

May 23, 2023

The Alamance County Social Services Board met for its regular monthly meeting on this date. The meeting was held at HSC Building (1st Floor) 319 N. Graham Hopedale Rd., Burlington NC with the following in attendance were: Ms. Heidi Norwick, Chair, DSS Board Chair; Commissioner Craig S. Turner, DSS Board Member; Mrs. Tyronna Hooker, DSS Board Member; Ms. Candice Gobble, Director; Ms. Danae Pickard, Economic Services Program Manager; Ms. Lynette Wellons, Assistant Director of Services; Ms. Virginia Hunker, Business Officer and Ms. Cheryl Ray, County HR Director were present.

Heidi Norwick, DSS Chair opened the meeting.

Public Comment:

None

Consent Agenda: Heidi Norwick, DSS Board Chair

April 2023 items on the consent agenda approved. Commissioner Craig Turner made motion to approve and seconded by Ms. Tyronna Hooker.

Staff Reports:

Fiscal: Ms. Virginia Hunker

Ms. Hunker reported we completed the first part of the single audit – timeframe: July 2022 – March 2023. This is a very detailed audit. We continue to work with County Finance on this project – so far it’s been time consuming. We have no findings currently. The firm is Martin & Stearns.

	APRIL 2023	% OF BUDGET	PRIOR YTD	% OF BUDGET
REVENUES	\$10,370,218.00	75%	\$9,048,391.00	65%
EXPENDITURES	\$16,414,580.00	63%	\$14,618,362.00	56%

Fraud: See report –

Unit	April 2023	April 2022	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Fraud	\$1,599.00	\$1,318.00	\$30,558.00	\$64,923.66

Services – Ms. Lynette Wellons/Assistant Director of Services -

Assistant Director Wellons reported the following:

- Effective June 1st - there are changes coming to Child Welfare Assessments statewide effective June 1st.
- May is National Foster Care Month – we have partnered with the Gathering Church to host a Foster Care picnic for all of our foster care families.
- We continue to need to use the “Blue Cottage” – currently out of commission due to repairs. We have used multiple hotel stays to provide coverage for placement disruptions.

Adult and Family Services -

No report.

Child Support – (Statistical Report Information) – see report.

Unit	April 2023	April 2022	Current YTD	Prior Fiscal Year
Child Support	\$869,895.53	\$6,356,478.00	\$8,837,474.70	\$13,925,808.35

Child Support –

No report.

Economic Support: Ms. Danae Pickard

Ms. Danae Pickard, Economic Services Division Director reported on the Temp-to-Hire program with Prime Personnel. We currently have five temps on staff in Economic Services. We currently hired four temporary staff to FT from the program. We have five new temporary staff who started in May.

The LIHWAP (Low Income Household Water Assistance Program) will end May 31, 2023. This program will not be renewed for the upcoming Energy season. This was a very successful program.

Ms. Pickard reported we currently have two vacancies for Economic Services Program Managers. Interviews will start this week.

Operations – Director Candice J. Gobble

Administrative Support/Personnel: Robert Ring

See Statistical Report – as of April 30, 2023

Vacancies	37
New Hires	8
Interagency Transfers	0
Resignations	1

Director Gobble reported the following – As of May 23,2023 – we currently have 44 vacancies. The breakdown is as follows:

Position	# of Vacancies
• IMC II – Economic Services	• 19 (8 Temp to Hire)
• SW III	• 11 – Child Welfare
	• 1 – Adult Protective Services
• Child Support	• 2
• Various	• 8

Director Gobble reported the county is hosting a job fair today at Graham Public Library. Mr. Robert Ring, HR Director is on site for Social Services. We have a plan to schedule interview times with potential candidates. We conducted two on the spot job offers last week to speed up the process. We are currently conducting background checks and reference checks.

Director Gobble reported we have finalized our Recruitment Video. We will post on Social Media and all other outlets.

Discussions continued regarding job postings and salary ranges with County HR Director. Discussions held regarding upcoming Market Study.

Question: Can we set up a meeting with County HR, DSS Director and County Manager after the budget has been approved?

