

**NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families**

**DATE: March 5, 2020**

**Upcoming Pertinent Legislative Meetings:**

Date and Time	Committee	Location Legislative Office Building (LOB) Legislative Building (LB) Audio link: <a href="https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio">https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio</a>
March 10, 9:30 a.m.	Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services	1027/1128 LB, audio available
March 10, 1:00 p.m.	Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice	1027/1128 LB, audio available
March 16, 10:00 a.m.	Child Fatality Task Force	1027/1128 LB, audio available

**I2i Center for Integrative Health Board Chair Named New Director of DMHDDSAS:**

I2i Center for Integrative Health's board chair, Victor Armstrong, [has been named](#) the new Director for the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services. Victor has a comprehensive background in human services organizations with over 30 years of experience with DSS agencies, LME/MCOs, and community mental health agencies. Victor will officially begin his new role on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**North Carolina Names the First Healthy Opportunity Pilot Entities:**

The first round of bids to be Lead Pilot Entities (LPEs) in the Healthy Opportunities Pilot has closed and the entities that have applied to be Lead Pilot Entities [have been revealed](#). These entities include: Access East, Inc., Carolina Collaborative Community Care, Community Care of the Lower Cape Fear, Dogwood Health Trust, Duke University Health System dba WD4C, Mecklenburg County Public Health, North Carolina Community Action Association, Piedmont Triad Regional Development Corporation, and Third Year Community Resilience. The Department of Health and Human Services anticipates making final selections by May 2020. The anticipated Pilot Service Delivery beginning in the Spring of 2021.

Healthy Opportunities is a pilot that is a part of the Medicaid 1115 waiver. The pilot will allow North Carolina to implement new service definitions, billable to Medicaid, that are focused on Social Determinants of Health (SDoH). Services such as housing tenancy support and literacy are included in the new billable codes that could bring as much as \$650 million in new funding for services previously not covered by the NC Medicaid Program into our state. The Lead Pilot Entity will be responsible for working with Standard and Tailored Plans to connect individuals with community organizations that can help them with issues related to food insecurity, transportation, housing and interpersonal violence. The names and locations of the applicants gives us some insight into how the Healthy Opportunity pilot regions may look.

### **NC Health Choice Aligns to CMS Changes for Mental Health Screening and Substance Use Treatment:**

The federal SUPPORT Act, Substance-Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act, passed on Oct, 24, 2018, brings changes to the CHIP programs (NC Health Choice) throughout the United States. These changes include strengthening the standards for assessments, substance-use treatment and using culturally competent tools. The SUPPORT Act requires coverage of all developmental and behavioral health related screens and preventative services as recommended by AAP/Bright Futures and some graded with an A or B by USPSTF. The screenings used must stay consistent with the most recently published AAP schedule. Additionally, these tools must incorporate age appropriate, validated screening tools, which can be found [here](#). North Carolina is required to identify strategies for facilitating age-appropriate, validated screening tool use in primary care settings for NC Health Choice individuals, children and pregnant women. This includes covering the costs of administering the tools, purchasing costs for the tools, education and training opportunities for the tools, and technical assistance.

All states will have to describe and submit their CHIP equivalent plans to CMS to determine if they meet the new standards. States that have already demonstrated using Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment benefits identical to Medicaid need only submit an assurance that benefits can be exceeded for individuals if medically necessary. In addition, the Act mandates Medication-Assisted Treatment for opioid use disorders and tobacco cessation benefits. Lastly, the behavioral health coverage provided through state CHIP programs (NC Health Choice) must provide culturally competent services including culturally and linguistically appropriate services to all enrollees. For more information on this act, [follow the link](#).

### **N.C. Bills we are tracking:**

- [H5](#): Close the Medicaid Insurance Gap (see S3)
- [H76](#): School Safety Omnibus
- [H102](#): Enhance Permanency Innovation Institute (see S245)
- [H121](#): Expunction Related to Raise the Age/No Conviction

[H234](#): Funds for Child Advocacy Centers

[H241](#): Education Bond Act of 2019

[H250](#): Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions

[H291](#): Continue Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Work Group (SSWG) and Extend Children's Council

[H297](#): Psychologist Interjurisdictional Compact

[H434](#): Suicide Risk Ref./Mental Health/Teen Violence

[H471](#): Reduce Administrative Duplication MH/DD/SAS Providers

[H555](#): Medicaid Transformation Implementation, the Senate has withdrawn this bill from the calendar and re-referred it to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.

[H580](#): Increase Foster Care Rates/Funds (see S636)

[H601](#): Funds for NAMI North Carolina, Inc.

