



**NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families**  
**DATE: October 30, 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	

**Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) Publishes Report on Children’s Well-Being:** KFF has published a report, [“Children’s Health and Well Being During the Coronavirus Pandemic”](#). This report looks at “...how a range of economic and societal disruptions stemming from COVID-19 may affect the health and well-being of children and families.” The report uses Medicaid and CHIP claims data to analyze the utilization of services by children during months of the pandemic and compares it to historical utilization to make observations related to health and emotional well-being of children. KFF also looked at Social Determinants of Health such as employment, food and housing insecurities. They concluded with the following, “This analysis underscores the importance of pursuing safe approaches to opening schools to balance physical and emotional health. Policies to facilitate enrollment in health coverage, ensure access to health services, particularly behavioral health services, as well as facilitate access to social services to support families with children, can help address some of the consequences children are currently facing.”

**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 three more [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:**

- *HOPE Program brings relief from Rental Evictions:* As reported last week, the Governor announced that \$117 million will be used to assist certain individuals in rent payments and mitigate evictions. The Governor has now followed that up with [Executive Order 171](#). The order notes, "the HOPE program, which launched October 15, 2020, is aimed at those residential tenants who have a household median income at or below eighty percent of their area's median income, occupy a rental property as their primary residence, and are behind on rent or utility bills when they apply for monetary assistance; and...provides monetary assistance to those residential tenants who meet the program's criteria,

by way of rent payments made directly to the residential tenant's landlord, for up to six months of rental assistance, and provides protection from eviction for qualifying tenants, provided their landlord executes an agreement not to evict the qualifying tenant for a specified duration of time, in exchange for receipt of funds through the HOPE program (the "HOPE Landlord-Tenant Agreement"). “ There is a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document for more information as well as [a website](#).

- November 21 is the deadline for individuals to file for their Federal Recovery Payment. Information about accessing these payments for non-taxpaying individuals can be found at the Attorney General [website](#).
- LME/MCOs have worked together to send [a letter](#) to the NC General Assembly and created a recent [Op-Ed](#) reviewing some of the ways in which the COVID-19 funding has been spent to support communities and the public BH/IDD/SUD system.
- If you missed the NC DHHS update on the BH/IDD Tailored Plan this past Wednesday, the [slides](#) and [recording](#) are available.