

NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: November 12, 2019

Upcoming Pertinent Legislative Meetings:

Date and Time	Committee	Location Legislative Office Building (LOB) Legislative Building (LB) Audio link: https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio
November 13, 12:00 p.m.	Senate Session	Audio available
November 13, 12:00 p.m.	House Session	Audio available
November 18, 10:00 a.m.	Child Fatality Task Force	1027/1128, audio available

New Laws Address Social Services and Raise the Age:

On November 6, Governor Cooper was busy signing several pieces of legislation into law that impact children's mental health services. S537, now [SL 2019-240](#), is a large bill that covers many areas of health and human services. In fact, it makes changes to social services that are significant.

The new law increases the accountability system for the local departments of social services and particularly for child welfare services. Through this legislation, the Secretary will require all county and regional social service departments to enter into a written agreement each year with the NC DHHS that includes specific performance requirements and responsibilities. These performance measurements will be based on standardized metrics using data and outcomes from the Social Services System Transparency and Wellness Dashboard. If a local department of social services fails in their performance measures for three consecutive months or five months out of the 12-month year, the Secretary will enter into a joint corrective action plan within 60 working days. If the Secretary determines the department of social services has failed to complete the corrective plan, the Secretary/NC DHHS will assume leadership on all aspects of the social services administration including funding, operations, and oversight. In this case, the local agency will lose all authority as the Secretary assumes leadership until the performance measurements can be met.

Additionally, the new law delays the expansion of the child welfare case-management component of the NC FAST system until July 1, 2020. Instead NC FAST will continue to be developed and improved in the case-management capacity for those counties that participated in the pilot program prior to January 1, 2019. Counties that were phased in to this pilot after January 1, 2019 may elect to opt out of the Intake and Assessment functionality of NC FAST. NC DHHS must report to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee by May 1, 2020 and recommendations will be shared with the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services.

Two other bills were signed into law that same day. [H111](#) established base budgets for the NC state departments and included some conforming changes to the Raise the Age of Juvenile Jurisdiction mini-budget bill that passed earlier this fall. [H470](#) changes statutory language to allow for the expunction of records for juveniles in certain cases.

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

[H935](#): Social Services Reform/DHHS Recommendations, the bill has passed the third reading in the house, passed the first Senate reading, and referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Operations.

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

[H966](#): 2019 Appropriations Act, this bill was 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](#): 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](#): 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)

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.

[S537](#): Licensing & HHS Amends & Rural Health Stable, presented to the Governor and signed into law on 11/6/19 as Ch. SL 2019-240.

[H111](#): Base Budgets/Certain Agencies, presented to the Governor and signed into law on 11/6/19 as Ch. SL 2019-242.

H470: Administration of Justice Changes, presented to the Governor and signed into law on 11/6/19 as Ch. SL 2019-243.

Upcoming Collaborative Mental Health Meetings:

Date and Time	Collaborative	Location
December 12, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.	B-3 Interagency Council	North Carolina Department of Transportation, Board Room 150, 1 S Wilmington Street, Raleigh
December 13, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	NC Child Well Being Transformation Council	TBD