



**NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families**  
**DATE: October 9, 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	October 22, 2020, 10:00 a.m.	643 LOB, <a href="#">video</a> , <a href="#">audio</a> <i>*note: They will hear from the Buncombe County DSS Director on a recent case.</i>
2021-22 Long Session Begins	January 13, 2021, noon	

**JLOC Education Identifies Ongoing Challenges to Remote Learning:**

The Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Education, a legislative committee made up of both House and Senate members, heard an update from Department of Public Instruction (DPI) leaders this week on remote learning. DPI has received Remote Instruction Plans from the public school units. Issues such as broadband and device access and training for teachers on virtual learning continue to be challenges. DPI offers ongoing technical and coaching assistance. They note that they offer additional supports for Exceptional Children and homeless children under the McKinney-Vento Act. Here is the [link](#) to all of the handouts from that meeting.

**Opportunity for Feedback through Town Halls:**

NC DHHS is holding several [upcoming Town Halls](#), led by Deputy Secretary Kody Kinsley and Division of MH/IDD/SAS Director Victor Armstrong. The purpose of these town halls is to gather comments and recommendations on the future of MH/IDD/SUD services. There are several ways that you can submit questions and comments:

- Submit comments in the chat box during the virtual meeting
- Record a video message prior to the meeting
- Submit questions before the virtual meeting

All meetings are at 6 pm and are accessible via the [NC Governor’s Institute Facebook Live page](#). **Note that, because they are allowing comments to be pre-recorded or submitted prior, you do not have to be present for the town hall in your area for your voice to be heard.**

### **Charter Schools for Youth in Recovery:**

Downtown Raleigh will be the location for a new private school that is geared toward youth who are in recovery. [Wake Monarch Academy](#) is scheduled to open in 2021. A [recent article](#) discusses the basis for this new targeted high school. The founders are driven by their own personal experience with their son and a perceived gap in education and recovery support services that they aim to fill. This is not the first school developed to support youth struggling with substance use disorders. Emerald School of Excellence in Charlotte is another private high school geared toward youth in recovery. There are also multiple [therapeutic and alternative boarding schools](#) in the State.

The NC General Assembly studied this need in 2014 and provided funding for a pilot school in Charlotte that is geared toward [dropout prevention and recovery](#). Since the initial pilot, Commonwealth High School in Charlotte, opened, two other publicly funded schools have opened, Stewart Creek in Charlotte and Central Wake in Raleigh.

### **Resources:**

Press Release: [\\$35 Million to Support Child Care Programs](#)

Advocacy Tools available through NC Center for NonProfits:

<https://www.ncnonprofits.org/public-policy/advocacy-tools>

Article: [SBI Sees Increase in Number of Child Exploitation Cybertips During Pandemic](#),