Yes -

Director’s Report – Candice J. Gobble, Director–

Director Gobble reported the on recommended budget from County Manager. The County Manager is recommending 5% COLA for all County Employees in the recommended budget with an increase to 3% merit.

Director Gobble reported the following budget amendments were approved at the May 15th County Commissioners Meeting:

APS Essential Funds	• +\$17,887.60
Energy Programs	
• Crisis Intervention Program (CIP)	• +\$37,414.00
• Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)	• -\$430,782.00
• Share the Warmth	• +\$1,068.61
• Low-Income Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)	• +\$260,177.00

• LIHWAP Program Administration	• +\$16,666.93
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Director Gobble reported we continue to wait on CMS for Medicaid Expansion guidelines. The State has not approved budget as of yet. We are aware there will be funds front loaded for expansion to assist counties with staffing and administrative needs. We have been informed we will receive \$130k for Alamance for Medicaid Expansion.

New Business:

Alamance County Social Services MOU – Director Gobble

Director Gobble reported the following regarding the MOU –

Background of the MOU -

Per NC General Statute 108A-74 – Effective March 1, 2020 – Session Law 2017-41 required all counties to enter into an annual agreement with the NC Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) for all social services programs excluding medical assistance (NC Medicaid).

The law requires the agreement to contain performance requirements and administrative responsibilities related to the social services programs, including a process for non-compliance with the performance requirements.

Additionally, the law requires NC DHHS to maintain a transparency dashboard that provides tracking of the MOU metrics.

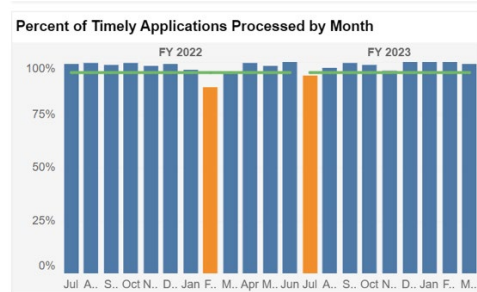
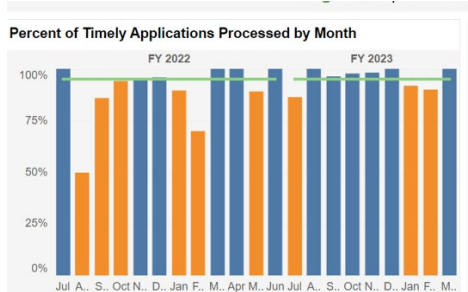
Memorandum of Understanding is held between NC DHHS and the Local County DSS

- Current MOU was effective beginning July 1, 2022
 - In place for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024
 - Requires signature of County Manager and DSS Director
- Outlines required performance measures
- Measures are tied in with County Performance Management Goals
- Failure to comply with performance requirements could result in the Department withholding state and/or federal funding and/or a corrective action plan
 - 3 consecutive months or 5 months within a 12-month period

Mandated Performance Measures -

- Energy
- Work First
- Food & Nutrition Services
- Child Welfare – Foster Care
- Adult Protective Services
- Special Assistance
- Child Support

Energy Performance Measures -



Applications w/ No Heating/Cooling Source

Applications w/Heating/Cooling Source

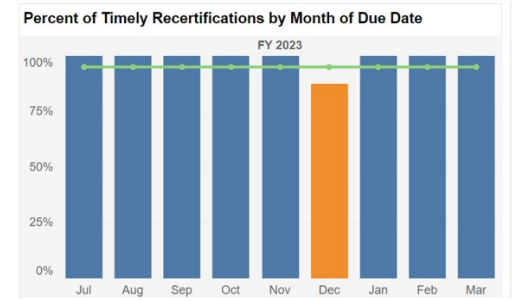
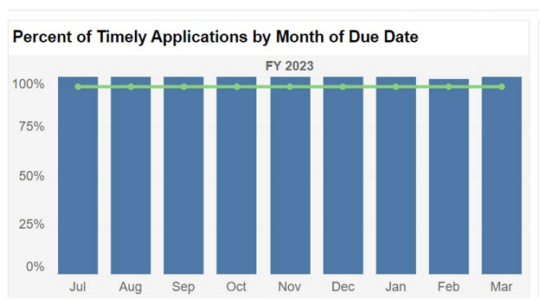
We met 95% timeliness rates on Performance Management report for all Energy programs.

