Court Representative, Melody Pendleton, MSW.
 - Please do not try to discuss the program at length with the parent or gain their consent, willingness or cooperation to do the program before sending referral. That should be determined by the DSS Recovery Court Representative and Coordinator.
 - Either provide the brochure that has been provided to supervisors for staff and advise that DSS Recovery Court Representative will be in touch or advise your recommendation of substance use treatment to the parent and that someone will be in touch about the program and referral.
- Once referral is received DSS Recovery Court Representative sends referral over to the coordinator and peer recovery specialist who then reaches out to the parent to discuss the program and sets up same day access appointment at Piedmont Community Services to identify appropriate services and develop treatment plan.
- Once same day access has been completed, Judge Stone is notified by Recovery Court Coordinator of potential referral, and the client can now be set on the docket for orientation.

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RECOVERY COURT PROGRAM AND ITS PHASES



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INCENTIVES & SANCTIONS

- Therapeutic interventions/incentives reward caregivers for making positive steps toward attaining a substance free lifestyle.
 - These can be used for achievement and progress in recovery court as well as for more personal reason such as increased self-esteem, rebuilding family relationships, taking leadership in the program or establishing appropriate boundaries.
 - Incentives are given for adherence with the expectations of the program, attendance, negative drug and alcohol screens, paying fines or maintaining employment to name a few
- Examples:
 - Recognition by individual team members
 - Team applause
 - Gift cards (gas and food)
 - Phasing up
 - Certificates of Achievement
 - Serenity Stone/Tokens/Meaningful Messages Bracelets

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INCENTIVES & SANCTIONS CONT.

- A system of imposing sanctions has been designed to ensure that caregivers are held accountable for continued drug/alcohol use and for other program infractions
- Caregiver time with their children is neither an incentive nor a sanction.
- The Recovery Court Team recognizes that changing substance use behavior takes time, and the program is committed to seeing that change.
- Wide range of violations and sanctions will be administered based on the type of program violation.
- Examples include:
 - Increased drug screen test, verbal warning, community service, additional appearances before the judge, psychoeducation, increased amount of groups required for a reporting period etc.

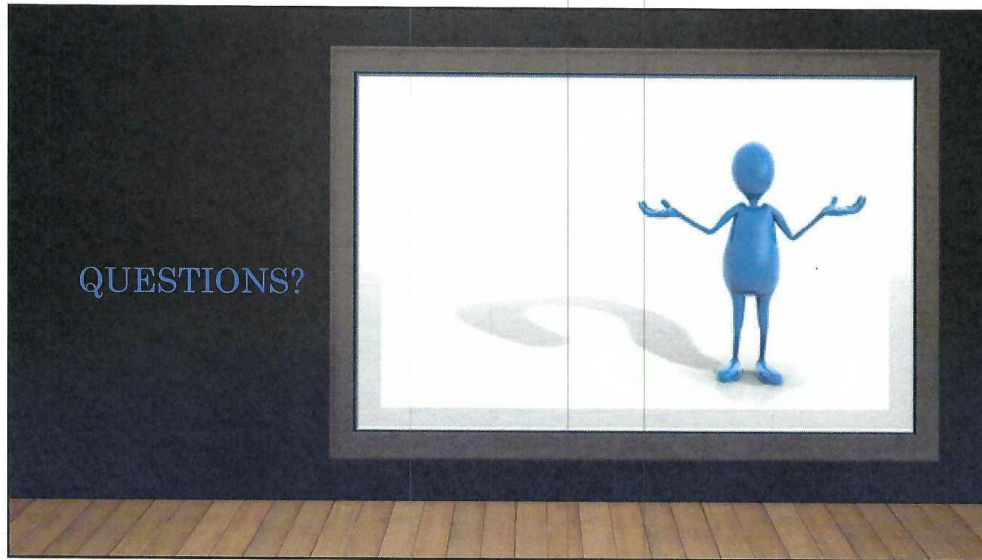
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FRANKLIN COUNTY'S RECOVERY COURT TEAM

- Judge: Deanna P. Stone
- Piedmont Community Services Drug Court Coordinator: Fran George
- DSS Recovery Court Representative: Melody Pendleton, MSW
- Legal Advocate: Brian Mangano
- Compliance Officer: William Martin
- Treatment Providers: Unbridled Change and Piedmont Community Services
- CASA Representative: Kevin Almond
- Guardian ad litem: Patrick Nix
- CSA Coordinator: Heather Kesterson
- DV Advocate: Katrina Hancock
- CSU Representative: Seajay Meador
- FCPS Representative: Samantha Strong, MSW

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Changes in the Team:
Legal Advocate- Shannon Cox
Peer Recovery Specialist- Dacy Vineyard



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DEPARTMENT UPDATE: BENEFITS UNIT

Ashley Rutter, Assistant Director, Benefits Unit, provided the Board with an update of the most recent Performance Indicator Monthly report which indicates the following: 100% for both non-expedited and expedited SNAP applications; 100% for TANF applications; 46.2% for VIEW participation (statewide average is currently 30.1%); 99.8% Medicaid renewal processing; 100% Childcare applications.

