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NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families
DATE: August 7, 2020

Upcoming Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC) Meetings:

Committee	Date and Time	Location, Video and Audio
JLOC on Health and Human Services	August 11, 10:00 a.m.	643 LOB, Video , Audio
JLOC on Medicaid and Health Choice	August 11, 1:00 p.m.	643 LOB, Video , Audio
JLOC on Education	September 1, 10:00 a.m.	643 LOB, Video , Audio

Opportunity to Provide Input on Making Temporary Telehealth Policies Permanent:

Everyone is aware of the strides that the nation has made in the use of telehealth to maintain services while individuals quarantine. The question now is how much of this progress will remain in place when the quarantine ends. NC Medicaid is seeking feedback on draft updates of Clinical Care Policies that cover Medicaid and Health Choice services. Most of the changes are infusing telehealth into various services that include: core services provided in Federally Qualified Health Centers, Health and Behavioral Intervention, Enhanced MH and SUD, facility-based crisis management for children and adolescents, outpatient behavioral health services, and Children's Developmental Service Agencies (CDSAs). This [link](#) takes you to the NC Medicaid webpage that includes links for each of these policy changes. Comments are due on various dates that begin as soon as August 15th.

Extensions of Temporary Policies:

NC Medicaid Extends Clinical Coverage Policies and Provider Rates:

As noted in the previous weekly update, CMS has extended the temporary policies created to address the pandemic through October 25, 2020 which allows states to extend their temporary policies. North Carolina Medicaid has now announced that they will be extending their temporary Clinical Coverage Policies (these policies determine what services will be covered by Medicaid in North Carolina) **through December 31, 2020.**

Governor Keeps NC in Phase Two:

Governor Cooper has announced that North Carolina will remain in Phase Two at least until September 11th. In his announcement he noted that schools will be reopening and stated, “Our success at returning thousands of students, teachers and staff safely to classrooms this month, depends on us doing what works.” That means that:

- Masks are required in:
 - stores
 - restaurants
 - hair salons
 - childcare facilities
 - state government
 - mass transportation
 - airports and bus stations
 - hospitals and congregate care settings
- No more than 10 people gathered indoors and 25 people outdoors.
- You don’t have to wear the mask if:
 - you would have difficulty with it related to a disability and that includes that you are not able to put it on or take it off without assistance,
 - you’re under 11 years old,
 - actively eating or drinking, or
 - you are a child whose parent, guardian, or responsible person has been unable to place the face covering safely on your face.
- Many businesses can operate but with social distancing in mind and with some limitations in capacity.

New Child Welfare Accreditation Standards:

[The Joint Commission](#) has 86 new and updated requirements for accredited child welfare agencies. These policies will go into place on September 13, 2020. The Joint Commission conducted an extensive review of current studies and literature and conducted interviews with stakeholders to determine key areas. They focused on intake, assessment, reunification, trauma-informed care, and case closing to improve quality and safety.

New Resources:

- [Info on NC’s Annual Participation in USDA Child and Adult Care Food Program](#)
- [Details on Cloth Face Coverings Being Supplied for all K-12 Private School Students, Teachers, and Staff](#)
- [NC DHHS Updates on Outbreaks and Clusters of COVID-19 in Childcare and School Settings and in Congregate Care Settings](#)