We received 7,000 applications during this energy season (400-500 applications a week) processed by PT staff.

Question: How long does it take to process an application?

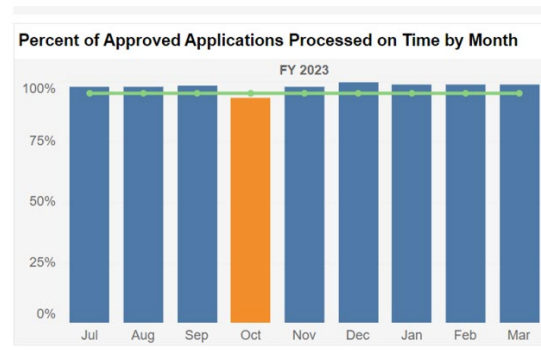
Answer: It depends on the application if it was Pre-COVID or during COVID.

Work First Performance Measures –

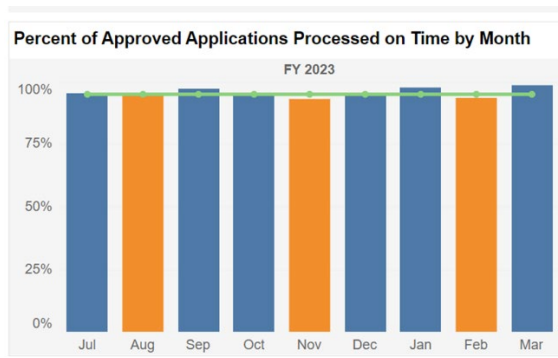


Food & Nutrition Performance Measures

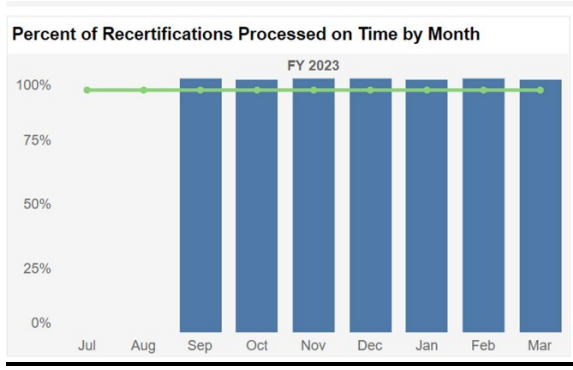
Expedited Applications



Regular Applications



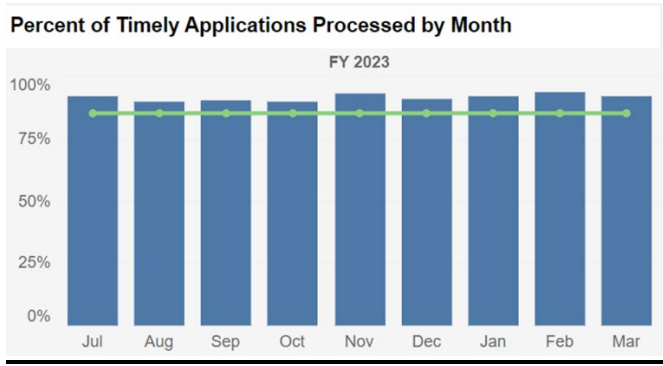
Recertifications



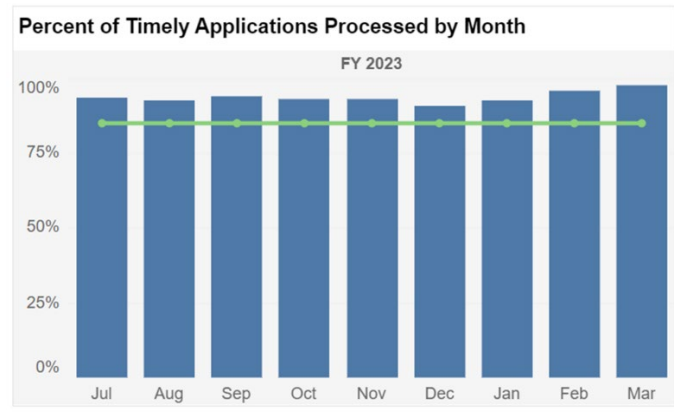
Special Assistance - 85% Timeliness Rates

- Special Assistance occurs in Assisted Living Facilities

SAA Applications



SAD Applications



Child Welfare – Foster Care –

The Child Welfare dashboard is not updated. 95% State Requirement.

