



NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families
DATE: October 2, 2020

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Upcoming Legislative Meetings:

Committee	Date and Time	Location, Video and Audio
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Education	October 6, 2020, 10:00 a.m.	643 LOB, audio , video
2021-22 Long Session Begins	January 13, 2021, noon	

NC DHHS Feedback Sessions on Standard Plan Go-Live:

NC DHHS reached out to stakeholders in recent weeks to gain feedback on the proposed plan to implement the Standard Plan and Tribal Option by July 1, 2021. The steps and roles are much the same as they were during the first attempt to go live but the dates have changed. Other than noting the expected go-live of the BH/IDD Tailored Plan on July 1, 2022, this information is only related to the implementation of the Standard Plan. It does not address the expected Request for Application (RFA) process that LME/MCOs will respond to as soon as this fall. Here is the latest timeline on Standard Plan and Tribal Option implementation:

Action	Implementation Date
Public Website Go-Live	November 1, 2020
NC Provider and Health Plan Look-Up Go-Live	January 1, 2021
Call Center Go-Live	March 1, 2021
Enrollment Broker begins mailing Enrollment Packets	March 1, 2021
Open Enrollment begins	March 15, 2021
Open Enrollment ends	May 14, 2021
Auto Enrollment begins	May 15, 2021
Standard Plan and Tribal Option Go-Live	July 1, 2021
End of Choice Period	September 29, 2021

Additional Food Benefits for Families:

The NC DHHS is now providing additional benefits through the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program. This is focused on assisting families to purchase food for children whose access to free and reduced-priced meals at school has been

impacted by remote learning this fall due to COVID-19. The family will receive the benefit through an EBT card that can be used to buy food at authorized retailers, including most major grocery stores.

In this program, children are eligible if they had access to free or reduced-priced meals at school last year, their school district or charter school is eligible to provide free or reduce-priced meals at school this year, and their school district or charter school utilized remote learning for all students for at least five consecutive school days between August 17th and September 30th. To find out whether a school district or charter school is receiving fall P-EBT benefits, view the list [HERE](#). For more information about the P-EBT program can be found at www.ncdhhs.gov/PEBT.

Feedback Opportunity:

- [NC DHHS announced](#) this week that Medicaid telehealth visits have now surpassed one million. NC DHHS is developing the [permanent telehealth clinical coverage policies](#) for Medicaid and they are accepting comments through October 8th.
- NC DHHS Deputy Secretary for MH/IDD/SUD Kody Kinsley and Division of MH/IDD/SUD Director Victor Armstrong are holding [virtual town hall meetings](#) by region of the state in the upcoming weeks. They are asking for feedback on the public MH/IDD/SUD system.

Resources:

- Governor Cooper has moved us into [Phase 3 until October 23rd](#). This new phase will:
 - Lessen restrictions for vulnerable populations with encouragement to continue practicing physical distancing
 - Allow increased capacity at restaurants, bars, other businesses, houses of worship and entertainment venues
 - Further increase the number of people allowed at gatherings
 - Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and congregate care settings
- Deputy Secretary Kody Kinsley presented to the [NC Provider Council](#) 9/21/20 where he noted “Continuing Mental Health for a Generation of Children” as one of three broad focuses. He also presented to the [Mental Health Summit](#) on 9/24/20 where he discussed behavioral health and the juvenile justice system.
- [NC Education Lottery Brings in More Funds to Build Schools](#)
- There is now \$40 million in new funding for certain small businesses that were closed due to the pandemic: <https://governor.nc.gov/news/governor-cooper-announces-additional-40-million-covid-relief-small-businesses>
- [NC Health News article](#) published on managed care companies appeal of recent court decision on Medicaid managed care awards.

- Qualifying Events for Special Enrollment Period of Affordable Care Act (note: must be within 60 days of qualifying event):
<https://www.obamacareplans.com/special-enrollment.html>
- NC DHHS has issued an [interim guidance on Halloween](#) events