



North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives

HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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DISTRICT 76

May 26, 2026

sent via email

Letecia Loadholt
Interim Director
Department of Child, Family, and Adult Services
10101 David Taylor Drive, Suite 300
Charlotte, NC 28202

Dear Ms. Loadholt:

Dominique Moody was six years old. She weighed 27 pounds when she died.

That fact should haunt every person who touched this case. A six-year-old child does not reach that condition in silence. She does not suffer that level of neglect without warning signs. She does not die in this unimaginable condition unless the system responsible for protecting her fails. And, simply put, Mecklenburg County DSS failed Dominique Moody.

NCDHHS has now put that failure in writing. In its May 20, 2026, corrective action letter, NCDHHS found that four out of five screened-out reports involving her guardians met the definition of abuse or neglect but were “screened out with no further assessment of the children’s safety.” NCDHHS also found that contacts were not frequent enough to ensure safety, CPS history was not reviewed, significant collateral contacts were not made, and inaccurate case decisions resulted in “no services being provided to ensure the safety of the children.”

That is not a bad judgment call. It is not a paperwork mistake. It is a child protection system failing at the one job that matters most, protecting children. And they did not just fail Dominique Moody. NCDHHS reviewed 122 unrelated CPS reports and assessments and found a broad, systemic lack of appropriate safety planning. In 52% of intakes, workers did not ask sufficient questions to explore alleged maltreatment. In 36% of cases involving allegations that may have met the criminal definition of



child abuse, the files did not contain verbal and written notification to the District Attorney and law enforcement. Safety plans were adequate in only 43% of reviewed cases.

No words can begin to describe the failure of your department. The public deserves to know how a child as vulnerable as Dominique could come to the attention of Mecklenburg County DSS and still die in such unspeakable conditions. The Committee intends to find out. We will use every ounce of our statutory authority to get answers, identify the failures, and ensure this tragedy never happens again.

Pursuant to §120-14 of the North Carolina General Statutes, the House Oversight Committee requests your appearance to testify on June 4, 2026, at 9:00 am in the Legislative Building Auditorium.

Before the hearing, please provide written responses to the following questions. If you contend that any answer cannot be provided in whole or in part, state the specific legal basis for that position and provide all non-confidential, aggregate, policy-level, or otherwise permissible information responsive to the question. These answers must be submitted with your written testimony no later than **Monday, June 1, at 12:00 noon.**

1. How many reports did Mecklenburg County DSS receive involving Dominique Moody, the home where she lived, her caretakers, or other children in the home?
2. For each report, identify the date, general nature of the allegation, screening decision, and final disposition, to the extent that information may be provided without violating any court order or confidentiality law.
3. Who made, supervised, or approved each screening decision involving this family?
4. Why were four out of five screened-out reports involving this family screened out despite meeting the definition of abuse or neglect?
5. Was CPS history reviewed in each report involving this family? If not, why not?
6. Was Dominique Moody ever seen face-to-face by a Mecklenburg County DSS employee? If so, provide the date, role of the employee, and general purpose of the contact.
7. Did any DSS employee enter the home where Dominique Moody lived, and did DSS document the condition of the home?
8. Did DSS assess Dominique Moody's physical condition, weight, hygiene, medical condition, nutrition, development, schooling, or safety?
9. Did DSS contact medical personnel, school personnel, law enforcement, neighbors, relatives, or other collateral sources? If not, why not?

10. Did DSS ever request a medical examination or forensic medical assessment for Dominique Moody or any other child in the home?
11. Did DSS notify law enforcement or the District Attorney regarding any report that may have involved criminal child abuse?
12. Did law enforcement notify DSS regarding calls for service to the home?
13. Did DSS have any process to identify or escalate repeated reports involving the same address, same child, same caretaker, or same household?
14. Has any employee, supervisor, manager, or director been disciplined, reassigned, placed on leave, terminated, or otherwise held accountable? If so, identify the position of each employee and the action taken.
15. What specific policy, training, supervision, staffing, documentation, or leadership failures allowed this to happen, and what have you changed since Dominique Moody's death that would prevent the same failure tomorrow?

The Committee is aware of the Protective Order entered in *State v. Tery'n McKnight*. The Committee respects the authority of the Court and does not, at this time, intend to seek enforcement of its prior demand for production or seek modification of the Protective Order. Nothing in this letter should be construed as a waiver of the Committee's rights, authority, or legal position. The Committee expressly reserves all rights to challenge the Protective Order, to seek modification of the Protective Order, or to move to enforce the Committee's demand for production at a later time.

The Protective Order prohibits the release of the CMPD criminal investigative files and related materials requested from CMPD. It does not prohibit the Committee from holding an oversight hearing. It does not prohibit testimony concerning Mecklenburg County policies, county failures, DSS oversight, management decisions, interagency communication, corrective action, publicly available information, or the findings contained in the NCDHHS corrective action letter. Accordingly, you are expected to appear and testify regarding this matter.

Please read the remainder of this letter carefully to ensure that you comply with all hearing requirements and that you understand your rights as a witness.

Each witness who is to appear before the House Oversight Committee must file with Committee Staff a written statement of proposed testimony. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the exclusion of your written testimony from the hearing record, the barring of your oral presentation of the testimony, or both. Responses to questions at the hearing should be limited to no more than five minutes per response.

A witness appearing before the Committee must include with their written testimony a current résumé summarizing education, experience, and affiliations pertinent to the subject matter of the hearing.


Witnesses at hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel to advise them concerning their constitutional rights, but accompanying counsel shall not directly respond to questions. We reserve the right to place any witness under oath. Finally, witnesses may obtain a transcript copy of their testimony given in open, public session, or in a closed session only when authorized by the Committee.

To fully prepare for this hearing, your testimony must be submitted electronically in Microsoft Word (docx), PowerPoint (pptx), or Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format to committee staff no later than **Monday, June 1, at 12:00 noon.**

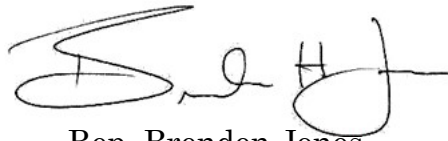
Accommodations for individuals with disabilities, including assistive listening systems, interpreters, and materials in alternate formats, may be arranged by contacting Committee Staff in advance of the hearing.

Should you or your staff have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mary Moorefield at (919) 301-2025 or Mary.Moorefield@ncleg.gov.

Sincerely,



Rep. Jake Johnson
Co-Chair



Rep. Brenden Jones
Co-Chair



Rep. Harry Warren
Co-Chair