

NC Child Fatality Task Force Members

Statutory Authority: N.C.G.S. 7B-1402

[Accurate as of June 24, 2026]

| Governor Appointees (4) | | <i>Appointment expiration</i> |
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| 1. A director of a county department of social services, appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the President of the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services | Jennifer Kristiansen <i>Director of Social Services Chatham County</i> | 1-31-26 |
| 2. A representative from a Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or safe infant sleep counseling and education program, appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the Maternal and Child Health Section of the Department of Health and Human Services | Dr. Sarah Verbiest <i>Executive Director UNC Collaborative for Maternal & Infant Health</i> | 1-31-27 |
| 3. A representative from NC Child, appointed by the Governor upon recommendation of the President of the organization | Erica Palmer Smith <i>Executive Director NC Child</i> | 1-31-27 |
| 4. A director of a local department of health, appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the President of the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors | Wes Gray <i>Health Director Pitt County Health Department</i> | 1-31-27 |
| House Speaker Appointees (10) | | |
| 1. A representative from a private group, other than NC Child, that advocates for children, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon recommendation of private child advocacy organizations | Karen McLeod <i>President and CEO Benchmarks</i> | 1-31-28 |
| 2. A pediatrician, licensed to practice medicine in North Carolina, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon recommendation of the NC Pediatric Society | Dr. Martin McCaffrey <i>Pediatrician UNC</i> | 1-31-28 |
| 3. A representative from the North Carolina League of Municipalities, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon recommendation of the League | Martha Sue Hall <i>Albemarle City Council; President, NC League of Municipalities</i> | 1-31-28 |
| 4. One public member, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives | Katherine Pope | 1-31-28 |
| 5. One representative of the NC Domestic Violence Commission, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon recommendation of the Director of the Commission | George Wilson <i>Albemarle Police Dept.; Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force; School Resource Officer</i> | 1-31-28 |
| 6. Five members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. | Rep. Grant Campbell Rep. Carla Cunningham Rep. Donnie Loftis Rep. Paul Scott Rep. Donna White | 1-31-28 (all) |

NOTES:

- According to law enacted in 2015, third-party recommendations for legislative appointments are discretionary, not binding, and legislative appointments on this chart where a third-party recommender is noted may or may not have been made according to a third-party recommendation.
- If a member's appointment has expired, the member serves until a new appointment or reappointment is made.

| Senate Appointees (10) | | <i>Appointment expiration</i> |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 1. A representative from the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate upon recommendation of the Association | Hope Haywood <i>County Commissioner, Randolph County</i> | 1-31-27 |
| 2. One public member, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate | Jill Cox <i>President & CEO Communities in Schools NC</i> | 1-31-27 |
| 3. One representative of the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, appointed by the President Pro Tem of the Senate upon recommendation of the Executive Director of the Coalition | Trishana Jones <i>Programs Director NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence</i> | 1-31-27 |
| 4. A county or municipal law enforcement officer, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate upon recommendation of organizations that represent local law enforcement officers | Sergeant Santana Menard <i>Investigator, Reidsville Police Department</i> | 1-31-27 |
| 5. A district attorney appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate upon recommendation of the President of the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys | Ashlie Shanley <i>District Attorney Cabarrus County</i> | 1-31-27 |
| 6. Five members of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate | Sen. Gale Adcock Sen. Sydney Batch Sen. Jim Burgin Sen. Mark Hollo Sen. Dana Jones | 1-31-27 (all) |
| Ex Officio Members (12) (<i>members besides the Chief Medical Examiner may choose to designate a representative to serve</i>) | | |
| The Chief Medical Examiner | Dr. Michelle Aurelius <i>Chief Medical Examiner</i> | ongoing |
| The Attorney General | Sara Perdue <i>Outreach and Policy Advisor AG Jeff Jackson, NC DOJ</i> | ongoing |
| The Director of the Division of Social Services, Department of Health and Human Services | Lisa Cauley <i>Senior Director of Child, Family, & Adult Services, Division of Social Services, NCDHHS</i> | ongoing |
| The Director of the State Bureau of Investigation | Karen Fairley <i>Exec. Director, NC Center for Safer Schools, SBI</i> | ongoing |
| The Director of the Division of Public Health, Department of Health and Human Services | Dr. Kelly Kimple <i>Chief Medical Officer and Director, NC Division of Public Health, NCDHHS</i> | ongoing |
| The Chair of the Council for Women and Youth Involvement | Charnessa Ridley <i>Director Division for Women and Youth</i> | ongoing |
| The Superintendent of Public Instruction | Susanne Schmal <i>School Health Partnerships and Policy Consultant, DPI</i> | ongoing |
| The Chairman of the State Board of Education | Dr. Ellen Essick <i>Section Chief NC Healthy Schools, DPI</i> | ongoing |
| The Director of the Division of Child and Family Well-Being, Department of Health and Human Services | Dr. Gerri Mattson <i>Senior Medical Director, Division of Child & Family Well-Being, NCDHHS</i> | ongoing |
| The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services | Dr. Larry Greenblatt <i>State Health Director & Chief Medical Officer, NCDHHS</i> | ongoing |
| The Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts | Lorrie L. Dollar <i>Administrator Guardian Ad Litem Program</i> | ongoing |
| Director of the Division of Juvenile Justice, Department of Public Safety | William Lassiter <i>Deputy Secretary for Juvenile Justice, DPS</i> | ongoing |