During the month of May, the following applications were received:

PIPP program: 36 Applications

SNAP: 152 Applications

Medicaid: 258 Applications

TANF: 11 applications

Childcare: 20 Applications

SNAP recipients are continuing to experience a loss of benefits due to fraudulent activity. In many instances, the customer's benefits/balance on his or her card is deducted by a location that is out of state; mainly for transactions occurring to retailers in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, etc. even though the customer has not traveled out of state or used their benefits for online food purchases. Currently, there are no federal, state, or local funds to aid those who are victims of this crime. Recently, The United States Attorney's office in the Southern District of New York released a statement that a long-term USDA employee was indicted for selling confidential information to exploit the SNAP program. Even after the arrest of several individuals associated with this scheme, we are continuing to see customers in Franklin County lose their benefits to fraudulent transactions. This has caused a significant increase in customer calls, referrals to local organizations, etc. Our agency is partnering with a local food bank, God's Provision, to provide 'emergency food boxes' to those who come into the agency to report a loss of benefits. The agency's stock of emergency food boxes were recently depleted, but has been restocked by God's Provision, who is committed to providing additional emergency boxes in the near future as well.

DEPARTMENT UPDATE: SERVICES UNIT

Jessica Davis, Assistant Director, Services Unit, reported for the SafeMeasures data reviewed on 06/16/2025 with extraction data of 06/15/2025. For the data pulled, we met the Foster Care Visits, In Home visit, and AFGAR court documentation. However, we were below the goal of 24% for Kinship Placement. And we were below the goal of 95% for CPS Timeliness visits. Jessica Davis did add that we for CPS timeliness we were actually at 98.7% (up from the report) due to cases that had not been documented at the time the report was run.

Safe Measures		FCDSS	PIEDMONT	STATE	Prior Month (FCDSS)	Last year same month (FCDSS)
CPS Timeliness of Victim Contact	GOAL 95%	87.3% (updated to 100%)	82.4%	82.9%	100%	96.4%
Foster Care Monthly Visits	GOAL 95%	98.6%	90.8%	91.4%	98.6%	100%
In Home Services First Contact	Goal 90%	93%	81%	85.5%	95.6%	84.3%
AFCARS-Court Documentation in OASIS	GOAL 95%	100%	84.6%	84.9%	100%	95.9%
Kinship Placements	GOAL 24%	21.2% (updated 22.6%)	22.5%	22.9%	22.6%	27.5%

DIRECTOR'S REPORT/STAFF VACANCY REPORT:

Anita "Toni" Turner, Director, reviews the Vacancy Report at each Board Meeting reviewing the number of vacancies, interviews in process, and answering any questions asked by Board members.

Anita "Toni" Turner, Director, provided the Board with the following staff vacancy update:

Vacancy Time Period: May 16, 2025 - June 15, 2025

Total Agency Vacancies as of 06/15/2025: 8 Vacancies

Services Division - 6 ((5) #65, #61, #62, #52 Family Services Specialist I/II for In Home Services, Family Partnership Coordinator, Foster Care, and for FC/Adoption/Recruitment & #90 Family Partnership Coordinator & (1) #69 Humans Services Associate III for APS-AS/IHS)

Benefits Division - 1 (#87 on hold for payout and then will be reclassified to CPS where the greatest Agency need is)

Administration Division - 1 (#22 is being reclassified to hire Visitation so can receive training from current visitation worker (Jamie Goad) and will move back to #22 when Jamie reclassifies to FSSI in August)

Recruitment in Process: Family Services Specialist I/II Req #4105 #65
FC/Adoption/Recruitment

Applied: 8

Screened: 5

Interview: 3

Offer made: 1

Hired: TBD

Recruitment in Process: Family Services Specialist I/II Req #4211 #61 In Home Services/Prevention with Interviews on 06/17/2025

Applied: 6

Screened: 4

Interviewed: TBD

Offers: TBD

Hired: TBD

Recruitment in Process: (2) Human Services Assistant III Req #TBD #69 Adult Protective Services/In Home Services-Prevention #22 Visitation Coordinator Foster Care

Applied: TBD

Screened: TBD

Interviewing: TBD

Offer: TBD

Hired: TBD

Recruitment in Process: Family Partnership Meeting Facilitator Req #TBD #90
Administration

Applied: TBD

Screened: TBD

Interviewed: TBD

Offer: TBD

Hired: TBD

Current Postings:

FSS I/II 61 In Home Services/Prevention (awaiting HR Connect to approve and post)

FSS I/II 65 Foster Care (closes 05/23/2025)

Future Postings:

FSS I/II CPS #87

FSS I/II FC/Adoption/Recruitment #62

FSS I/II FC #52

New Hires:
N/A

Promotions:
N/A

Lateral Move:
N/A

Temporary Part Time Emergency Worker:
Hannah Mollin FSSI FC/Adoption/Recruitment

Separations:
Lori Wade (69) HSAIII (Terminated 05/21/2025)
Garrett Smith (87) BPSII (Resigned 05/31/2025)

Retirements:
N/A

Interns:
Keira Kennedy Ferrum College 1 paid intern (20 hours week in CPS unit)

OTHER MATTER DISCUSSED

Dave Thorp, Snow Creek District Representative, stated he had a visit from a friend who is also a Social Worker in Boston. He noticed that he found similarities in her stories as compared to ours in that they have problems keeping workers because of burnout. He also noted that over the last few meetings as we have had different units come in and speak how passionate they are about what they do and he was very impressed.

B.W. Wright, Blackwater District Representative, stated that over the eight years since he became a Board Member he really had no idea what Social Services actually does. He stated it would be his goal to educate the people of Franklin County of all the things FCDSS does for the county.

Mike Carter, Board of Supervisors Member, thank B.W. Wright for his service on behalf of the Franklin County Board of Supervisors, and Sharon Tudor, Rocky Mount District Representative, again thank B.W. Wright for his service with the FCDSS.

Sharon Tudor, Chair, adjourned the meeting until Monday, July 21 , 2025.

Chairperson

Secretary