Question: What are the various ages of children in Foster Care?

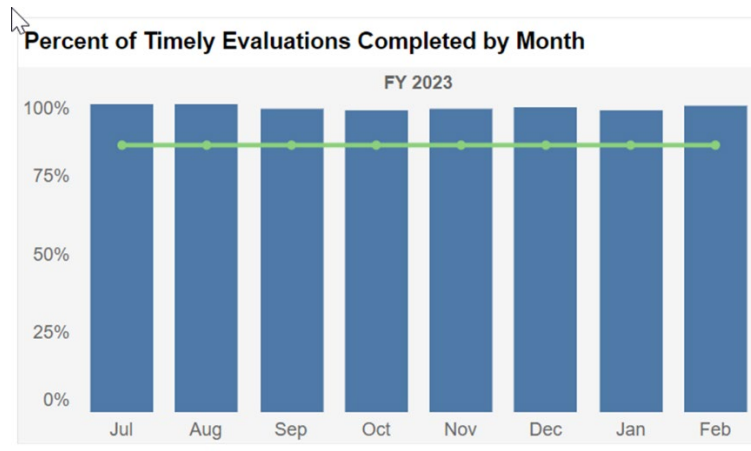
Answer: The larger group consists of younger children under the age of 12. The teen group which takes up most of our time are those over the age of 15 (we only have about 12 FC),

Question: How many Foster Children do we have in Alamance County?

