

# Children and Family Services

<http://www.chemungcounty.com/index.asp?pageId=371>

## Commissioner of Human Services

Jennifer Stimson

## Director of Children and Family Services

Kellie Lowman

### Address:

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

**Phone:** (607) 737-5417

**Fax:** (607) 737-5380

### Office Hours

Monday - Friday 8:30AM – 4:30

Staff is on-call 24 hours a day to respond to State Central Register (SCR) reports of abuse and neglect.

CPS/Intake– 737-5433

Homefinding and Adoption Services – 737-5557

Early Intervention (EI) – 737-5568

**The Children and Family Services Division** is comprised of:

- 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

**The Division of Children and Family Services** is responsible for strengthening and reserving families, ensuring protection and permanency for children, providing placement for children who are either neglected and/or abused or have been adjudicated a Persons In Need of Supervision (PINS) or a Juvenile Delinquent (JD); placement occurs when no other alternatives are possible.

CFS collaborates with all DSS divisions, community and state agencies to assist families at becoming self-sufficient. The Special Children's Services Unit and Early Intervention (EI) provides evaluations and services to children birth through age five with suspected or confirmed developmental delays.

Our goal is to empower families by placing them at the center of decision-making regarding their child's safety and well-being. Staff is trained to function as change agents to assist family's in implementing and sustaining change.

**Adoption Homefinders**  
**607-737-5557**

<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 home study, 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 home study.

### **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.

### **Compeer**

550 E. Church Street, Suite 104

Elmira, NY 14901

Phone: 607--737-2490 or 733-2305

[http://familyservicesofchemung.com/compeer\\_program\\_2.nxg](http://familyservicesofchemung.com/compeer_program_2.nxg)

### **What Is Compeer?**

Compeer is an award-winning non-profit organization that matches community volunteers in supportive friendship relationships with persons recovering from mental illness. "Compeer" means a companion who is also a peer or equal. Loneliness, failure, fear and loss of self-esteem are universal experiences of those who suffer from mental illnesses. A caring friend can help to restore some joy and hope to a life that is often empty of both. Through the gift of your friendship, you will gain a sense of satisfaction and personal growth and have the opportunity to help another.

**Circle of Friends**, a lunch time mentoring program, matching volunteers with children. The program is in all elementary schools in the Elmira City School District and one Middle School. Children are selected based on at-risk factors (risk of school failure, absenteeism and truancy, troubled home life, being bullied to name a few). Volunteers visit twice a month to have lunch, do special projects and spend one on one time with the child they befriend and mentor. Projects help serve the community, while teaching a valuable lesson to the child.

**Pal** volunteers spend a minimum of 4 hours a month with youth. They spend time with those referred by their Therapist or school or as a continuation of interaction within the Circle of Friends program. Activities range from helping with homework and going to sports events to attending community activities.