

# Chemung County Support Systems

## **Chemung County Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program (CAP)**

Tammy Miller 607-734-3313 ext 212, [tammy.miller@ppsfl.org](mailto:tammy.miller@ppsfl.org)

Sarah Lewis Wyre 607-734-3314 ext 211, [sarah.wyre@ppsfl.org](mailto:sarah.wyre@ppsfl.org)

<http://www.projectcap.org/cap-programs.html>

The Chemung County Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program (CAP) is a coalition of area organizations dedicated to reducing teen pregnancy in our community.

The CAP program is an abstinence-based program which conducts programs on various teen issues for:

- High school and middle school students.
- Parent and teacher gatherings.
- Groups and agencies outside of schools.

The CAP Program also provides referrals to free clinic services for teens residing in Elmira.

## **Chemung Family Court**

203-209 William Street

P.O. Box 588

Elmira, NY 14902-0588

Phone: 607-873-9500

## **Chemung County Health Department**

103 Washington Street, Elmira, New York

<http://www.chemungcountyhealth.org/>

Public Health Director - Robert E. Page

607-737-2068

Director of Environmental Health Services - Thomas G. Kump, P.E.

607-737-2019

Public Health Clinical Director - Melissa Klossner

607-737-2028

Director of Patient Services / Home Health Agency - Melissa Traub  
607-737-2028

Deputy Public Health Director / Finance - Harry Shepard  
607-737-2028

**Chemung County Medicaid Transportation**

1-855-733-9399

[www.medanswering.com](http://www.medanswering.com)

**Chemung County Probation**

203 William Street

Elmira, NY

607-737-2800

<http://www.chemungcounty.com/index.asp?pageId=259>

**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM

The Probation Department is a criminal justice agency developed to protect the community by providing supervision of juveniles and adults who have been sentenced to probation. The department provides intake services for domestic issues and prepares pre-sentence investigations/reports for criminal and family courts.

**Chemung County Sherriff's Office**

<http://www.chemungsheriff.net/>

203 William St

Elmira, NY 14902

607-737-2987 (Administrative)

607-735-8600 (non emergency)

**Chemung County Transit**

<http://ridectran.com/en/>

1201 Clemens Center Parkway

Elmira, NY 14901

607-734-5211

## **Chemung County Youth Advisory Council**

414 Davis Street  
Elmira, Ny 14901  
607-737-5858

## **Chemung County Youth Bureau**

(607) 737-2907  
599 Harris Hill Road  
Elmira, NY 14903  
<https://www.chemungyouth.com/>

To provide advocacy and support toward youth service goals and positive recreational development for the children and families of Chemung County.

## **Children's Integrated Services Coordinator**

Lisa Butler

### **Address:**

Booth School  
414 Davis Street  
PO Box 588  
Elmira, NY 14902

**Phone:** (607) 737-5582 - Main Office  
After Hours: (607)-481-3963 - On-Call  
After Hours: (607) 735-7993 - Pager On-Call

**Fax:** (607) 737-5563

### **Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 8:00AM – 5:00PM

The Children's Integrated Services program serves youth, birth to 18 years of age, and their families, with the goal of diverting troubled youth from higher levels of care within the child serving systems.

Children's Integrated Services is the entry point for children with significant behavior difficulties and/or a serious emotional disturbance. Chemung County provides linkages to services for children/adolescents and their families through use of the Single Point of Accountability (SPOA) process, or the Children's Coordinated Services Initiative (CCSI) process. Needs are identified and services linked according to a screening process to determine if the child is eligible for specific services. Children can be referred to the program by their family, school, or community provider.

Caseworkers meet with the family and the child to set goals and work out a plan of action to accomplish these goals. The focus is to build on the child's strengths, rather than focusing on their negative behaviors. These services are provided free of charge.

