

NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: September 26, 2019

Upcoming Pertinent Legislative Meetings:

Date and Time	Committee	Location Legislative Office Building (LOB) Legislative Building (LB) Audio link: https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio
October 14, 1:00 p.m.	Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee	544 LOB, Audio available

School Safety Mini-Budget Signed into Law

[House Bill 75](#), School Safety Funds, Programs, and Reports, was signed into law on September 18, 2019 to become SL2019-222. This bill provides an opportunity for BH providers and LME/MCOs to work with local school units to promote mental health awareness in the school systems and provide education and prevention strategies in the schools. In fact, the law defines “community partners” as: “A public or private entity, including, but not limited to, a nonprofit corporation or a local management entity/managed care organization (LME/MCO), that partners with a qualifying public school unit to provide services or pay for the provision of services for the unit.” There were some grants previously available and this new funding will expand that effort.

Funding Levels:

State Agency receiving allocation	2019-2020 Recurring	2019-2020 Nonrecurring	2020-2021 Recurring	2020-2021 Nonrecurring
Dept. of Public Instruction	\$23,000,000	\$15,100,000	\$29,000,000	\$0
Dept. of Public Safety	\$533,333	\$200,000	\$800,000	\$0

Particular provisions include:

- The majority of the DPI funding is directed to be spent on the Instructional Support Allotment (\$20 m in 2019-2020 and increased to \$23 m in 2020-2021).
- The bill specifically allocates \$6,100,000 for school safety equipment, \$4,500,000 for school safety training, \$4,500,000 for students in crisis grants, and \$3,000,000 for school resource officers.
- Funding for DPS is to create new Behavioral Threat Assessment Positions.

- Part III of the bill addresses the school safety grants program.
- Public schools submit grant applications by November 1, 2019 and August 1st of each following year.
- Grants will provide for crisis respite services, training and expanded services for therapeutic foster care families, evidence-based therapies, and peer-to-peer mentoring.
- The students in crisis grant offers a unique opportunity for public schools to contract with community partners to provide these evidence-based crisis services.
- The grants also provide training for school mental health support personnel, students and school employees to improve the response to trauma and promote resiliency.
- Installs a school mental health crisis response team program, pilots a school psychologist and school counselor study, and funding for a behavioral threat assessment in schools.
- The majority of the bill became effective July 1, 2019.

Reports, Studies, etc. included in the law:

Report/Study Directive (including responsible party)	Report Will Go to	Date Due
Center for Safer Schools will conduct annual census of School Resource Officers and collect additional information	Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and State Board of Education	March 1 of each year
Superintendent of Public Instruction will report on the grants that were awarded through this law.	Joint Legislative Oversight Committees: Education, Health and Human Services, Justice and Public Safety, Governmental Operations, Fiscal Research Division	April 1, 2020 and each year thereafter
Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop criteria and guidelines for grants		November 1, 2020
Dept. of Public Instruction and Center for Safer Schools, in conjunction with DHHS and Dept. of Public Safety, Div. of Emergency Management, will provide recommendations on the School Mental Health Crisis Response Program	Joint Legislative Oversight Committees: Education, Health and Human Services	March 15, 2020
Dept. of Public Instruction submits analysis and results of a study on the School Psychologist and School Counselor Positions across the state.	Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Education and Fiscal Research Division	April 1, 2020

A Little Bit More about NC Health Care for Working Families, [H655](#):

- A modified approach to Medicaid expansion.
- In House Rules Committee and still has to pass the full House and the Senate.
- General Criteria:
 - Meet federal requirements for Medicaid eligibility but not eligible for North Carolina Medicaid;
 - Income is no more than 133% above the federal poverty level;
 - Ages 19-64;
 - Employed (with exceptions).
- Exceptions to employment requirement:
 - Primary caretaker for child or disabled family member;
 - active treatment for SUD;
 - medically fragile;
 - pregnant or postpartum;
 - Indian Health Services beneficiary;
 - Any other category exempt from employment by CMS.
- Premiums to be paid by individual that equal 2% of the household income.
- Exceptions to paying premiums:
 - Income is 50% below the federal poverty guidelines;
 - medical hardship;
 - financial hardship;
 - Indian Health Services beneficiary;
 - veteran in transition but not yet employed.

Bills that are on the move:

[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.

[H935](#): Social Services Reform/DHHS Recommendations, the bill has passed the House and been referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.

Additional 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 (See H935, extension of SSWG included)

[H297](#): Psychologist Interjurisdictional Compact

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

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

[H555](#): Medicaid Transformation Implementation, once known as Modernize Medicaid Telemedicine Policies, after veto by the governor the House overrode the veto, the

Senate received the veto, and it has been referred 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

[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.

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

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

[H966](#): 2019 Appropriations Act, the veto was overridden in the House on 9/11/19, sent to the Senate and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.

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

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

[S199](#): Child Sex Abuse/Strengthen Laws, the Senate and House have confirmed the committee appointed but the House has changed conferees on 9/13/19.

[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](#): The Health Care Expansion Act of 2019, 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](#): Competency-Based Assessment & Mental Health/Teen Violence, awaiting Conference Committee appointments

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

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

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

Bills that have been signed into Law:

[H75](#): School Safety, Funds, Programs and Reports, SL 2019-222.

[H301](#): CIP Revisions/Juvenile Code, SL 2019-33.

[S413](#): Raise the Age Modifications, SL 2019-186.

[H656](#): Medicaid Changes for Transformation, SL 2019-81.