

NC Child Fatality Task Force Members

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

[Accurate as of August 21, 2026]

Governor Appointees (4)		<i>Appointment expiration</i>
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; Immediate Past 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>Police Chief, Sparta, NC</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) (members besides the Chief Medical Examiner may choose to designate a representative to serve)		
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