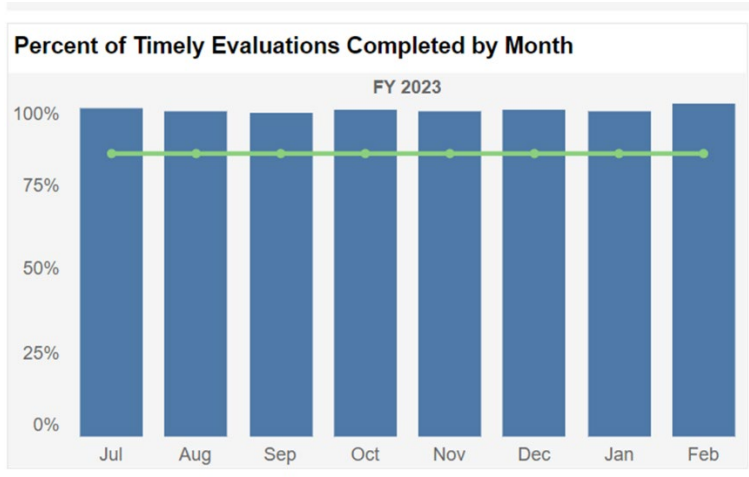
Answer: 107

APS Performance Measures

Evaluation of Abuse and Neglect



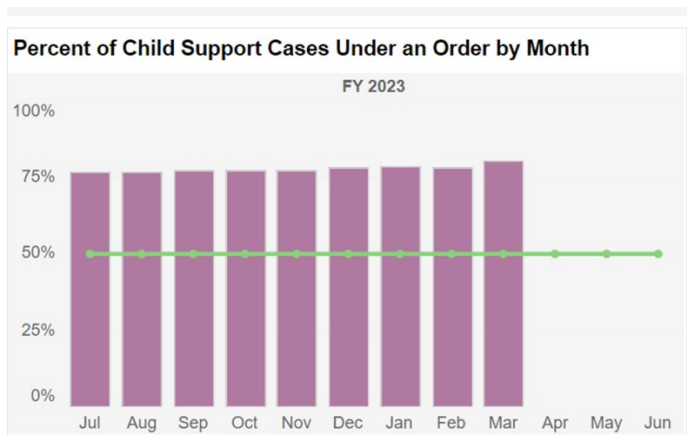
Evaluation of Exploitation



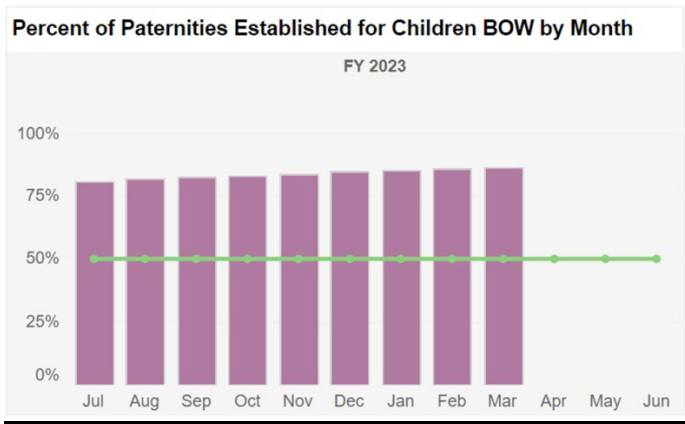
Child Support – We only have to meet 50% performance measures. We set DSS goal higher than the 50% rate of:

- 77.85% for Cases Under Order
- 92.8% for Paternity

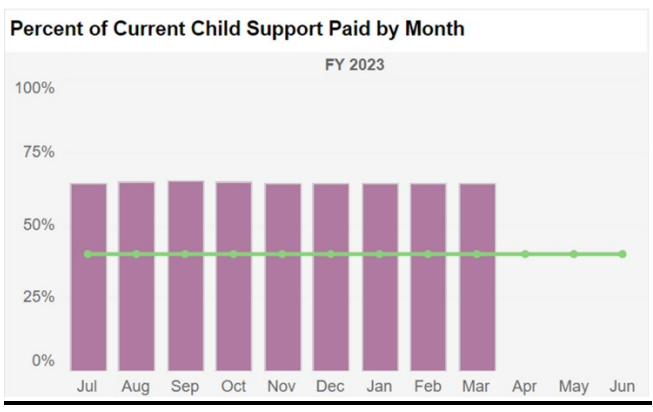
Cases Under Order



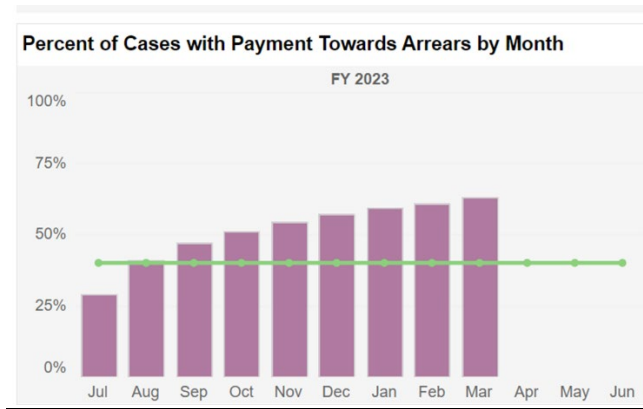
Paternities Established for Children Born Out of Wedlock



Child Support Paid



Payment Towards Arrears



Additional Performance Measures -

- Measures within Child Welfare:
- Screened in reports (we track at 95%)
- Repeat maltreatment
- Re-entry into Foster Care
- Placement moves

Note: These performance measures are not subject to corrective action under 108A-74 for MOU 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

Closed Session: G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6) Personnel –

- **See closed session minutes -**

Action: Board Member Tyronna Hooker motioned for closed session to close at 1:30pm – seconded by Commissioner Craig Turner.

Announcements:

None

Adjournment -

The next board meeting is 12:00 noon **Tuesday, June 27, 2023** at DSS – Professional Board Room located on the 1st Floor at 319 N. Graham Hopedale Rd., Burlington NC.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carmen L. Morrow

Date Approved: 6/27/2023