



**NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families**  
**DATE: September 11, 2020**

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**Upcoming Legislative Meetings:**

Committee	Date and Time	Location, Video and Audio
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services	September 22, 2020, 10:00 a.m.	643 LOB, <a href="#">audio</a>
2021-22 Long Session Begins	January 13, 2021, noon	

**Poll Shows Overwhelming Support for Medicaid Expansion in NC:**

Care4Carolina conducted a poll of North Carolinians and found that 77% of respondents favored expanding Medicaid in North Carolina (see NC Health News, [September 10, 2020 issue](#)). 38 of the 50 states have already taken this action. The NC General Assembly has held firm to not expand Medicaid while the Governor has pushed for the expansion. Pre-pandemic numbers of individuals that could benefit from this expansion of Medicaid eligibility were around 500,000. Now that we face this new challenge of COVID-19 the numbers are projected to have increased to almost 680,000 individuals. Under the Affordable Care Act the federal government pays for 90% of the cost of the expansion while in North Carolina hospitals and plans would cover the remaining 10%. There would no negative impact on the State budget. In fact, states that have expanded Medicaid eligibility have shown a decrease in uninsured health care expenditures. As reported in the Common Wealth Fund report [The Impact of Medicaid Expansion on State’s Budgets](#), “It may boost revenues in three ways: 1) states may impose expansion taxes or may have provider taxes that grow naturally with expansion; 2) if Medicaid expansion impacts the larger economy (e.g., resulting in more jobs), these impacts will generate more revenue; and 3) some states push some of the cost of expansion onto beneficiaries by charging premiums.”

**Resources:**

The National 4-H worked with Harris Poll to survey teens across the nation in May to create [The State of Teen Mental Health](#). The survey included questions on mental

health issues and particularly on issues related to COVID-19. The results are in and the survey disclosed that 7 out of 10 teens reported experiencing struggles with mental health—anxiety being the most common struggle. More than a third of those teens who feel anxious or depressed feel it every day. The survey also delved into screen time and resiliency.

[\*Back to School: A Study in Disruption\*](#), an article focusing on teen mental health includes several links to resources and supports. (article by National Council for Behavioral Health)

[\*Slow COVID NC App\*](#): NC DHHS is expecting to have a new app available this month that “will help North Carolinians slow the spread of the virus by alerting them when they may have been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.” The app will alert an individual when they have come in contact with an individual that later tests positive for COVID-19. The app is anonymous so will not require any personal information and will be free on the App store.

**New Connections:**

Ariel Ford, Director, NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, NC DHHS  
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