



**NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families**  
**DATE: October 23, 2020**

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**Upcoming Legislative Meetings:**

Committee	Date and Time	Location, Video and Audio
2021-22 Long Session Begins	January 13, 2021, noon	

**NC Coronavirus Vaccine Plan Sent to Feds:**

[NC DHHS](#) sent their [vaccine immunization plan](#) to the federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Last Friday was the deadline for all states to submit their plans. The next deadline is on November 1<sup>st</sup> when a distribution plan is expected to be submitted. Although there is not an approved vaccine at this point in time, these steps will ensure a speedier distribution and implementation when one is available.

Priority populations:

- Health care workers at high risk for exposure and who are vital to vaccine administration as well as staff in long-term care settings
- Residents in long-term care settings
- Staff in congregate care settings including, migrant farm camps, jails and prisons, homeless shelters
- People over 65
- People with two+ chronic conditions as defined by the CDC

Some additional issues that were considered as a part of the plan include the cold-storage capacity for the vaccine, the possibility of a two-dose vaccine, strategies to get the information out to the public and monitoring.

**Webinar for Latest Beneficiary Info on BH/IDD Tailored Plan:**

NC DHHS is offering a webinar on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. for individuals to hear the latest information for beneficiaries about the BH/IDD Tailored Plan. [Registration](#) is required. Although this plan will not go-live until July 1, 2022, NC DHHS will publish the Request for Application this fall and LME/MCOs are expected to respond by mid-January 2021. In addition, when NC DHHS implements the Standard Plan on July 1,

2021, some Medicaid beneficiaries who have previously interacted with the LME/MCOs as plan managers will move to a Standard Plan that is administered by a Prepaid Health Plan.

### **Long-time California Class Action Suit Continued with a SOC Component:**

In 2002, the court found in the case of [Katie A v. Los Angeles County](#) that the State and county had not provided necessary home-based and community-based mental health services to children who are in or at risk of foster care. Instead of dismissing the case, a new settlement agreement was reached between the parties in September 2020 that requires the County to take specific steps over a period of approximately 9 months to ensure children in or at risk of foster care in the county receive necessary intensive home-based mental health services. The agreement must still be approved by the federal district court.

The State of California has [used the principles of System of Care](#) as part of their strategy for addressing the issues. A focus has been the coordination across health and human service State agencies. To that end, the legislature passed [AB 2083](#), requiring a stronger focus on an interdisciplinary approach to children's services at the local level as well as a focus on an integrated care approach at the State level.

### **Opportunities for Feedback:**

- The Community Capacity Building Committee of the [Olmstead Planning Stakeholder Advisory](#) effort is seeking feedback through [a survey](#). The survey will remain open until November 3<sup>rd</sup>. The State's Olmstead Plan will drive the work statewide to build community-based and support services to keep individuals in their communities.
- [Andrea Harris Social, Economic, Environmental, and Health Equity Task Force](#) is seeking feedback in 5 core areas:
  1. Access to Healthcare
  2. Economic Opportunity and Business Development
  3. Educational Opportunity
  4. Patient Engagement
  5. Environmental Justice and Inclusion

This Task Force was established by Governor Cooper over the summer and they just completed two listening sessions that can be heard via the above link. There is a [feedback form](#) that can be used to submit your comments on one or more of the five areas. The Task Force subcommittees have already developed initial focal points for each of the core areas with the goal to improve disparities in communities of color disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

- NC DHHS has four [upcoming Town Halls left](#), 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.***

- [The Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice](#) was established by Governor Cooper to address existing policies and procedures that disproportionately affect communities of color and developing solutions to ensure racial equity in North Carolina's criminal justice system. The Task Force will submit its recommendations on or before December 1, 2020. They are currently seeking feedback and North Carolinians can use [a form](#) to submit these comments.

#### **Resources:**

News outlets ([WSOC TV](#), [North Carolina Heath News](#) ) report that Union and Cabarrus county commissioners have voted to separate from Cardinal Innovations and move to Partners LME/MCO. The NC DHHS Secretary will also have to sign off on this move before it can be finalized. The reports indicate that concerns around children's services and particularly around children in the foster care system were a reason for this separation.

[N.C. Housing Opportunities and Prevention of Evictions \(HOPE\) Program](#) is a new program that offers rent and utilities assistance. North Carolina has \$117 million to assist low to moderate income renters.

[DPI Exceptional Children information sheet](#) has been developed for parents to provide emotional support to their children during the pandemic.