

ALAMANCE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Human Services Board
February 17, 2026

The Alamance County Human Services Board met on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at the Alamance County Health Department. The following board members were present: Dr. Ann Riley-Caldwell, Dr. Caitlin McArthur, Dr. Deanna Tickle, Dr. Roslyn Crisp, Mr. Dan Paist, Ms. Cindy Brady, Mr. Brian Pierce, and Ms. Sonya Carter. Human services staff present included Dr. Tony Lo Giudice, Ms. Skye Sullivan, Ms. Janna Elliott, Ms. Ariana Lawrence, Ms. Becky Rosso, Dr. Cate Lynn, Ms. Amy Widderich, Ms. Ashley Barber, Ms. Nicole Alston, and Dr. George Ackall.

1. Call to order and introductions

Dr. Riley-Caldwell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Approval of the agenda

Dr. Crisp made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Pierce seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously.

3. Approval of January 20, 2026 minutes

Mr. Pierce made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 20, 2026. Mr. Paist seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously.

4. Capital improvement projects (CIP)

Veterans: Dr. Lo Giudice presented four CIP requests for FY26–27 to support safety improvements and prepare Veteran Services for relocation to Suite E at the Human Services Center. The requests include security camera installation (\$9,775.66), access controls for four doors (\$15,750.66 with an annual operating cost of \$9,070.81), drainage repairs to address water runoff issues (\$30,000), and interior renovations needed for ADA access, updated flooring, painting, cabinetry, and signage (\$34,000). In total, Veteran Services is requesting \$89,526.32 for these projects to ensure the space is secure and ready to operate.

Family Justice Center: Ms. Skye Sullivan presented the Family Justice Center’s CIP requests to remodel the downstairs space that will be vacated when Emergency Management relocates. The additional 5,000 square feet is needed to address overcrowding and improve confidentiality, service capacity, and specialized space for therapy, peer support, forensic exams, law enforcement interviews, and walk-in crisis services. The project is scheduled for January–March 2027 and totals \$107,210.51, including flooring, painting, signage, technology, furniture/moving costs, and soundproofing. The request includes \$20,000 in grant funding, with the remainder requiring general fund support. Annual operating impact is \$2,640.

Health: Ms. Janna Elliott presented three CIP requests for FY26–27. The first is for safety, security, and privacy updates for the health clinic, involving the installation of three security doors and walls to control access and protect client confidentiality. This project totals \$169,332.24, funded by the general fund.

The second request presented was a replacement vehicle for environmental health. Staff would like to retire a 2015 Honda CR-V used for fieldwork and replace it with a truck to improve safety and reliability. The cost is \$78,000, funded by the general fund.

The third request was for a new vehicle to support a newly requested environmental health specialist position. The vehicle will be used for inspections and field response work. The project cost is \$25,000, with annual operating costs estimated at \$6,014.

Dr. McArthur made a motion to approve the capital improvement project requests as presented. Dr. Crisp seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously.

5. Veterans' Services update

Dr. Tony Lo Giudice shared that staff continue to provide excellent customer service. He will be meeting with the veterans' staff to talk about performance measures and how staff want to communicate the work in line with the county's strategic pillars and mission. He also shared that there have been 34 applications for the Veterans' Services director position.

6. Family Justice Center overview

Ms. Skye Sullivan, FJC Director, presented an overview of the Family Justice Center (FJC) of Alamance County, including its mission to end interpersonal violence through coordinated, victim-centered services and its vision of promoting community safety, healing, and justice. The FJC model, recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice as a best practice, brings multiple public and private agencies together in a centralized location to support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and elder abuse.

The board was updated on current operations, noting that the FJC hosts 44 professionals from 12 partner agencies, with contributions valued at approximately \$2.46 million annually. Service trends showed continued growth, with staff completing about 1,000 intakes each year, over 3,500 follow-up calls, and roughly 3,500 referrals to partner agencies. Since 2013, 5,377 restraining orders have been e-filed on site, and FJC has served 18,345 individuals across 26,851 service contacts.

