



NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families
DATE: November 6, 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	

Elections:

While the outcomes of some key elections remain uncertain at press time, there are a few things that we can note about the elections.

Governor Roy Cooper will remain governor and that also means that many leadership positions in his administration do not have to change. Specifically, key leadership positions in DHHS that are politically appointed may not change. This may provide needed consistency and stability as the State moves toward full Medicaid managed care.

There is going to be a new NC Superintendent of Public Instruction, Catherine Truitt. Truitt is the chancellor of Western Governors University NC. She was formerly a high school teacher. The current superintendent, Mark Johnson, did not run for re-election.

The Republicans remain in the majority for both the House and Senate of the NC General Assembly. In addition, the lieutenant governor, who is also the President of the Senate of the NC General Assembly, remains Republican. Mark Robinson won that position. Republicans did not recapture their super-majority that would essentially nullify the Governor's veto power. The NC General Assembly mix looks like this:

	Republicans	Democrats
NC House	69	51
NC Senate	28	22

State Board of Education Passes School Mental Health Policy:

This week the State Board of Elections passed the Healthy Responsible Students Action Item (HRS1) which is the School Mental Health Policy for the State. This policy is required through legislation that passed in the short session, [Session Law 2020-7](#). The State Board is required to have this policy available to all public school units (PSU) by December 31, 2020. Components of the policy include:

- Universal Prevention through Core Instruction, Curriculum, and Environment
- Early Intervention for Mental and Social-Emotional Health and Wellness as Part of the PSU's Intervention System
- Referral, Treatment, and Re-Entry
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the LME/MCO
- Suicide Risk Referral Protocol
- Stakeholder Engagement, including families, students, community providers, and cross-system partners
- Liability
- Each PSU will be reporting to DPI by September 15th of each year on their plan
- Timeline to meet the July 1, 2021 statutory requirement for each PSU to have their plan in place.

The policy also sets out details for the model School Mental Health Training Program curriculum and implementation. The [powerpoint presentation](#) is available as well as the [policy](#) with revisions.

Opportunities for Feedback:

- [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 two 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:

- Governor Cooper has proclaimed November as [Family Engagement Month](#). The Exceptional Children's Assistance Center has developed activities for the month that are available for download on their [website](#).
- NC DHHS has \$7.8 million available through December 30, 2020 to reimburse primary care practitioners for COVID-19 related services provided to uninsured individuals. Individuals are eligible for the program if they are North Carolina residents and have no health care coverage (e.g. Medicaid, Medicare, or other health insurance). Providers are eligible if they are PCPs that operate in North Carolina and are registered in NCTracks, North Carolina's Medicaid payment platform. More information is available on the NC DHHS [website](#), including a fact sheet a joint communication bulletin.