

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

**DATE: December 11, 2019**

**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>
December 13, 10:00 a.m.	North Carolina Child Well-Being Transformation Council	544 LOB, audio available

**Recap of the Medicaid Transformation Pre-Con Symposium:**

The first annual pre-conference for i2i Center’s conference in Pinehurst featured leaders from the Department of Health and Human Services. Just days after the Secretary had made the announcement of suspended managed care implementation, the symposium was packed with in-depth information on the current and future state of Medicaid in North Carolina and was a unique opportunity for the state and stakeholders to share questions, concerns, and ideas.

Opening the day, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services Dr. Mandy Cohen focused on the Department’s intention for the health and human services system in general. She noted that the DHHS priorities span plans for Early Childhood Action, Opioid Action and Medicaid Transformation. Dr. Cohen urged stakeholders to wait for the imminent managed care implementation and continue to prepare for this transition. She characterized the beginning of Medicaid managed care as not an “IF” but a “WHEN”. Two themes for her vision of health care: timely access to high quality services and whole person centered care. She described addressing the whole person through:

- NCCARE360: Offers a way to coordinate all aspects of care across the state. She hopes this program will become operational statewide in 2020.
- The Medicaid Healthy Opportunities Pilots: \$650 million dollars in federal grants for pilots to help North Carolina broaden our Medicaid focus from just healthcare to non-medical drivers that include housing, food, transportation, and interpersonal violence.
- The Opioid Action Plan 2.0: Focuses on rehabilitating recently released prisoners.
- 2025 Goals At-A-Glance Early Childhood Action Plan: Seeks to create healthy, safe, learning environments for North Carolina’s children.

Dave Richard, Deputy Secretary for NC Medicaid focused on the need for fee-for-services. He assured the role of LME/MCOs was to hold agencies accountable and they will have “no lack of work in the tailored plans.” He stressed that the focus on being intentional about spending was at the forefront of the implementation plan.

Standardization is important for an integrated system and smarter spending through:

- Thinking differently about how we pay for things
- Financial penalties
- Tribal Options
- Value-based payment

Mr. Richard stated there will be different standards for the tailored plans and LME/MCOs as they are a higher level of service compared to the standard plans. Additionally, he shared that rates for services billed to providers cannot be the same in Medicaid as in other insurances. Competing with other insurance isn't sustainable and creates a ceiling rate for Medicaid.

Deputy Director of Standard Plans Sarah Gregosky discussed:

- The geographical jurisdiction of Carolina Complete is now also available to region 4, the Triangle region.
- The oversight direction for the standard plans includes constant communication in the form of weekly meetings, contract compliance, and NCQA accreditation.
- The adequacy of the current network and the opportunity with the delay in implementation to build an even richer network of providers.
- In terms of readiness assessment, all efforts will be paused until a new implementation date with the exception of inbound deliverable review.

Deputy Secretary for Behavioral Health and I-DD Kody Kinsley opened by stating: “I can't make the public health system better without making the whole state of North Carolina better.” To do this he urged that:

- Access to Medicaid services must be increased through creating healthy opportunities such as stable and safe housing. The Department will be releasing more grants to address this issue.
- Integration for individuals with BH/IDD be improved. The PIPBHC, Promoting Integration of Primary Behavioral Health Care, can examine the effectiveness of integrated care.
- There is a need to improve the operational excellence of the system through standardization.
- Boundless behavioral health, reaching people throughout the state that need Medicaid services needs to be increased.

Senior Program Manager Jaimica Wilkins discussed the standards and quality of the tailored plans using two quality assurance measures:

- The External Quality Review Organization, EQRO, requires PHPs to achieve NOQA Health Plan accreditation by year 3.

- The Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement measure will also be used to evaluate the tailored plans.

Kelsi Knick, Senior Program Manager of Population Health discussed the different tiers of advanced medical homes (AMHs) in terms of care management.

- In Tier 1-2, PHPs retain care management.
- In Tier 3, the PHP delegates care management to the AMH.
- The department will be creating a certification for AMHs to become AMH+s, responsible for oversight of individuals in the tailored plans.
- Another option for care management, CMAs, include Clinically Integrated Networks (CIN). These help facilitate care management when there is no need for IT or risk stratification.

In terms of eligibility, Ms. Knick stated that individuals eligible for the tailored plans have no screening process and automatically become eligible for care management. Additionally, she discussed that a certain level of acuity does not mean there is a certain limit to the services, rather it is a minimum level of services. Therefore, if a provider desires, they can provide more services than the minimum level upon their discretion.

Lastly, Senior Program Analyst Amanda Van Vleet shared the statewide infrastructure initiatives:

- A Needs Hot Spot Map
- Screening questions
- NCCARE360
- A Workforce Development Certification in community colleges

The department has \$650 million in pilot funding set up to test non-medical services using Medicaid money. Many initiatives are hosting pilot applications that are due January 21, 2020 with an anticipated award date of April 15, 2020. These pilots will be implemented for a year.

**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.

[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](#): 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)

**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:**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Collaborative</b>	<b>Location</b>
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	544 LOB, audio available