

NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: June 26, 2020

Legislative Calendar for the NC General Assembly

Audio for Meetings

Child Well-Being Transformation Council Develops Recommendations

The Council met on Monday, June 22nd and developed [recommendations and draft legislation](#) that will move North Carolina toward a more coordinated system of services for children and their families. Many of the recommendations are aimed at tasks for DHHS to strengthen relationships across systems:

- Require DHHS to study requirements of the state's social services system, juvenile justice system, LME/MCO communications, LME/MCO cost savings, and the Medicaid program for foster care youth to identify gaps;
- Direct DPI and DHHS and LME/MCOs to develop a plan to increase additional in-school Medicaid services;
- Several provisions that are focused on children in foster care as they transition to adulthood;
- Several provisions related to the regionalization of the Division of Social Services offices;
- Several provisions promoting the sharing of information across DHHS, DPS, county DSS and LME/MCOs.

The three draft bills incorporate the recommendations. The Council, per statute, will wrap-up their business by August 1, 2020.

Adjournment Resolution Set for General Assembly

[SJR 870](#), The General Assembly will adjourn on July 7, 2020 and will reconvene on September 2, 2020 at noon to complete the following business:

- Bills that appropriate funding related to COVID-19;
- Action on appointments;
- Action on Governor's appointments or nominations.

New Laws:

[S562/SL 2020-35](#), Second Chance Act, expunges records of minors per Raise the Age.

[S836/SL 2020-30](#), State Operations/Increase Federal Funds Use: This bill authorizes the transfer of \$1.575 billion from the State's Reserve and \$150 million from the Local Government Coronavirus Relief Fund to allow for continuity of operations in certain areas. \$370 m will be used for wages, overtime, personal protective equipment, in-

home monitoring and other supplies for State entities such as mental health institutions, prisons, community corrections, juvenile facilities, and veteran's homes.

[H1208/SL 2020-28](#), Funding for Workforce Housing Loan Program: Transfers funds to be used in the Program.

New Resources:

New Guidance on Residential and Long-Term Care Services:

- <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/guidance#phase-2-easing-of-restrictions>
- <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/Guidance-on-Outdoor-Visitation-for-Larger-Residential-Settings.pdf>
- <https://files.nc.gov/covid/documents/guidance/Guidance-for-Smaller-Residential-Settings-Visitation-Communal-Dining-Group-Outside-Activities.pdf>

[ePass Mobile Medicaid App](#): NCDHHS is launching an improved, mobile-friendly online application for Medicaid and Food and Nutrition Services that will help support social distancing and beneficiary applications from home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bills On the Move:

[S113](#), Education Omnibus: Includes provisions about school psychologists licensure and retention, allows LME/MCOs to include in their reinvestment plans funding for public school units. Passed Senate and House, Ordered Enrolled

[S168](#), DHHS and Other Revisions: Allows for a copayment schedule for behavioral health and IDD services, adds a psychiatric physician privilege exception to crimes against juveniles reporting requirements. Passed Senate and House, Ordered Enrolled

[S212](#): NC Fast/Early Child/Transformation/ACH Assess., Postpones the deployment of the NC FAST Case Management function for child welfare, adds college courses to community college related to early childhood education. Passed Senate and House, Ordered Enrolled

[S361](#): Healthy NC: Multiple telehealth provisions that allow for expanded use of telehealth with reimbursement, creates the NC Health Care Solutions Task Force to conduct a 10-year, ongoing study 16 of issues related to access to health care in NC. Passed Senate and House, Ordered Enrolled

[S708/H1048](#), CPS Intake Screening/PED Recommendations, prohibits county Departments of Social Services from implementing more stringent child protective services than the State requires. A committee substitute for S 708 added a provision allowing a legislator to request and access records related to adult and child protective services. S708 Passed Senate, Referred to House Health/H1048 Passed House, Referred to Senate Rules