Chemung County School Readiness Project  
[www.chemungschoolreadiness.com](http://www.chemungschoolreadiness.com)

**Department of Social Services Home  
Commissioner of Human Services**

Jennifer Stimson

**Address:**

Human Resource Center  
425 Pennsylvania Avenue  
PO Box 588  
Elmira, NY 14902-0588

**Phone:** (607) 737-5302

**Fax:** (607) 737-5500

**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM

**The Chemung County Department of Human Services** is comprised of two divisions, the Department of Social Services division as well as the Mental Hygiene Services Division, which includes Children's Integrated Services.

The Department of Social Services Division is comprised of the:

- Children and Family Services Division which includes:
  - Special Children's Services: Early Intervention Services
  - Preventive Services
  - Child Protective Services
  - Child Advocacy Center
  - Foster Care
  - Adoption Services
  - Foster Parent Recruitment, Certification and Training
- Division of Temporary Assistance
  - Cash Assistance
  - Medical Assistance (Medicaid)
  - SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
  - HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program)
  - Child Care
- Administrative Services
  - Accounting Unit
  - Child Support Unit
  - Fraud and Resource Recovery Unit, or the Special Investigation Unit (SIU)
- Staff Development
- Legal Division

### **Special Children's Services: Early Intervention Services**

<http://www.chemungcounty.com/index.asp?pageId=382>

Early Intervention Program is a statewide program that provides a broad array of services to eligible infants and toddlers with disabilities.

(Children ages 0-5)

**Service Coordination:** A trained Early Intervention Service Coordinator will help you learn more about the Early Intervention Program and help you determine your required level of services. (Children ages 0-3)

**Comprehensive Evaluation Services:** The Comprehensive Evaluation Service is to provide confidential, accurate, independent assessments of your child's development, and to recommend services where indicated.

(Children ages 0-5)

Children with Special Health Care Needs Program/ Physically Handicapped Children's Program is a program designed for individuals from birth to age 21 who have a severe chronic illness or physical disability that significantly interferes with normal growth and development.

Preschool Children with Disabilities Program: In conjunction with local school districts an evaluation and services are provided to eligible children with disabilities. (Children ages 3-5).

### **Preventive Services**

<http://www.chemungcounty.com/index.asp?pageId=365>

Preventive Services are provided to families with children who are at risk of foster care placement. The goal is to support, strengthen and preserve the family unit, to reduce the risk of maltreatment and insure the safety of the child. The need for preventive services is determined by an assessment of:

- Health and safety of the child
- Parent refusal to engage in services
- Parent unavailability
- Parent service need
- Child service need
- Pregnancy

### **Child Protective Services**

<http://www.chemungcounty.com/index.asp?pageId=372>

Child Protective Services is responsible for investigating reports of abuse and maltreatment made to the State Central Register and to assess and protect children when there is a suspicion of abuse or neglect.

Caseworkers provide services to families to assess and increase the safety of the children in the home and to reduce the risk of future abuse and maltreatment. Caseworkers also assist the family by monitoring and arranging for necessary rehabilitative services.

State Central Register (SCR) Hotline: 1-800-342-3720

## **Child Advocacy Center**

304 Hoffman Street

Elmira, NY 14905

(607) 737-8449

<http://www.chemungcounty.com/index.asp?pageId=369>

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC), a program of the Chemung County Department of Social Services Children and Family Services, makes it possible for a child to go to one location and talk about their abuse. It helps begin the healing process for child victims of abuse by providing a child-friendly setting that is physically and psychologically safe. The CAC is the result of a partnership between the Department of Human Services, the District Attorney's Office, law enforcement, victim services, medical providers, and mental health services working together to address cases of sexual abuse, physical abuse, fatalities, or near deaths, and serious domestic violence.

Chemung County Child Advocacy Center seamlessly integrates and coordinates the services of all of the agencies. Services provided include: Forensic interviews, medical evaluations, mental health referrals, victim advocacy and support, case review and tracking, information and referral, and community outreach and education.

