

Interdisciplinary Parent Representation Program

The mission of the Office of the Parent Defender's Interdisciplinary Parent Representation (IPR) Program is to defend the rights of parents navigating the abuse, neglect, and dependency system in North Carolina by providing high quality, holistic representation through zealous legal advocacy in and out of court coupled with strengths-based, compassionate, and comprehensive social work services.

July 2025-September 2025 Report

As of 10/10/2025	IPRP started 10/1/2022	IPRP started 11/1/2022	IPRP started 12/1/2022	IPRP started 2/1/2023	IPRP started 10/1/2023	IPRP started 2/5/2024
County	Cleveland	Mecklenburg	Buncombe	New Hanover	Wake	Lincoln
Assignments-Total	107	70	196	111	74	26
Open (ACTIVE)	58	36	88	67	49	23
Closed	49	34	107	44	25	3

News and Updates

County Work and Community Connections:

- IPR Program Manager met with the Success Coach Program with Children's Home Society to learn more about program and collaboration opportunities (July 2025)
- IPR Program Manager attended a courtroom observation in Wake Co. (August 2025)
- Parent Defender, IPR Program Manager, and Buncombe County IPRP Social Worker presented at NACC's 48th National Child Welfare Conference (August 2025)
- IPR Program Manager attended the Parent Attorney Conference at UNC School of Government (August 2025)
- Parent Defender, IPR Program Manager, and IPRP Advisory Board Member attended the AdoptUSKids graduation in Washington, DC. (September 2025)
- IPR Program Manager conducted site visit with New Hanover County IPRP Social Workers (September 2025)
- IPRP Program Manager was invited to guest lecture at Duke University School of Law (September 2025)

Message from the IPR Program Manager

Dear IPRP Advisory Board Members,

I am please to share that my AdoptUSKids fellowship presentation and graduation held in September was a great success. The presentation was well received, and I received strong feedback from both Federal and Statewide leaders in the field. It also provided a valuable opportunity to highlight the important and innovative work being done in North Carolina through the IPR Program.

The data we collected continues to demonstrate the program’s effectiveness and the positive outcomes achieved for families. The presentation reinforced the importance of our work and helped build connections that will support continued growth of and possible expansion of the model across the state. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to the important work this program does to positively impact North Carolina families.



IPRP Social Worker Highlight

Tieshia Bell, New Hanover County



“Good afternoon,

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to send out a message on how wonderful it is to work with Tieshia. She truly has shown how important it is to engage with the whole team and building positive relationships. She is extremely professional, caring and always available for support for our clients. She advocates well for her clients and helps them feel like a priority no matter the situation. She always ensures open communication and encourages everyone that it takes a supportive team to achieve successful outcomes. I wish more clients had such an amazing support person in their lives.

Thank you,” **Tara Dreyer, New Hanover County HHS Social Worker**

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