[H613](#): Essential Services for Homeless Youth

[H655](#): NC Health Care for Working Families, the bill was re-referred to the House Committee on Health, received a favorable committee substitute, and was re-referred to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations.

[H702](#): Modify Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils (see S555)

[H822](#): Comprehensive Behavioral Health Plan, the bill has been sent to the Senate, passed the 1<sup>st</sup> Senate reading, and has been sent to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.

[H825](#): Strengthen Child Fatality Prevention System: passed first reading and referred to the House Committee on Health.

[H826](#): Standardized Assessment/Foster Care Pilot

[H956](#): Funds/Youth Villages and Other Purposes

[H966](#): 2019 Appropriations Act, this bill was placed on the calendar for January 14, 2020, withdrawn from the calendar and re-referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.

[S3](#): Close the Medicaid Insurance Gap (see H5)

[S175](#): Funds/Eliminate NC Pre-K Waitlist

[S212](#): NC Fast/Early Child/Transformation/ACH Assess., the conference committees have been appointed.

[S245](#): Enhance Permanency Innovation Institute (see H102)

[S251](#): Modernization of Drug Court Programs

[S361](#): Healthy NC., the Senate failed to concur on the health committee substitution, so the Senate and House have appointed committee conferees for the bill.

[S382](#): School Psychologist Compensation and Recruitment (see H482)

[S427](#): Smart Start Funds (see H124)

[S476](#): Compt-Based Assess. & Mental Health/Teen Viol., after over three months of inactivity, the bill has conference committees appointed in the House and the Senate.

[S549](#): Child Welfare/Behavioral Health Pilot/Funds

[S624](#): Guilford County Mental Health Facility /Funds (see H360)

[S636](#): Increase Foster Care Rates/Funds (see H580)

**N.C. Bills that have been signed into law:**

[H75](#): School Mental Health Screening Study, presented to the governor and signed into law as Ch. SL 2019-222.

[S199](#): Child Sex Abuse/Strengthen Laws, the bill was presented to the governor and signed into law on 11/7/19 as Ch. SL 2019 – 245.

[H301](#): CIP Revisions/Juvenile Code, signed by the governor on 6/21/19 as Ch. SL 2019-33.

[S413](#): Raise the Age Modifications, signed into law on 8/1/19 as Ch. SL 2019-186.

[H609](#): Once known as Raise the Age Modifications but now labeled Salary Increases/Adult Correctional Employees, the bill was presented to and signed by the governor as Ch. SL 2019-208.

[H656](#): Medicaid Changes for Transformation, signed into law by the Governor on 7/4/19 as Ch. SL 2019-81.

[H1001](#): Raise the Age Funding, ratified, presented to the governor and signed into law on 10/14/19 as Ch. SL 2019-229.

**Upcoming Collaborative Mental Health Meetings:**

Date and Time	Collaborative	Location
April 15, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<a href="#">NC Child Well Being Transformation Council</a>	TBD

**Federal Bills We are Tracking:**

[S.1172](#): Keep Our Promise to America's Children and Teachers Act: read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[S. 1465](#): Childhood Outcomes Need New Efficient Community Teams: read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

[S. 1642](#): Increasing Access to Mental Health in Schools Act: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[S. 1668](#): Defending Access to Mental Health Care Act: Read twice and referred to the committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[S. 1670](#): Care Across Generations Act: read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

[H.R. 1109](#): Mental Health Services for Students Act of 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

[H.R. 1301](#): Mental Health Telemedicine Expansion Act: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health

[H.R. 1395](#): Youth Mental Health Services Act of 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor

[H.R. 1838](#): Social Security Child Protection Act of 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

[H.R. 2702](#): Family First Transition and Support Act of 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

[H.R. 2958](#): Increasing Access to Mental Health in Schools Act: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor

[H.R. 3074](#): Continuing Access to Mental and Behavioral Health Care Act: referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

[H.R. 3116](#): State Flexibility for Family First Transitions Act: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

[H.R. 3438](#): Child Welfare Data Modernization Act: Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means

[H.R. 4025](#): Mental Health in Schools Excellence Program Act of 2019: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.

[H.R. 4420](#): Timely Mental Health for Foster Youth Act: Referred to the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support

[H.R. 4428](#): Greater Mental Health Access Act: Referred to the Subcommittee on Health

[H.R. 4602](#): Continuation of Useful Resources to States Act: Referred to the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support

[H.R. 4835](#): Supporting Trauma-Informed Education Practices Act: referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor

[H.R. 5569](#): Early Childhood Mental Health Support Act of 2020: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor