



NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families
DATE: August 21, 2020

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Upcoming Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC) Meetings:

Committee	Date and Time	Location, Video and Audio
House Select Cmte on COVID-19 , Education Work Group	August 25, 10:00 a.m.	643 LOB, Audio
JLOC on Education	September 1, 10:00 a.m.	643 LOB, Video , Audio

Memo Updating State-Funded Services through BH/IDD Tailored Plans Released:

Per the [memo](#) from NC DHHS that was published on August 20th, “This memo includes updates to eligibility for State-funded Services, the set of core and non-core State-funded Services that will be offered within available funding limits following Behavioral Health I/DD Tailored Plan launch, the eligibility for care management for recipients with I/DD and TBI based upon stakeholder feedback, and considerations for maximizing the impact of limited state funds available to support these services.” A few changes that were made:

- The eligibility criteria are now **guidelines** to allow for local community needs and innovation. BH/IDD Tailored Plans will be required to gather feedback from their local Consumer and Family Advisory Committee. NC DHHS noted that this flexibility may change in the future;
- State-funded services continue to not be an entitlement, so they are only available to the extent that funding is available. For that reason, NC DHHS has distinguished between “core services” and “non-core services”. Core services are available to all State-funded BH/IDD Tailored Plan members but are based on medical necessity and funding availability. Non-core services are available at the discretion of the LME/MCO in addition to meeting medical necessity and funding availability.

- A cluster of core services are available to all State-funded BH/IDD Tailored Plan members that include: diagnostic assessment; inpatient BH services, including 3-way contract beds; mobile crisis management; outpatient services. Non-core services available to all include: BH urgent care and facility-based crisis for children and adolescents.
- In addition to those services available for everyone, core services specific to children who are State-funded BH/IDD Tailored Plan members are high-fidelity wraparound and respite. Non-core services specifically for children are intensive in-home, MH day treatment and multi-systemic therapy.
- NC DHHS has also extended the availability of care management to children with I/DD or TBI who are State-funded BH/IDD Tailored Plan members.

House Select Committee on COVID-19, Health Care Working Group meets:

At their Thursday, August 20th meeting, NC DHHS Secretary Cohen laid out how the Department has spent the \$345,340,000 appropriated to them via the NC General Assembly and derived from federal CARES Act funds. She noted priorities for any additional appropriations would include early childhood mental health services, training and resiliency programs as well as early childhood service needs like personal protective equipment, one-time retention bonuses for child care and operational grants to sustain child care centers.

NC DHHS has already used or encumbered the \$345 million of CARES Act funding that is required to be spent by 12/30/20 in the following ways:

Enhanced Capacity for MH and Crisis Services \$75,000,000

Special Assistance Facilities \$25,000,000

Public Health, Mental Health, and Crisis Services \$20,000,000

Food Safety and Child Care \$25,000,000

Early Childhood Initiatives \$20,000,000

Foster Care \$3,550,000

LINKS Program \$290,000

NC MedAssist \$1,500,00

Testing, Tracing, and Contact Trends \$125,000,000

Rural and Underserved Communities \$50,000,000

Deputy Secretary Susan Gale Perry provided some focused insights on COVID-19 and children. She made 3 key points about the impact of the virus on children:

- 1) Overall food insecurity has increased from 11% in February 2020 to 24% in May 2020;
- 2) There has been a 35% decline in Child Protective Service reports and she attributes this to “mandatory reports (especially educational professionals) having less contact with students”;
- 3) Research is suggesting that children returning to school this fall will have significant losses in math and reading because of the disruptions in learning. The research further suggests that this has disproportionately impacted children of color.

All handouts for this meeting are available at this link:

<https://ncleg.gov/Committees/CommitteeInfo/House/199#Health%20Care%20Working%20Group\08-20-2020>

Opportunities for Input:

- The Department of Public Instruction, NC Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Implementation Team, is developing a vision for integrating social emotional learning in NC public schools and is asking for stakeholder input. Listening session registration and survey can be accessed at this link: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-Pc4pF--xu_AwV5nhRQ4bKVx-Up1tl2K/view.
- [Disability Rights of NC is seeking input on Community Needs](#). Per their website, “Although a few North Carolina cities have seen significant economic growth in the last several years, that growth has been uneven. Many communities in NC face extreme poverty and people lack the resources they need to thrive. DRNC is looking into this problem but we need to learn more. So we are asking for your help. Please consider taking this short survey to tell us about your experience living and working in NC.”

New Resources:

- [Hotline to find child care resources](#): 1-888-600-1685
- [Strong Schools NC](#) (NC DHHS toolkits for reopening)
- [Free webinar series](#) by NC AHEC on NCCARES360
- Expanded response role for Hope4Healers: Hope4Healers 919-226-2002 is expanded to include educators and all school personnel and families in accessing free, confidential brief therapy sessions to help manage stress and life challenges during COVID-19 pandemic while they work on the front lines as essential workers. Hope4Healers is implemented by DHHS/DMHDDSAS in partnership with the NC Psychological Foundation. <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/ncdhhs-expanding-mental-health-supports-teachers-school-personnel-and-their>
- [Expansion of State-funded broadband access press release](#)
- [Navigating Special Education in Light of COVID-19 webinar](#)
- [Charter school grants to increase access for economically disadvantaged students](#)