State and local domestic violence trends were reviewed, including rising service demand, decreased funding, and an increase in domestic violence homicides. Findings from Alamance County's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team highlighted factors contributing to fatalities, such as limited victim engagement with formal systems, trauma histories, substance use challenges, firearm access, and gaps in screening across service settings.

Ms. Sullivan shared the national growth of Family Justice Centers and the expanding focus on supporting children exposed to violence, including programs such as Camp Hope. Upcoming priorities for the FJC include grant development, strangulation intervention work, enhanced victim-informed protocols, high-risk offender processes, continued implementation of the Lethality Assessment Protocol, elder-justice initiatives, and expanded training and forensic exam capacity.

7. Family Justice Center update

Ms. Sullivan reported that FJC is fully staffed! She shared that there is a strangulation training March 31-April 1 and asked to please sign up and share this with others in the medical field.

8. Health and Human Services Director report

Dr. Lo Giudice shared that the emergency operation center (EOC) was activated in response to the winter storm. Staff were prepared for potential sheltering operations, and he recognized and thanked all staff for their readiness and strong response efforts.

Dr. Lo Giudice made the board aware that a new treatment resource, the On the Road to Recovery Mobile Unit, will soon operate at the Human Services Center at 319 N. Graham Hopedale Road, Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. The unit will provide integrated counseling and medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder, including on-site intake and induction, daily dosing, counseling through multiple platforms, and telehealth. This is the first comprehensive service of its kind in Alamance County. The county partnered with Vaya and New Seasons to bring this service to the community, with no cost to the county.

Dr. Lo Giudice provided an update on the PFAS issue in Eli Whitney. He explained that testing was completed at 411 volunteer fire stations using private wells, analyzing 51 PFAS compounds with particular focus on seven known to have potential health impacts. Eli Whitney Fire Station was flagged for being over the allowable limit. After receiving a notification from the NC Collaboratory on January 23 about high levels of PFAS at the Eli Whitney Fire Station, the County began coordinated planning. A meeting with the County Manager was held on January 26, followed by a January 27 briefing with the Eli Whitney Fire Board and Fire Chief. Additional outreach included a firefighter information session

on February 3 and a community meeting on February 10, which drew 127 attendees and featured a panel of experts from the NC Collaboratory, NC DEQ, NCDHHS, and academic research partners. A dedicated website has also been created to keep the public informed. The adjacent homes (and potentially surrounding homes depending on findings) to the fire station can have their wells tested for free through NC DEQ for PFAS levels. Dr. Lo Giudice thanked Becky Rosso for spearheading this and guiding her staff through this process as well.

Dr. Lo Giudice shared that Governor Josh Stein visited the Alamance Behavioral Health Center. Dr. Ryan, County Manager Heidi York, Commissioner Kelly Allen, and staff were present for Governor Stein's visit. The Governor toured the center and participated in a brief roundtable discussion on behavioral health services.

Dr. Lo Giudice gave the following shout outs to staff: Dyana Noriega and Marlene Norway for translating the county budget survey for the public into Spanish. Richard Simpson was recognized for completing five face-to-face case management visits with high-risk children and for assisting colleagues by clearing parking spaces during inclement weather. Jenna Brakman completed 23 face-to-face encounters this month for high-risk pregnancy cases, and Estafani Martinez completed 22. Amy Widderach was acknowledged for several above-and-beyond efforts, including retrieving specimens after hours for LabCorp, standing fire and vaccine watch during generator-related power interruptions, and, with interpreter Marlene Norway, staying late to ensure a pregnant patient received her RSV vaccine.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Paist made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm. Dr. Tickle seconded the motion. All board members approved the motion unanimously.

Ann Riley-Caldwell

Ann Riley-Caldwell (Mar 31, 2026 14:06:23 EDT)

Ann Riley-Caldwell, Chair

Tony Lo Giudice

Tony Lo Giudice, Secretary