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NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: May 1, 2020

Upcoming Pertinent Legislative Meetings:

Date and Time	Committee	Location Legislative Office Building (LOB) Legislative Building (LB) Audio link: https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio
May 1 st , 10:00 a.m.	General Statutes Commission	415 LOB, audio available

The NC General Assembly reconvened on April 28th and both chambers got right to work on the COVID-19 funding to take the State through the remainder of this fiscal year on June 30th. While the House provided ample opportunity for input into their proposal to address the virus, the Senate only offered that opportunity at the last minute on a package that had apparently been drafted behind closed doors prior to the start of the session. As such, the Senate package was only revealed to the public on April 28th and has already been passed by the Senate and sent to the House for consideration. The House bill closely followed the recommendations of the House Select Committee on COVID-19 work groups and has already passed the House and been sent to the Senate. Ultimately, there will likely be a conference committee of sorts that negotiates the differences in the two bills before it is passed and sent to the Governor. Of course, the Governor has also published his own recommended spending plan. All three parties seem to recognize the imperative need in communities for this federal and State funding to be allocated as soon as possible. It is expected that the General Assembly will consider further funding in the near future. A key figure that each of these bodies will be watching closely is the State revenue line. That will tell them the level of funding available and the capacity to fulfill the needs to address COVID-19.

The spending proposals are:

- [S704, COVID-19 Recovery Act](#)
- [H1043, Pandemic Response Act](#)
- [Governor Cooper's Spending Plan for COVID-19](#)

A glaring omission in the Senate's bill is any funding specifically designated for behavioral health and intellectual/developmental disability services. The House provides \$25 million--\$12.4 million for crisis and uninsured services and \$12.6 million for ICF-IID residential facilities. The Governor includes it in the \$20 million in flexible funds

that are expected to cover enhanced capacity in public health, mental health and crisis services.

Both the House and Senate bills address several issues such as using telehealth for involuntary commitments, Medicaid funding for uninsured individuals on COVID-19 testing and treatment, immunity from liability for health care facilities, summer education programming funds, school test and score waivers, food/shelter/domestic violence program funding, continued school nutrition services and rural/underserved community funding. Even with these similarities there are differences in approaches to these line items and the funding levels are varied. The Governor's spending proposal also includes several other items related to State operations such as transportation and road improvement projects that are impacted by decreased State revenue.

Resources for Providers and Families:

The National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health has an [expansive list of crisis resources](#) for families and providers that work with families. Resources include [COVID-19 resources for family-run organizations](#) and [COVID-19 resources for Parents and Families](#). The information offered in these resources ranges from topics of:

- Telehealth,
- Paid sick leave and the Family and Medical Leave Act,
- Self-Care for Nonprofit Leaders
- Parenting infographics,
- Activities and home resources,
- Coping with stress/anxiety,
- Supporting youth and young adults, and
- Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic with children with specific diagnoses.

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.
[H1038](#): Omnibus COVID-19 Response Funds: passed the first reading and re-referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

[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)
[S740](#): COVID-19 Recovery Act: passed the third Senate reading, passed the 1st House reading, and referred to the Committee on Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

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