[S730](#), The No Patient Left Alone Act: The committee substitute that was passed in Senate Health Care specifies visitation rights in the hospital for minors and adults to designate someone who is allowed to visit the person while they are in the hospital (formerly allowed for unlimited visitation privileges for that designated person). In the case of a minor, that designated individual may visit to be present while the minor is receiving "hospital care". Passed the Senate and House, presumably Conference Committee to be appointed

[S808](#), Medicaid Funding Act (formerly Medicaid Transformation Necessities), Begins Standard Plan by July 2021 or monthly compensation paid to PHPs—among other things (see 6/12/20 for in-depth description), An amendment made on the Senate floor changes the \$19.42 million transferred from a fund to \$69.42 million for qualifying needs such as NC FAST updates, data technology, program integrity, beneficiary and provider experience. Passed Senate and House, Ordered Engrossed

[S818](#), Compensation of Certain School Employees: Addresses teacher salaries and bonuses. Ratified, Presented to the Governor to sign into law on 6/17/20

[H471](#), Exempt Medical Direct Primary Care from DOI Regs (formerly Reduce Admin. Duplication MH/DD/SAS Providers): Changed to exempt primary care practices from DOI license or certification when a medical direct primary care arrangement is in place with the consumer. Passed House and Senate, Ordered Enrolled

[H593](#), JCPC/Detention/CAA and Other Fees: Rather than language that JCPC annually evaluates “community-based services”, the new language focuses on “intensive intervention services” that are “evidence-based or research-supported community-based or residential services”. Passed House and Senate, Ordered Enrolled

[H612](#), DSS Review of Procedures/Rulemaking: Require the Social Services Commission to review publications, policies and procedures that should be rules and report to OAH. Passed the House and Senate, Ordered Enrolled

[H918](#), Expedite Permanency/DHHS Report SNAP/TANF: Amends laws to ensure the safety of children in out-of-home placements, expedites permanency planning for children in foster care. Ratified

[H1023](#), Coronavirus Relief Fund/Additions and Revisions: Provides funding to local governments to address the pandemic, additional funding for school nutrition programs, personal protective equipment for schools, \$5 million for group homes. Passed House and Senate, Sent to Governor to be signed into law on 6/25/20

[H1035](#), Education Omnibus/COVID-19: Provides \$75 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds to the Department of Public Instruction for school nutrition services provided by public school units in response to COVID-19. Those funds are provided for use from March 16, 2020 through the end of the 2019-2020 school year (June 30, 2020). Passed House, Referred to Senate Rules

NC Bills introduced in 2020 Long Session:

[S708/H1048](#), CPS Intake Screening/PED Recommendations, prohibits county Departments of Social Services from implementing more stringent child protective services than the State requires.

[S730](#), The No Patient Left Alone Act: Specifies visitation rights in the hospital for minors and adults to designate someone who has unlimited visitation privileges.

[S765](#), Education Omnibus, includes \$2.9 m from the Coronavirus Relief Fund for Extended School Year Services for exceptional children, referred to Senate Rules

[S808](#), Medicaid Funding Act, Begins Standard Plan by July 2021 or monthly compensation paid to PHPs—among other things (see 6/12/20 for in-depth description)

[S826/H1135](#), Housing and Utilities Assistance/COVID-19, \$100 million non-recurring for housing and housing utilities assistance, referred to Senate Appropriations/House Finance

[S827/H1134](#), Housing and Foreclosure Prevention Assistance, establishes an Emergency Housing Office within DHHS, Senate Appropriations/House Finance

[S845](#), Successful Transition/Foster Care Youth, \$500,000 to implement the Foster Care Transitional Living Initiative Fund. Referred to Senate Appropriations

[S859](#), Student Internet Connectivity Act, \$176 million to expand the School Connectivity Initiative to 2 provide home mobile Internet access points for students, Referred to Senate Rules

[H1035](#), Education Omnibus, COVID-19, provisions related to class sizes, testing, etc., reported favorably by House Education Committee, re-referred to House Rules

[H1037](#), COVID-19 Health Care Working Group Policy Rec., considerable overlap with provisions in the new law (S704), Reported favorably by House Health Committee, re-referred to House Rules

[H1039](#), COVID-19 Response Act - Economic Support, provisions related to unemployment, Reported favorably by House Commerce Committee, re-referred to House Rules

[H1040](#), Healthcare for Working North Carolinians, provisions to address the gap in insurance coverage for working individuals aged 19-64, Referred to House Rules

[H1046](#), COVID-19 Paid Sick Leave, provisions allowing for paid sick leave related to COVID-19 in organizations of 500+ employees and includes provision addressing retaliation by employer and violations. Referred to House Finance

[H1071](#), State/Federal Funds for School Connectivity, \$4.6 m recurring/\$15 m non-recurring for SFY20-21. Referred to House Appropriations

[H1122](#), Provide Affordable Broadband Access to NC, grants for mobile hotspots, provides authority for health insurance to cover telehealth “including mental and behavioral healthcare”. Referred to House Rules

[H1132](#), Study on K-12 Student Retention, forms a study committee that includes school psychologist and counselor reps. Referred to House Education, K-12

[H1181](#), Certain Appropriations for Education/COVID, allocates \$405 million for internet access, grants, etc. Referred to House Appropriations

[H1182](#), Funds for Educational Entities/COVID, providing “sufficient funds” to address impact of COVID-19 on education. Referred to House Appropriations

[H1187](#), Raise the Age Funding, \$10.44 million transferred from the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Fund for renovations and improvements of certain Youth Detention Centers.

[H1188](#), TANF Benefit Increase/COVID-19, \$13.2 million to give supplemental support for TANF beneficiaries. Referred to House Rules

[H1192](#), Student Health Collaborative Pilot, \$5 million to DSS to work with DMH and DPI and allow for grants in five counties. Referred to House Appropriations

[H1196](#), Funds/COVID-19 Tests & PPE for Congregate Lvg, \$12 m to purchase diagnostic tests and personal protective equipment. Referred to House Appropriations

[H1204](#), Funds for Statewide Telepsychiatry Program, Program would be through East Carolina University Center for Telepsychiatry and e-Behavioral Health. Referred to House Appropriations

[H1206/S844](#), Student Mental Health Well-Being/COVID-19, \$480 m to increase the number of school mental health support staff. Referred to House Rules

[H1214](#), Department of Health and Human Svcs Revisions.-AB, gives Secretary authority to adjust the base budget allocations for Single Stream Funding among other things. Referred to House Health

[H1227](#), Ensure Awareness of Assistance Programs/COVID, \$2 million to ensure that children and families are connected to all federally funded public assistance programs for which they are eligible. Referred to House Rules

NC Bills still in action from 2019 Long Session:

[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

[H488](#): \$11.3 million in recurring DHHS funds will be designated in the LME/MCO capitation to address the staffing for ICF-IID and group home facilities for individuals with IDD. Referred to House Health

[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.

[H612](#): DSS Review of Procedures/Rulemaking, Passed House and referred to Senate Judiciary

[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.

[H678/S300](#): Amend Counselor/SA/Social Work Professional Acts, changes some wording to "clinical mental health professional", allows Boards to establish support programs in substance use and mental health, restructures the SA Professional Practice Board. Passed House, Re-referred to Senate Health Care and then Senate Judiciary

[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

[S245](#): Enhance Permanency Innovation Institute (see H102)

[S251](#): Modernization of Drug Court Programs

[S382](#): School Psychologist Compensation and Recruitment (see H482)

[S427](#): Smart Start Funds (see H124)

[S476](#): School-Based Mental Health, Ratified

[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.

[S834](#), Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap/Funds, Expands Medicaid and provides \$100,000 for DHHS to prepare. Referred to Senate Rules