

NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: April 17, 2020

Upcoming Pertinent Legislative Meetings:

Date and Time	Committee	Location Legislative Office Building (LOB) Legislative Building (LB) Audio link: https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio
April 21 st , 10:00 a.m.	House Select Committee on COVID-19, Economic Support	1228/1327 LB, audio available
April 21 st , 2:00 p.m.	House Select Committee on COVID-19, Continuity of State Operations	1228/1327 LB, audio available
April 23 rd , Time has not been announced—likely 9:30 a.m.	House Select Committee on COVID-19, Health Care	TBA
April 28 th , 12:00 p.m.	House Session Convenes	Audio available
April 28 th , 12:00 p.m.	Senate Session Convenes	Audio available

North Carolina House Select Committee on COVID-19 Update: Health Care

On [April 14th](#) and [April 16th](#), the House Select Committee on COVID-19 Health Care work group met to discuss rural healthcare delivery, behavioral health/IDD services, pharmacists, health disparities, and industry impacted by COVID-19. Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Kody Kinsley presented and emphasized the NC DHHS goal is to maintain services and reduce the need for emergency department visits. To reach this goal, NC DHHS has been working on Medicaid flexibility, new telehealth policies, and has paused oversight functions that do not impact consumer health and safety. The Medicaid flexibility includes services for individuals on the Innovations Waiver and, through the Section 1135 waiver, relieves prior authorization procedures, provider enrollment requirements, and reimbursing providers using alternative methods. Kinsley particularly promoted the NC-STEP program for providers, which offers collaborative service linkage and innovative models of behavioral health care. Finally, he noted to legislators that there would need to be

revisions to the involuntary commitment laws that would allow for telehealth options in the process and first evaluation during this pandemic.

On April 16th, the committee looked at several policy/funding requests from NC DHHS and several organizations such as the NC Healthcare Association and NC Child. NC DHHS and several statewide organizations support the expansion of Medicaid coverage for COVID-19 testing as is allowed under the First in Families CARES Act. House Speaker Tim Moore joined the meeting for a short time and expressed his support for this measure.

Some of the items discussed for NC Child included requests to:

- Include virtual visitation for children in foster care,
- Temporary suspend relicensing requirements for foster parents,
- Continue payments for youth in foster care 18-21 regardless of education and employment,
- And appropriate funds to Feeding the Carolinas and the state farmer's markets.

DHHS has requested that:

- Medicaid is expanded for individuals up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. This would cost the State an estimated \$224 million. Previously, Governor Cooper had indicated the State's portion would be paid through an assessment to the hospitals and health plans.
- Medicaid provide flexibility to applicants such as only requiring one form of residency documentation,
- The Health Benefit Exchange make Medicaid eligibility decisions instead of needing complete assessments,
- There be a delay in acting on an individual's changes in circumstances that might affect their eligibility,

Currently the group is considering two bills, one focused on policy and one focused on funding, that will be finalized at their April 23rd meeting and filed as bills when the NC General Assembly returns for the short session on April 28th.

North Carolina House Select Committee on COVID-19 Update: Education

Also meeting on [April 16th](#), the House Select Committee on COVID-19 Education work group looked at funding flexibility for K-12 public schools, nonpublic schools, and higher education. In particular, the group is drafting the 2019-MVz-175 Bill: Education Omnibus/COVID-19. This bill provides relief to schools by clarifying or modifying testing requirements, school report card calculations, waives identifying low performing schools, waives mandatory advanced placements from standardized testing, and waives the CPR requirement for graduates. This bill will be filed on April 28th when the House and Senate are back in session.

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 1st 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.

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