The collaboration increases prosecution and accountability of perpetrators, while promoting safety and support to victims and the non-offending family member.



## **Foster Care Services**

<http://www.chemungcounty.com/index.asp?pageId=377>

Foster Care Services provide children/youth under the age of 18 with a temporary home in the community when they are unable to live with family. Foster Care settings vary in level and intensity depending on the needs of the child. Specialized services place an emphasis on permanency for the child and provide reasonable and diligent efforts to reunite families.

Foster parents are skilled caregivers who understand the issues of child's well-being. They provide a structured and nurturing environment where children who have been abused and neglected feel safe and learn behaviors that will help them become capable and responsible. Prospective foster families must be certified by our agency according to criteria set forth by the **New York State Office of Children and Family Services**. State and local regulations require that prospective foster parents complete a pre-certification training program and cooperate with a background investigation. These combined requirements will form the homestudy, which is a written document describing the prospective foster family, their environment and the specific skills they have that will help them parent someone else's child.

Whether children come into care because they have been abused or neglected or because of their own behaviors (**Person In Need of Supervision or Juvenile Delinquent**), our agency's primary goal is to provide the services and interventions that will help children reunite with their families. Throughout the life of our work with the family, caseworkers must always engage in concurrent planning with families so that children do not linger in foster care.

Foster parents are important partners with the child's family to make reunification occur. Foster parents must be willing to work in partnership with the child's birth family, DSS/CFS, community agencies, and other people who play important roles in the child's life.

Prospective foster parents will participate in "**Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting**" (**MAPP**). The group leaders work cooperatively to share vital information that will assist in making an informed decision with families.

Sometimes, children in foster care cannot be reunited with their birth families. When that happens, foster parents may be given first consideration to adopt them; therefore, families are dually certified to foster and adopt. Each family is recertified annually and the Homefinder who visits your home for that purpose will update your homestudy.



If you would like to learn more about foster parenting, please call **Homefinding at 607-737-5557**.

### **Adoption Services**

<http://www.chemungcounty.com/index.asp?pageId=367>

Children of all ages are waiting to be adopted. Chemung County welcomes responsible, caring adults who are ready to share their time, their hearts, and their lives with our waiting children. When you adopt a child, you will be giving that child a permanent family and another chance in life. All children deserve a loving, committed, safe, and permanent family.

Adoption Services assist children who have no permanent guardian to become adopted. **The Chemung County Department of Social Services** certifies prospective adoptive families according to criteria set forth by the **New York State Office of Children and Family Services**. The Chemung County Department of Social Services requires a homestudy, which is a written document describing the prospective adoptive parent, their environment and the specific skills they will be able to utilize in raising an adopted child.

New York State and local regulations require that prospective adoptive parents complete a pre-certification training program and cooperate with a background investigation. Our agency provides "**Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP)**", an interactive group process through which prospective adoptive parents will be introduced to the many issues of child welfare. Each prospective adoptive family is recertified annually and the Homefinder who visits your home for that purpose will update your homestudy.

If you are interested in providing a structured and nurturing permanent home for a child waiting for adoption, please call **Homefinding/Adoption at 607-737-5557**

### **Foster Parent Recruitment, Certification and Training**

<http://www.chemungcounty.com/index.asp?pageId=378>

What is Foster Care? - Foster Care is temporary care for children who are unable to live with their birth families.

Who are the children in Care? - Children in foster care represent all ethnic groups and may be infants through teenagers. Some children may have handicapping conditions, behavioral challenges, and need special care.

When brothers and sisters come into care, we want to place them together. Teenage mothers also need homes for themselves and their children.

Children in foster care, like all children, need love, affection, and guidance.

Who is a foster parent? A foster parent is someone who can provide temporary care and love for children who are unable to live with their birth family.

A foster parent should be someone who:

- Wants to make a difference in a child's life.
- Is flexible and capable of handling stressful situations.
- Can be a working or stay-at-home parent.
- Can work as a member of a team with families, social workers and other professionals.
- Can help prepare a child for return to their birth family or to be adopted.
- May become an adoptive parent.

Who can become a foster parent?

You can apply to become a foster parent if you:

- Are at least 21 years old.
- Are married, single, or living with a partner.
- Have sufficient income to meet your own family's needs.
- Are in good health.
- Can make room in your home and heart for children who need safe, temporary care.

How can I become a foster parent?

- Attend an orientation session.
- Complete an application.

- Provide personal references and current medical reports.
- Attend our pre-certification training classes.
- Participate in a home study.

How will we help you?

- Provide ongoing training.
- Provide 24-hour emergency services.
- Arrange for special services for the child in care.
- Provide financial and medical support to meet the needs of the child.
- Foster Parent Support Group.
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What should I do now? Call us for more information at 737-5557. Information and Orientation sessions are held every month. Please check the calendar of events for the next scheduled session

### **Family Court Of Chemung County**

203-209 William Street

P.O. Box 588

Elmira, NY 14902-0588

Phone: 607-873-9500

FAX: 212-884-8950

<http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/6jd/chemung/family.shtml>

### **Family Services of Chemung County**

1019 East Water Street • Elmira, NY 14901

[fsc.info@familyservices.cc](mailto:fsc.info@familyservices.cc)

(607) 733-5696

[http://familyservicesofchemung.com/family\\_mental\\_health\\_services\\_2.nxg](http://familyservicesofchemung.com/family_mental_health_services_2.nxg)

Family Services is a Not-For-Profit 501(c)3 Charitable Organization, providing a broad range of services to the community for over 140 years. Donations or bequests appreciated. For information, please contact Ted Kordela, Executive Director.

**Our Mission** "The purpose of Family Services is to assist individuals, families and the community in meeting the complexities of daily living by fostering the ability to develop and maintain positive relationships and promote healthy, independent personal development, and responsible social functioning."

**Public Advocated Office**

Public Advocate John Brennan  
219 Madison Avenue  
P.O. Box 588  
Elmira, NY 14902-0588  
Phone: (607) 737-5577

The Public Advocates Office was set up to provide representation for defendants who are indigent and who cannot be represented by the Public Defender's Office because of conflicts.

**Public Defender's Office**

**Public Defender**

Scott N. Fierro

**Asst. Public Defenders**

John Schwenkler  
James Ferratella  
Samuel D. Castellino  
Elizabeth Mannion  
Christopher Ferratella

**Family Law Division**

Emily Pawlowski

**Investigator**

Jim Kain

**Address:**

163 Lake Street  
PO Box 588

Elmira, NY 14901

**Phone:** (607) 737-2969

**Fax:** (607) 737-2853

**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM

The mission of the Public Defender's office is to provide high quality legal representation to clients who are assigned by the courts in Chemung County and have demonstrated to the court an inability to pay for a private attorney. The Public Defender's office usually meets with clients for the first time in court. At that first meeting, clients are given information about our offices and its procedures.

The Public Defender represents its clients in all courts in Chemung County, from the initial appearance through final deposition. This representation includes, in appropriate cases, representation on appeal and in collateral cases pending in Family Court.

The services are provided free of charge once a court determines eligibility. In rare instances, the court may order some reimbursement based upon a person's ability to pay. This reimbursement is substantially below what a private attorney might charge for similar services.

**Office of the Aging – Department of Aging and Long Term Care**

Director: Pamela M. Brown

Human Resource Center

425 Pennsylvania Ave.

PO Box 588

Elmira, NY 14902-0588

Phone: (607) 737-5520

Our mission is to help Chemung County resident's age together with independence, opportunity and dignity through coordinated and cost-effective policies and services that support and empower older adults, people of all ages in need of long term care, and their families and caregivers.